

Dear Parent/Carer,

The subjects in the faculty will all be completing their first year content very soon, with the aim of providing the students with a brief revision period ahead of their transfer exams. If your young person has not yet begun revision for these, it is crucial that they begin so now. Following their transfer exams, students will complete their work experience week before returning to us to begin their second year content. For many subjects in the faculty, these weeks of teaching in the summer will contain content that is absolutely foundational for the students' second year of study. It is therefore vital that students take these lessons seriously and commit to them as they would at any other point in the year.

On Friday 26th June, we have our annual Festival of Science – a fantastic day for students to consider their future prospects – and we encourage students to sign up to as much as they can during the day. Every year, students are inspired by our speakers and exhibitors, and we know this year will prove equally valuable to our students. This year's festival website will go live in May, but you can see what we've done in the past at

<https://thefestivalofscience.com>

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Warmest regards

Hannah Page

Director of Faculty – Science

3D Design	Back
This term in 3D design students will now be focusing on the design section of their coursework, this will involve producing a lot of digital 3D models and renders along with some physical modelling using all the skills we covered in the first term. Students will be required to develop four of their initial designs a further 4 times, these developments could include changes to the shape or form of the object, how it functions, the materials or the lighting, as long as all their design decisions are justified in their folder.	
This term students may notice they will need to call on all the skills we built on over the first term as they start to produce some high-quality design work. It is important that students understand the standard of work that needs to be completed, not just the quantity of the work completed. Examiners will look carefully at all skills students use to determine their overall grade.	
Independent study this term: As with the previous term students will be required to make sure they keep themselves on top of their workload, as we move further through the coursework the workload does increase so it is important that they are organized and keeps things up to date.	
Pro-study this term: As above, continuing individual coursework tasks.	
Next assessment(s): Assessments continue to be every two weeks via teams.	
Further links: Workshop timetable: Thursday Lunchtimes.	Other reminders:

Applied Science AAQ	Back
This term in Applied Science students will take their Fundamentals of science exam. This is a real external exam, not a transfer, and accounts for 25% of their final mark. Results will be available in mid-August on MyProgress. When students return after WEX week, we will start working towards our next NEA which will include a compulsory field trip to Chesworth farm. We will also be offering an optional trip to Portsmouth University. Further details will be provided about these nearer the time.	
This term students may notice that they feel an increase in pressure as they approach their exam. They will need to balance revising, often for more than one subject, with attending lessons. Time management and good revision plans are key to success.	
Independent study this term: A reminder that tasks set on Teams weekly and marked. Depending on what we are working on these will be either a variety of tasks, quizzes, worksheets etc, to support the learning of core scientific principles for the exam content, or tasks designed to prepare students for an upcoming NEA.	
Pro-study this term: Students will need to reflect on their strengths and weakness regularly and complete tasks to identify areas they need to work on - for example, using flashcards to help learn key vocabulary, completing exam style questions.	
Next assessment(s):	

Fundamentals of science Mock exams
Fundamentals of science external exam (May15th)
NEA

Further links:

Workshop timetable:

Workshops will be held on Monday
lunch times. Open to all students,
compulsory for any student on an Action
Plan.

Other reminders:

Students should check MyProgress to check they know
dates, time and rooms for this exam. A reminder that
this is an external exam and there is not an option to resit
it later this term.

A reminder that students will need to come equipped to
the exam, pens, pencils, calculator and protractor may
be needed.

This term in Biology we continue with module 4. Topics include:

Classification and evolution.

Biodiversity and Statistics.

After half term students will cover some 2nd year content from module 6. Topics include:

Ecosystems.

Populations.

We will also go on a compulsory field trip to The British Wildlife Centre to learn about conservation relevant to the Biodiversity and ecosystems topics, and to complete fieldwork Assessed Practicals for the practical endorsement. Students will be invited to attend one day on Monday 22nd/Tuesday 23rd June, letters with further details will be sent out the first week back after Easter.

This term students may notice more synoptic elements to the course. The Biology content may appear a little easier, but the exam questions for these topics are very challenging, requiring students to apply their knowledge to new situations. There is lots of disruption during this term, due to WEX week, trips, university open days etc., so it is vital that students catch up on any missed work.

Students will also be required to catch up on any missed PAGES- students will be notified via email when and where they need to attend- it is vital they respond to these emails.

