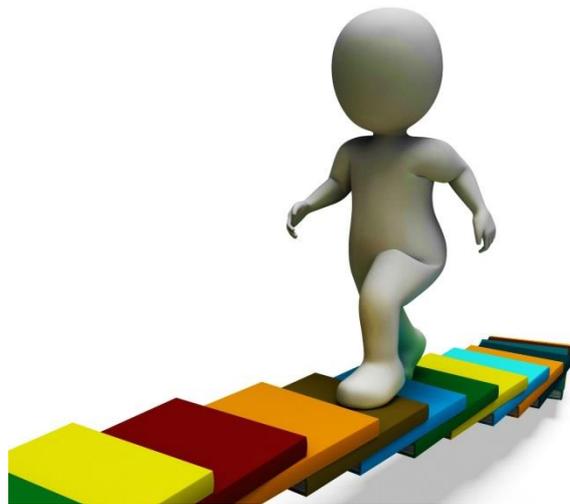


# 'Steps to Success'



**Exam information and helpful  
tips to aid revision.**



**STUDIO  
SCHOOL**  
ISLE OF WIGHT

## Welcome to 'Steps to Success'

How can you help?

At Studio School, we believe that working together is key to every child's success.

**Parental engagement has a large and positive impact on children's learning. This was the single most important finding from a recent and authoritative review.**

Parental involvement in the form of 'at-home good parenting' has a significant positive effect on children's achievement and adjustment even after all other factors shaping attainment have been taken out of the equation. In the primary age range the impact caused by different levels of parental involvement is much bigger than differences associated with variations in the quality of schools. The scale of the impact is evident across all social classes and all ethnic groups. (Desforges 2003).

### **A Balance of Responsibility**

80% of a child's learning takes place at home  
20% of a child's learning takes place in school

### **A Balance in Perspective**

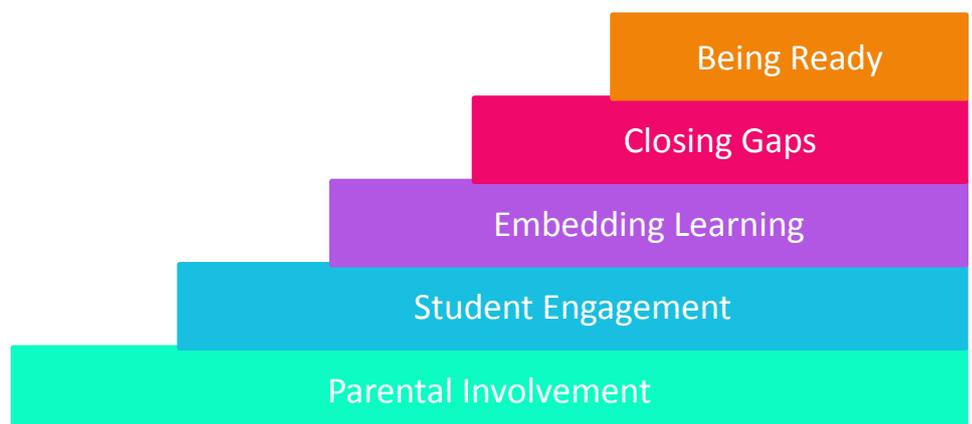
Between the ages of 4 and 16 a child spends 15% of its waking time in school.

### **Parents as Motivators**

"Research affords a clear model of how parental involvement works. In essence parenting has its influence indirectly through shaping the child's self concept as a learner and through setting high aspirations."

### **Parent-Pupil Dialogue**

'To be precise, the most significant factor was 'home discussion'. Regardless of social class, the more parents and children conversed with each other in the home, the more the pupils achieved in school'.



## GCSE Maths

In year 11 students are following the AQA linear 8300 specification. They will sit 3 exams, each 90 minutes long. The first is without a calculator and papers 2 and 3 require the use of a calculator.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

There is no coursework or controlled assessment element to this course.

