

Welcome to Key Stage 4



Key dates

- Effort data- w/b 6th October
- Attendance rewards w/b Dec 2nd
- Work experience forms completed- 15th Dec
- Effort grades and data- Dec 16th
- Maths challenge- 28th January
- Production- w/b February 9th
- Pizza reward evening- March 4th
- Attendance rewards- w/b March 16th
- Drama filming March 17th
- Effort and data grades- April 17th
- Parents' Evening- April 23rd
- Work experience- 11th- 15th May
- Year 10 exams- w/b June 15th and w/b June 22nd
- Sports Day- July 10th
- Results day- July 14th

Attendance and Punctuality-

- It is the biggest factor in attainment- missing just 10 days reduced the likelihood of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%. Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could have earned £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near perfect attendance.
- Punctuality- references for colleges/ jobs all require attendance and punctuality report- influences decisions

97- 100%	attendance =	+ 1	grade in every subject.
95 - 97%	=	+ 0.23	grades in every subject - equivalent to 1 higher grade in 2 subjects.
92 - 95%	=	- 0.36	in every subject- equivalent to 1 lower grade in 2 or 3 of the subjects.
90 - 92%	=	- 0.57	in every subject- equivalent to 1 LOWER grade in 4 of the subjects.
85 - 90%	=	- 0.60	in every subject- equivalent to 1 LOWER grade in 5 of the subjects.
80 - 85%	=	- 1.42	in every subject- equivalent to 1 LOWER grade in every subject and 2 LOWER grades in at least 3 subjects.
BELOW 80%	=	- 1.28	in every subject- equivalent to 2 LOWER grades in EVERY SUBJECT.

English- Key dates for assessments are as follows:

- W/b 20th October - An Inspector Calls
- W/b 12th January - A Christmas Carol
- W/b 26th January - Section A Language Paper 1
- W/b 16th March - Anthology poetry
- W/b 20th April - Section B Language Paper 1

- Mock Exams - Language Paper 1/ An Inspector Calls/A Christmas Carol
- End of term - last three weeks - Spoken Language presentations. (Part of the English Language qualification)
- Useful websites:
- GCSE Bitesize, Seneca, Sparknotes, Padlet and Quizlet. Youtube is particularly useful too: [Mr Bruff](#) and [DystopiaJunkie](#) for Literature

For **Business and Computer Science**, we provide CGP revision guides for all pupils in Y11, however if pupils want to purchase their own in Y10 they can.

- [GCSE Computer Science OCR Revision Guide includes Online Edition, Videos & Quizzes | CGP Books](#)
- [GCSE Business Edexcel Revision Guide \(with Online Edition, Videos & Quizzes\) | CGP Books](#)

For **BTEC DIT**, we provide a revision guide in Y10 for them to use as part of their homework tasks.

Links

Computer Science:

Past papers - [GCSE - Computer Science \(9-1\) - J277 \(from 2020\)](#)

Craig n Dave Revision Videos - [OCR GCSE Computer Science Revision - Craig 'n' Dave](#)

BBC Bite Size - [GCSE Computer Science - OCR - BBC Bitesize](#)

Python Programming guide - [Python Tutorial](#)

Business:

Past papers - [Edexcel GCSE Business \(2017\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

BBC Bitesize - [GCSE Business - Edexcel - BBC Bitesize](#)

BusinessEd - [BusinessEd | Supporting Business Education](#)

Music:

Every pupil is given a free revision guide and a set of flash cards to prepare for the listening exam. Additional revision materials can be purchased online:

Study Guide: <https://amzn.eu/d/4MieLAh>

Revision Guide: <https://amzn.eu/d/cmevySX>

Listening Tests: <https://amzn.eu/d/ccGZCJ4>

Useful Websites:

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMuhCPlzJ4WKDMFsDaVPEFQ>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T81tlbQmT_M&list=PLtycXRMafBjmCB7xZHsvD5C7fbxbRLd3L
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aH6TGNmRmE&list=PL95qU4tGYrH1rKDD-vM3uuXhq2nDskrtP>
- <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/music-j536-from-2016/>

Pupils have an instrument lesson provided in school. It is really important they attend as this covers an important element of the course. They need to ensure they are practising little and often inbetween lessons and bringing their music and instrument (if applicable) to school on the day of the lesson. If there are any issues with lesson times speak to Mrs Beer and she will look at options for a more suitable time.

French-

- <http://www.linguascope.com/> (password will be shared)
 - <https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com/app/Home> (password will be given if/when set up)
 - <https://www.duolingo.com/> (you can get a free account)
 - <http://www.quizlet.com/> (can find ready made revision activities, or you can make your own)
 - <https://www.memrise.com/> (free account is available)
- Plus staff will share Wordwall activities that are bespoke to the class.