Independent study this term:

Students are provided with a study guide and PPQs for each topic. The expectation is that students complete, and self-mark all the PPQ questions and relevant sections of the study guide before the end of topic test. Mark schemes are available on the Biology SharePoint site. We will also provide revision materials to help students prepare for the transfer exam. Two AS past papers were given to complete over the Easter break, and there are many resources under the revision tab of the Biology SharePoint site. Support continues to be available during drop-in workshops, and students are expected to seek help as and when required. In addition to the study guide packs, PPQs, ppts and revision materials on SharePoint, we have a wealth of online resources. These can all be accessed via the SharePoint site, including Kerboodle, E-revision, Biological Sciences review and Massolit.

Pro-study this term:

Pro-study tasks are designed to support and extend students' understanding of the content covered in lessons. Suggested activities and study schedule can be found on the Biology SharePoint site. Some weeks teachers will set specific tasks for students to complete. Pro-study should be uploaded to Teams by the deadline. Teams assignments will not allow late hand-ins, and we will not check late work.

We expect students to complete a minimum of 5 hours of independent study per week.

Next assessment(s):

The next in class topic assessment is the transport in plants and disease/immunity topic test. This will take place **week beginning 13th April**.

The transfer exam will be on **Thursday 21st May** all information is available to students on MyProgress

This will cover all the module 1-4 content so far, with the **exception** of 4.2.2e, h and i (evolution) and the *statistical tests*. Practical and mathematical skills will also be assessed within the paper. It is a requirement for students to pass this exam in order to continue onto the second year of the course.

Further links: SoW 1A OCR Biology A 2025-2026.docx SoW 1A OCR Biology A 2025-26 Two Teacher.docx (links accessible to students) Biology workshops run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes in S207. Please come along with any Biology questions or topics you need help with.	Other reminders: Field trip 22/23 June to British Wildlife Centre. Festival of Science even on Friday 26 th June Intermediate Biology Olympiad – June (date TBC)
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Chemistry	Back
This term in Chemistry we will continue to study organic Chemistry in preparation for their transfer exam. It is key that all students are continually revisiting prior material in preparation for the exam as they need to pass to move forward into the next academic year. On returning to college after the exam and WEX week we start on year 2 material with the physical chemistry topic of rates.	
This term students may notice that they have deepened their knowledge of organic chemistry and again the learning is new to them. As always, support is available to all students through their tutor, teacher, TEAMS, SharePoint, workshops and the study support and wellbeing teams.	
Independent study this term: As always, students are given past paper questions (PPQs) for all topics we study, and these prepare them well for any tests or exams, internal or external. Our expectation is still that students attempt all questions in all sections of the PPQs and ask for clarification if anything is unclear. PPQs have 3 sections. Section A is current material and completed by the student before Section B, which is also current and either marked by the teacher or peer marked. Section C is synoptic and again is completed and marked by the student prior to section B. All answers can be found on SharePoint. They will also be given a number of past AS-level papers to practice for the transfer exam.	
Pro-study this term: Pro study for the week can be found on the 1A SharePoint page. In the third term this is mainly past papers. As always, the remaining time should be spent going through past PPQs and end of topic tests they may not have done so well in and spend time on revision of past topics. The expectation is still that students spend 4 hours of study in total outside of the classroom.	
Next assessments: Students are assessed every 3 weeks or so. Within the scheme of work the tests are weeks beginning April 13th, April 20th and May 4th, but these are subject to change depending on where the teacher is with the topic. Their transfer exam will be on the 22nd of May in the morning at 9am, and this is a 2-hour 15-minute paper which covers all their learning so far. Students are given information on the exam including the date, time, effective forms of revision and topics covered well in advance.	
Further links:	Other reminders:

Economics	Back
This term in Economics we will be focusing on preparing for the Transfer Exam Students have revision workbooks for both Macro and Micro and these will be useful both in class and independent work. When students return after their WEX week we will be focusing on: • Micro: Theory of the Firm: Production, Costs, Revenues and Profit. • Macro: Conflicts between macroeconomic objectives. This will take the form of a research project and presentation.	
This term students may notice • There will be lots of tips on exam technique. They need to be open to these ideas. • We are focused on finding ways to maximise marks; every mark matters – just a few marks can make a difference to the overall result.	
Independent study this term: • All independent study is listed on the Scheme of work. • Homework tasks include calculations, data tasks and longer answer questions ('explain' and 'evaluate'). These should be uploaded to Teams. • Preparation for the Transfer Exam will be vital. Students should: ➤ Make flashcards and test themselves on key knowledge, diagrams and chains of reasoning (explaining outcomes). Some examples of flashcards are given on the Revision page of the Economics Sharepoint site (accessible by students). ➤ Completing the past paper questions on the revision schedule (also on Sharepoint). ➤ Getting advice and feedback using workshops.	
Pro-study this term: This generally involves preparation tasks for lessons (flipped learning). Preparation tasks are required before the first lesson of the week. These generally include: • Watching video clips on Youtube • Other past paper questions to be uploaded to Teams.	
Next assessment(s): The next formal assessment in Economics will be the Transfer Exam. This will take place at 1:30pm on Thursday 14th May. Details are on the Exams tab of My Progress.	
Further links: Workshop times are Thursday and Friday lunchtimes in G004	Other reminders: Final reminder to check that £10 contribution to resources has been paid.

AAQ Engineering (BTEC)	Back
This term in AAQ in Engineering will focus on completing unit 1 and introducing unit 2. Both units will be assessed by an external exam in January 2027. Unit 1 covers the technical knowledge required for engineering, covering mathematics, mechanical principles, and electrical principles. Unit 2 develops knowledge of engineering and engineering systems. Students will be developing skills that allow them to work with their peers	
This term, students may notice the introduction of a new unit. Students will experience the pace of teaching accelerating, and more in-class test and homework's, the in-class test will be preparing students for their external examinations Students will also notice the introduction of new techniques, how to structure their solutions for collecting ever marks available, each mark matters.	
Independent study this term: Unit 1, notes have been posted on SharePoint with homework questions, including past papers. Students will be required to complete these at home and during their pro-study sessions. Unit 2, regular in class assessment will be given, developing solutions that meet the Distinction standard	
Pro-study this term: This is posted on SharePoint for unit 1, and in class for unit 2. These tasks will need to be completed in the pros-study sessions	
Next assessment(s): Unit 1 Exam in June / Unit 2 exam is June	
Further links: Workshop timetable – see MS Teams Monday lunchtime Tuesday lunchtime Wednesday lunchtime	Other reminders:

Environmental Science	Back
This term in Environmental Science you will learn about the interconnected natural Biogeochemical Cycles (Carbon, Nitrogen and Phosphorus Cycles) and how human activity affects them. After the Transfer Exam and you will learn about the characteristics of soils and what impacts their fertility, you will learn practical techniques for analysing soils. In addition you will learn about the Statistical Tests that are essential for understanding the significance of environmental science investigations.	
This term students may notice That there is a practical aspect to the soils topic including collection of your own sample of local soil and analysis of it in the laboratory. You need to be familiar with practical techniques for the final exams.	
Independent study this term: You will continue to have weekly tasks relating to lesson content and past paper questions.	
Pro-study this term: Weekly pro-study is scheduled on SharePoint and students should be in the routine of completing this by the deadline.	

Next assessment(s): As well as the normal regular class assessments, there will be the transfer exam before half term which will cover all topics so far.

Further links:

Workshop timetable: Monday: 12:15 – 1.20 and 1.20 - 2.05 Friday: 9.45 – 10.50

Other reminders: There are the final three Kirsty Brown talks of the year. The Festival of Science is on 26th June where you will have the opportunity to hear from and talk to industry and academic experts about career options.

Geology	Back
This term in Geology lessons we will continue studying specific fossil groups, and how they are preserved. After half term we will study relative and absolute dating before moving on to evolution and mass extinctions. Students will develop practical skills of drawing fossils and identifying them using flow diagrams. There will be a group presentation on mass extinctions. In addition, two days' field work will be undertaken in before half term in May and students unable to attend due to transfer exams will go in June. There are the final Kirsty Brown talks of the year including one about the Moon!	
This term students may notice that pro study work is focused on developing important cross section drawing skills in preparation for the transfer exams. These skills need to be mastered in order to proceed to the second year and support is offered in workshops to ensure that you develop these skills in time for the transfer exam.	
Independent study this term: Project work will involve creating a portfolio of the different fossil groups and projects including mass extinction events.	
Pro-study this term: Every week you will be set a cross section to complete	
Next assessment(s): The Transfer Exam	
Further links: Workshop timetable: Monday: 12:15 – 1.20 and 1.20 - 2.05 Friday: 9.45 – 10.50	Other reminders: The Festival of Science is on the 26th of June where you will hear from employers and universities about careers in Geology and you will be able to speak to the guests in the fayre.