### Maths revision strategies.

- Little and often – 15 minutes a day or every other day is much better for your brain than a solid hour or 2 once or twice a week.
- Have specific targets – not “algebra” but “I want to be able to solve an equation with 1 variable”. This will enable you to track your progress more rapidly.
- Mini-mocks – making sure that you stay on top of the topics being tested and commit to revising if you need to retake a mini mock are vital.
- The only way to get better at maths is to do more of it. Practice papers and questions are the best way to revise once you have nailed your specific target topics. As a new course there are no past papers but there are plenty of practice and specimen papers available along with mark schemes. We are following the AQA linear course but any past maths papers you find are useful.  
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300/assessment-resources>
- Get hold of a revision guide or workbook. These can be purchased from the front office for £3 each or speak to Mrs Griffiths.
- Personal revision guide. All students are creating their own personalised revision guide and should be using this alongside exam papers.
- Topic cards – many students like to create topic revision cards with a question on one side and solution the other.
- Use the process Test, set personal targets, revise target, Retest, to ensure best progress.

## GCSE English Language

The exam board for the English Language is AQA and the course is 8700

### **Speaking and Listening:**

Students will need to take part in speaking and listening activities that show their skills in: presenting; responding to questions and feedback and use of Standard English. This will be assessed internally.

### **Exam:**

Students will sit two 105 minute exams. Paper 1 is Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing and will require students to read one fiction extract and write a narrative or description. Paper 2 is Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives and will require students to compare two non-fiction texts and write presenting a viewpoint.

### **Revising for the Language Exam:**

1. Time is short in exams. Practise writing at speed, making sure your handwriting is legible.
2. Use practice papers and time yourself on each question.
3. Try writing instructions for the method of answering each question.
4. Explore vocabulary you don't know. Look up words you come across in a dictionary and have a go at using them in your next piece of writing.
5. Learn common prefixes so you can guess the meanings of unknown words.
6. Revise punctuation marks you are unsure of.
7. Revise using a variety of sentence types.
8. Practise reading articles or chapters of stories, then summarise what you read in a short paragraph.
9. Revise different text types, such as formal and informal letters, articles, reports, speeches, interviews etc.
10. Try to persuade a member of your family to agree with you. Practise a range of persuasive techniques to do this.

AQA Website

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>

BBC Bitesize

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty>

**It is advised that students have their own set of highlighters to help them with exam techniques.**

## GCSE English Literature

The exam board will be AQA and the course is 8702.

### Exam:

The students will sit two papers. Paper 1 is Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel. This exam will ask questions around characters and themes in Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth (students will answer on the play they have studied) and A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

Paper 2 is Modern texts and poetry. Students can choose to answer a question on either The Lord of the Flies by William Golding or a question on the short story anthology. The poetry section will require students to compare two poems from the anthology they have studied. They will then be given an unseen poem which they will analyse and they will then compare this to a second unseen poem.

### Revising for the Literature Exam:

1. Read the play/novels regularly.
2. Summarise each act/chapter in the play/novels.
3. Make cue cards with key quotes.
4. Brainstorm the themes in the play/novels. Then add key quotes to support the ideas you came up with.
5. Create character profiles of all the characters. Add key quotes to each to show what their character is like.
6. Have a go at questions from past papers.
7. Revise the poems in the anthology, using websites to help you.
8. Make notes about the poems on cue cards and then try to find ways of linking them.
9. Read a selection of poetry you haven't read before.
10. Think about the key message the poet is putting across.
11. Look up any vocabulary you don't know.
12. Draw images from the poem.
13. Annotate poems with your ideas and interpretations. Highlight positive and negative vocabulary. Research the poem on the internet. Do other people agree with your ideas on the poem?
14. Look for where the tone in the poem changes.
15. Have a go at writing your own poem.

AQA English Literature:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance>

BBC Bitesize

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zckw2hv>

## AQA Combined Science Trilogy / AQA Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Students will be taking AQA Combined Science Trilogy (**unless they have chosen Triple Science as their option subject**). This will result in a double GCSE qualification for Combined Science students. (Triple Science students will get three separate science GCSE grades).