Drama- revision guides available on Amazon

Useful websites are Bitesize, Theatre Craft, youtube (clips from National Theatre/Frantic Assembly/Monologue and Duologue examples)
KS4 Theatre trip - date TBC

Health & Social Care:

- We will provide them with a revision guide in Y11, if they want to be prepared they can purchase:
- <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/vocational/btec/health-and-social-care/hs2erb1-btec-tech-award-in-health-social>
- As we are a coursework based subject, there is little support we can give them in terms of catching up/ filling in gaps, writing anything they could potentially use in their coursework. Therefore, students will have to catch up on any work they have missed. All of the work for the students to access is in **Teams** where they can access through RM Unify. Answers that they have missed can also be found there.

History:

Revision guides are available for them to access in the PLC and take it out for a long period of time.

Alternatively, they can purchase:

- https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-History-Schools/dp/1510404066/ref=asc_df_1510404066?mcid=2c7eb03346ca30fcaa3d63382a8bf2e3&th=1&psc=1&hvociid=8997547545143953621-1510404066-&hvexpln=74&tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=696285193871&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=8997547545143953621&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmidl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1006686&hvtargid=pla-2281435177658&psc=1&qad_source=1

We also have a Dormston History Youtube Channel that the pupils can subscribe to and listen to all of the videos relevant to the course. This also includes advice on how to answer exam papers.

- <https://www.youtube.com/@dormstonhistory3419/playlists>

They can access past papers here:

- <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/history-b-schools-history-project-j411-from-2016/assessment/>

RM we provide all pupils with a Revision Guide/workbook for the course, to use in lessons and to take home for revision. In addition the CGP GCSE AQA Design & Technology Revision guide is very good and would be useful to support pupils through the exam.

From June 1st 2026 Pupils will start their coursework worth 50% of their final grade. Completion date for coursework is March 2027.

Citizenship-

YouTube channel- <https://www.youtube.com/@mrsdowniecitizenship9053>

Seneca- links to be provided

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuOPHgUR0EZDhT1uKCY5LrA>

Practice papers- twice per half term

Politics & Participation exam- w/b 8th Dec

MP Sonia Kumar in 14th November to speak to students

Trip to prison- 24th June 2026

Trips to courts- 6/7/8 July

University visit- tbc

Food Tech-

Practical lessons will happen on weekly basis, students are given recipe sheets and the recipes are also on Go4Schools

The school will be providing revision guides, these will be given out later in Year 10. Controlled assessment is completed in Year 11, this will make up 50% of the final GCSE exam. The final 3 hour practical exam will be straight after February half term in 2027.

Useful websites: BBC bitesize, British Nutrition Foundation , BBC Good Food.

Geography-

- AQA is the exam board
- Internet Geography / BBC Bitesize - both brilliant resources for revision.
- The students will need to buy a lever arch folder for all of their work.
- I would suggest buying a revision guide...info coming out soon on this.
- Each unit we complete will have an end of unit test that can be tracked by students and parents on G4S
- There will be a larger mock (Mock 1) in the summer which will be 90 min and a full paper of what we have done so far
- Trip for Physical Geography in April to Carding Mill Valley doing river testing

German- We will do a mock speaking exam in the February / March of year 11, always close to the real speaking exam so that you will know exactly what you are doing.

We have an exciting trip going out to Germany, Bonn, Cologne, Cochem, Phantasialand- Monday 6th - Friday 10th July. For GCSE German students (year 10 will have priority)

Websites that are great to help with studying a language are:

www.linguascope.com

www.languagesonline.org.uk

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z8j2tfr>

www.slowgerman.com

www.newsinslowgerman.com

The app Duolingo is also great.

Art- Portfolio project 1: September to December 2025

Portfolio project 2: January to April 2026

Portfolio (Coursework) final deadline (worth 60% of overall grade) - December 2026

Externally Set Task (Exam worth 40% of overall grade) - January to April 2027

Art and Textiles trip - Date to be confirmed (likely to be around November/December 2025)

GCSE Religious Studies

Students will have taken home a revision textbook.

The most important revision material however will be in A5 booklets (8, one for each unit) that will be handed out throughout year 10 and 11. The first one 'Religion, Peace and Conflict' will be handed in the next couple of weeks. Students are encouraged to read ahead of what is learnt in lessons, make notes, turn into mind-maps and revision cards and test themselves etc...

50% of Religious Studies is world issues, and the best way to extend knowledge of this is to discuss issues. Parents/carers encouraged to watch the news with their child, discuss their opinions (trying to see things from multiple points of view). The first topic is war and peace, so there is plenty on the news about this! But also issues like abortion, euthanasia, treatment of animals, crime and punishment, marriage and divorce, relationships...

There will be a few trips organised for Year 10, the first one being organised for the 2nd October (letters sent out shortly) to Coventry Cathedral.