Maths: Single A-level	Year 1
This term in Maths we spend the first few weeks revising and preparing for the transfer exam (2 hours), which students will take shortly before half term. After half term (and the work experience week) students will start studying the theory of functions, transformations and meet vitally important differentiation methods – chain and product rules.	
This term students may notice the increased focus on exam practice and exam technique. Questions will require greater problem solving and will likely involve multiple topics. Students <u>must</u> make sure to regularly revise old topics, address areas of weakness and ask for help when they get stuck on any questions from their independent study or revision.	
Independent study this term: In the run up to the transfer exam students will be set weekly practice papers to complete, mark and bring to class to update tracking documents. They should then use the rest of their independent study and revision time to work on identified areas of weakness. After half term students will again have a weekly problem set, comprising of skills questions and 12 problems to complete. Our expectation is that students attempt and understand all questions in the problem set so that they gain the most learning from this experience. This work will be submitted weekly on Teams.	
Pro-study this term: most weeks, pro-study will comprise of a problem set test, assessing students' understanding of the content covered in the last problem set. This should take students around 20 minutes to complete. The remaining time should be spent completing the follow-on work from their	

last assessment, prioritising the content they struggled with the most. In some weeks, there will be no follow-on work and, instead, students will be asked to retake their last assessment and mark it.

Next assessment(s): The next assessments are the transfer exams in one of the two weeks before half term – dates will be available to students on Myprogress nearer the time.

Students will always receive advance notice of upcoming tests through announcements on teams, so they should make sure they have notifications for that switched on.

Further links:

Other reminders:

The [suggested revision schedule](#) is ongoing
Students will receive details this term on the option of picking up some extra Maths – FMAS – in the second year. Students on an A or above should give this careful consideration.
Festival of Science occurs this term.

Maths: Double A-level

Year 1

This term in double Maths students will continue the revision and exam preparation they started before the holidays in preparation for the transfer exams (2 x 2 hours). All students will prepare brief revision presentations on agreed topics to share with the class.

After half term (and work experience week) students will start Further Maths content, specifically the Decision Maths module. They will learn the mathematics behind algorithms and how to apply these to specific situations requiring shortest paths or optimal routes.

This term students may notice the increased focus on exam practice and exam technique. Questions will require greater problem solving and will likely involve multiple topics. Students must make sure to regularly revise old topics, address areas of weakness and ask for help when they get stuck on any questions from their independent study or revision.

When they start studying Decision content, they will also notice the increased need for accuracy in working, and that a correct final answer may not attract all (or any) of the marks available.

Independent study this term: In the run up to the transfer exam students will be set weekly practice papers to complete, mark and bring to class to update tracking documents. They should then use the rest of their independent study and revision time to work on identified areas of weakness. After half term students will again have a weekly problem set comprising of skills questions and problems to complete. Our expectation is that students attempt and understand **all** questions in the problem set so that they gain the most learning from this experience. They should continue to seek support where necessary using all the resources available. This work will be submitted weekly on Teams.

Pro-study this term: Mainly self-directed, but [some suggestions on sharepoint](#). Students should use the resources mentioned to address areas of weakness or to practice harder topics. They can also review previous assessments and reattempt these to ensure they understand the content.

Next assessment(s): The next assessments are the Transfer Exams, details can be found on MyProgress

Students will always receive advance notice of upcoming tests through announcements on teams, so they should make sure they have notifications for that switched on.