**All students** will sit six exams (two each of biology, chemistry and physics topics, separated into Year 10 and Year 11 content):

Year	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cell biology</li> <li>Organisation</li> <li>Infection and response</li> <li>Bioenergetics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atomic structure and the periodic table</li> <li>Bonding, structure and the properties of matter</li> <li>Quantitative chemistry</li> <li>Chemical changes</li> <li>Energy changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy</li> <li>Electricity</li> <li>Particle model of matter</li> <li>Atomic structure</li> </ul>
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homeostasis and response</li> <li>Inheritance, variation and evolution</li> <li>Ecology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rate and extent of chemical change</li> <li>Organic chemistry</li> <li>Chemical analysis</li> <li>Chemistry of the atmosphere</li> <li>Using resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forces</li> <li>Waves</li> <li>Magnetism and electromagnetism</li> </ul>

Combined Science exams are 75 minutes each, with each exam worth 16.7% of the final grade. Triple Science exams are 105 minutes each, with each exam being worth 50% of the grade for that subject.

All exams will include a mix of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

### Revision in science:

- Use specimen papers and practice writing good answers. Look on <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse> for specimen papers and their marking schemes.
- Be SMART about your revision. Look back at your RAG sheets from over the last two years. Find your red and orange topics and target your revision. If it's green you already know it!
- Use <https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z98jimp3> to revise all science topics (an excellent free resource).
- Use your revision flashcards that we have started in school. Condensing knowledge onto a card from a page of text will suit kinaesthetic learners, as will getting friends and family to test you.
- Create vocabulary cards with keywords on one side and definitions on the other. Lots of marks in science can be gained or lost by the terminology that you use.
- Come to drop-in science revision sessions after school on Mondays.
- Read <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-22565912> for the science of revision. Find out which techniques work best and why.

## **NCFE Level 2 Business and Enterprise**

### **Overview:**

There are 4 units to this exam.

Unit 1- Introduction to Business and Enterprise;

Unit 2 -Marketing for Business and Enterprise;

Unit 3 - Finance for Business and Enterprise;

Unit 4 - Plan, Develop and Participate in a Business or Enterprise Project.

### **Coursework:**

Units 1, 3, and 4 are internally assessed units. Each unit will be marked as a portfolio of work which will be graded as either a pass, merit, or distinction. These units will account for 75% of the marks.

### **Exam:**

Unit 2 will be externally assessed. This will comprise of 5 one hour exam papers which will be taken over a four day period. This unit will account for 25 % of the marks.

### **How to revise:**

- Students should revise Unit 2 in their workbook which is 'Marketing for Business and Enterprise'.
- Use revision cards and write key words on one side and definitions on the back.
- Summarise explanations of the key topics covered.
- Revise with a friend or ask your parents to test you.
- Create a topic poster to hang on your wall.
- Fill out definitions and descriptions as in your workbooks using your prior knowledge and if necessary use your workbook to help you.
- Have a go at the practice paper answering questions as fully as you can
- There is an extended learner progress section at the back of unit 2. This will be a good revision tool and this should be attempted as this will also be good practice.
- Look at the criteria for pass, merit and distinction in Unit 2 and create revision cards accordingly.
- Use the internet to research and complete sections 3.2 and 4.1

## GCSE History



The examination board is Edexcel and the course is History 1H10

The units students study are:

- Crime and Punishment in Britain C100 – present and Whitechapel C1870-C1900, including Crime, Policing and Inner City.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England C1060-88

☞ Mr Allsop's GCSE History podcasts.

☞ John D Clare's History revision website.

☞ BBC Bitesize

## **GCSE Geography**

The exam board will be Edexcel and the course is Geography B (2016) 1GB0.

### **Exam:**

There are three externally examined papers, each 1 hr 30 minutes in duration, and each worth 37.5%. Component 1: Global Geographical Issues. Component 2: UK Geographical Issues, and Component 3: People and Environment Issues.

Fieldwork forms an integral part of the course within Component 2, and is examined as part of this.

### **Revising for the Geography exam:**

1. Make a revision plan, taking it one topic at a time.
2. Make topic posters.
3. Scan your notes, close your book and write down everything you can remember.
4. Cover your room with post-it notes or revision cards – use different colours for different topics.
5. Practice explaining processes to someone else, perhaps a friend or family member. It could even be the cat.
6. Mind map a topic, adding layers to explain in more detail.
7. Use plenty of diagrams – but make sure you label them.
8. Make audio notes on your iPad and listen to them before you go to sleep.

Edexcel Geography website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/geography-b-2016.html>

Revision World:

<http://www.revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/geography>

Revision Sessions: After School Monday's.