Further links:

Other reminders:

	Students will receive details about options for Year Two (Further Maths) content. Students should be using the revision schedule provided on SharePoint. The Festival of Science occurs this term.
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Maths: GCSE	Back
This term we revise key topics and work on tackling questions from a variety of areas to help students with recall of previous learning and exam technique.	
This term students may notice that good attendance in lessons is paying off and there is an increased use of past papers in lessons and outside of class again, as practice is the best way to improve. Use of online materials outside of class is also encouraged to support revision.	
Independent study this term: Past papers will be set weekly, and students are expected to complete these, mark them using online solution videos and bring back into lesson. Physical copies of exam papers will be provided, and solutions videos are available online. Students should make sure they ask for help from their teacher or at workshops if they get stuck on any questions.	
Pro-study this term: Use the solution videos to fill in any gaps and then attend a workshop to get help on any questions that are not fully understood.	
Next assessment(s): The next assessments are the GCSE exams on 14/5, 3/6 and 10/6 Students will always receive advance notice of upcoming tests through announcements on teams, so they should make sure they have notifications for that switched on.	
Further links:	Other reminders: The date study leave begins is dependent on your other subjects: Foundation students: Fri 22nd May (16:15) 1A students: Mon 11th May (16:15) 2A students: Fri 15th May (16:15)

Physics	Back
This term in Physics we shall be starting some of the 'Year 2 topics' of Further Mechanics; • In Theoretical Physics we will cover Simple Harmonic Motion • In Applied Physics we will cover Circular Motion We shall put these topics on hold whilst we focus on revising the Year 1 content in preparation for the Transfer exam and then return to them in June. In the last half of the term, we shall also be undertaking our group STEM project 'the Glider investigation'.	
This term students may notice an increase in independent work expectation with an emphasis on the students to take more agency in task selection.	
Independent study this term: The students have been given a revision timetable with a number of suggested activities to record, as well as hard copies of past papers to be completed in a weekly schedule.	
Pro-study this term: Will be incorporated into the revision timetable assignments until the Transfer exam and then revert to normal for the second half of term (2 hours).	
Next assessment(s): The Transfer exam covering year 1 content w/c 18th May.	
Further links: Workshop Timetable: Monday R203 Y1 Revision for Y2s Wednesday R203 Y1 content tutorial Thursday R202 Y2 content Tutorial Thursday R203 General drop in for Y1 + Y2 All workshops are at lunchtime; 1.20 - 2.05.	Other reminders: Students wishing to pursue Physics / STEM subjects at Higher Education should be looking into the taster days that Universities will be offering this term. Some universities also offer summer courses which would be advantageous to get involved with.

Psychology	Back
This term in Psychology we will cover the following topics: - Clinical psychology and mental health - Issues and debates - Transfer exam	
This term students may notice that they need to work hard to manage their time to effectively prepare for the transfer exam. Students will need to complete additional exam questions and use the marks schemes to monitor their progress and to help identify gaps in their knowledge. Students should follow the revision schedule carefully and should listen to the advice given by their teachers.	
Independent study this term:	

6hrs of independent study outside of lessons

- Completion of all pro study tasks
- Using resources on share point
- Reviewing and updating class notes
- Creating revision materials of prior content
- Using checklists to organise revision
- Following the revision checklist to prepare for the transfer exam
- Reflecting/ acting on assessment feedback
- Working with a peer- study buddy
- Reviewing previously covered content
- Revising for assessments- minimum of 3hrs per 30 min assessment (this may not be in one week)
- Reviewing lesson PPT's where needed
- Watching supporting video clips- e.g. psych boost
- Listening to pod casts
- Using AI where appropriate to help develop knowledge, test understanding/ application and provide feedback

Pro-study this term:

- Completion of weekly flipped learning notes
- Completion of weekly quiz on teams
- Completion of weekly exam question booklets (both writing exam questions then marking and annotating using the mark schemes)
- Completion of mind maps
- Revision for transfer exam

Next assessment(s):

- 2-hour Transfer exam covering all Y1 content

Further links:

- Psychology share point site: [Psychology - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- Y1 scheme of work: [YEAR 1 RESOURCES \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- Workshop timetable: [Help with Studentship: Raising attainment in psychology \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- Transfer exam revision checklist: [Y1 checklist for transfer exam new.docx](#)
- Psych boost for video clips: [Psych Boost - YouTube](#)

Other reminders:

Students should now have created revision resources for all the previously taught content. These revision resources should be engaging and should facilitate active memory recall/ retrieval.

Students should be revising prior content each week and should have this fully embedded into their weekly study routine.

Please note that the SharePoint links above are only accessible to students.

If underperforming, students should be attending the weekly workshop/ be working with a peer or a selected peer mentor.

Students should be working with another psychology student outside of lessons to help review content.