**The revision workbook for this exam is – GCSE Geography: Edexcel B: Investigating Geographical Issues. The Revision Guide. ISBN 978 1 78294 621 2**

## **NCFE Level2 Certificate in Creative craft Studies.**

This qualification is graded as Distinction(\*), Merit, Pass, and is equivalent to GCSE grades 4-9. There is also a Level 1 Certificate, which is equivalent to GCSE grade 1-3.

During sessions in school students will be taught the information required to help them become better informed about how to research, design, plan, make advertise and sell a product economically to allow them to earn a profit. This will be done through the following units;-

Unit 1: Exploring craft skills and Enterprise  
Unit 2: Research and Develop ideas  
Unit 4: Planning & Manufacture of a craft item.

Unit 3 covers learning from units 1,2 & the Planning aspect of unit 4.  
The topic for this is set and assessed externally by the exam board.

### **Exam Dates:**

N.B. Unit 3 is undertaken as a controlled assessment, during February and March over a 30 hour period. The topic for this is set and assessed externally.

### **Revision strategies.**

Unit 3 covers learning from units 1,2 & the Planning aspect of unit 4 and is undertaken as controlled assessment, during February & March over 30 hours. The topic for this is set & assessed externally.

The following information bullet points are important but must be expanded upon when completing unit 3. Complete a mind map of information for all of these points.  
Materials and tools, choices, testing, selection and Safety.  
Enterprise opportunities and relevant marketing.  
Designing, planning, manufacturing, costs, profits and efficiency.  
Selecting ideas and communicating to others.

Always remember to **PEEE**.

Make a **P**oint, give **E**vidence & **E**xamples to **E**xplain what you mean.

### **Useful websites**

[www.ncfe.org.uk](http://www.ncfe.org.uk)

and search for qualification 601/0043/6

## Important dates for parents 2015-2016



Date	Event
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Progress Exams
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	CHRISTMAS BREAK
4 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET – School closed to students
W/B 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 11 reports
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 6 March	Progress Exams
29 <sup>th</sup> March – 16 <sup>th</sup> April	EASTER BREAK
7 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY
15 <sup>th</sup> May	GCSE exam season begins
25 <sup>th</sup> May – 4 <sup>th</sup> June	HALF TERM
8 <sup>th</sup> June	GCSE exam season closes



## Provisional GCSE Dates 2018

Date	Exam	Start	Duration
15/05/2018	Biology Paper 1 F&H	PM	1h 45
15/05/2018	Combined Science Biology Paper 1 F&H	PM	1h 15
17/05/2018	Chemistry paper 1 F&H	AM	1h 45
17/05/2018	Combined Science Chemistry Paper 1 F&H	AM	1h 15
22/05/2018	English Lit Paper 1	AM	1h 45
22/05/2018	Geography Paper 1	PM	1hr 30
23/05/2018	Combined Science Physics Paper 1	PM	1hr 15
23/05/2018	Physics Paper 1 F&H	PM	1h 45
24/05/2018	Mathematics Paper 1 non calculator F&H	AM	1h 30
25/05/2018	English Literature Paper 2	AM	2h 15
04/06/2018	History Paper 1	AM	1h 15
05/06/2018	English Language Paper 1	AM	1h 45
05/06/2018	Geography Paper 2	PM	1h 30
07/06/2018	Maths Paper 2 Calculator F&H	AM	1h 30
08/06/2018	English Language Paper 2	AM	1h 45
08/06/2018	History Paper 2	PM	1h 45
11/06/2018	Biology Paper 2 F&H	AM	1h 45
11/06/2018	Combined Science Biology Paper 2	AM	1h 15
11/06/2018	Geography paper 3	PM	1h 30
12/06/2018	Maths Paper 3 calculator F&H	AM	1h 30
12/06/2018	History Paper 3	PM	1h 20
13/06/2018	Chemistry paper 2 F&H	AM	1h 45
13/06/2018	Combined Science Chemistry paper 2	AM	1h 15
15/06/2018	Physics paper 2 F&H	AM	1h 45
15/06/2018	Combined Science Physics Paper 2	AM	1h 15

Key:

	Biology
	Chemistry
	English
	Geography
	Physics
	Maths
	History

Booster sessions and 1-to-1 coaching will be offered every week to support students in preparing for exams.

More information to follow.