

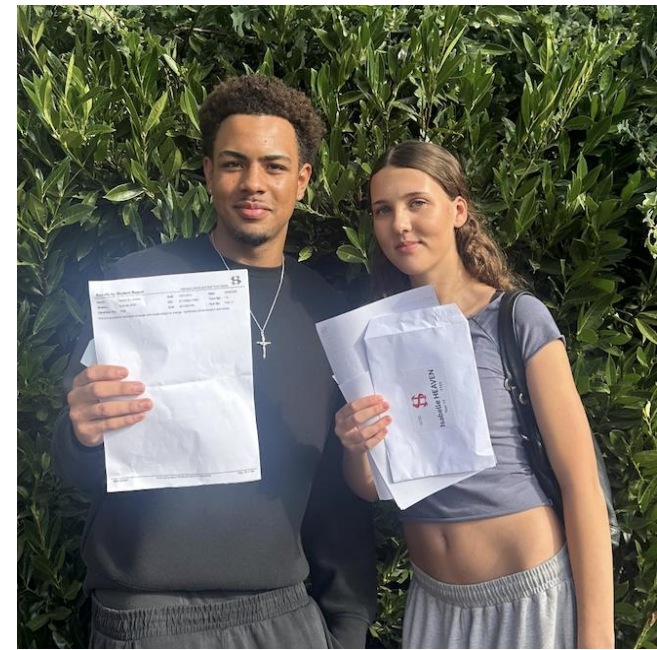
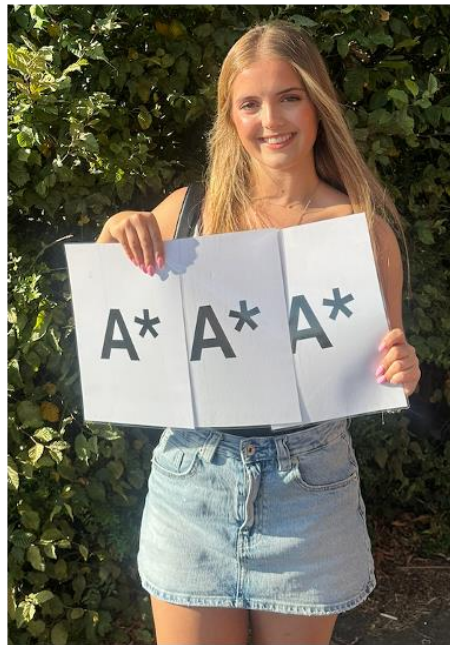
YEAR 10

Course Information Evening

2026



The school of choice for parents in Reading: where success is **desirable**, **demanded** and **achieved**.

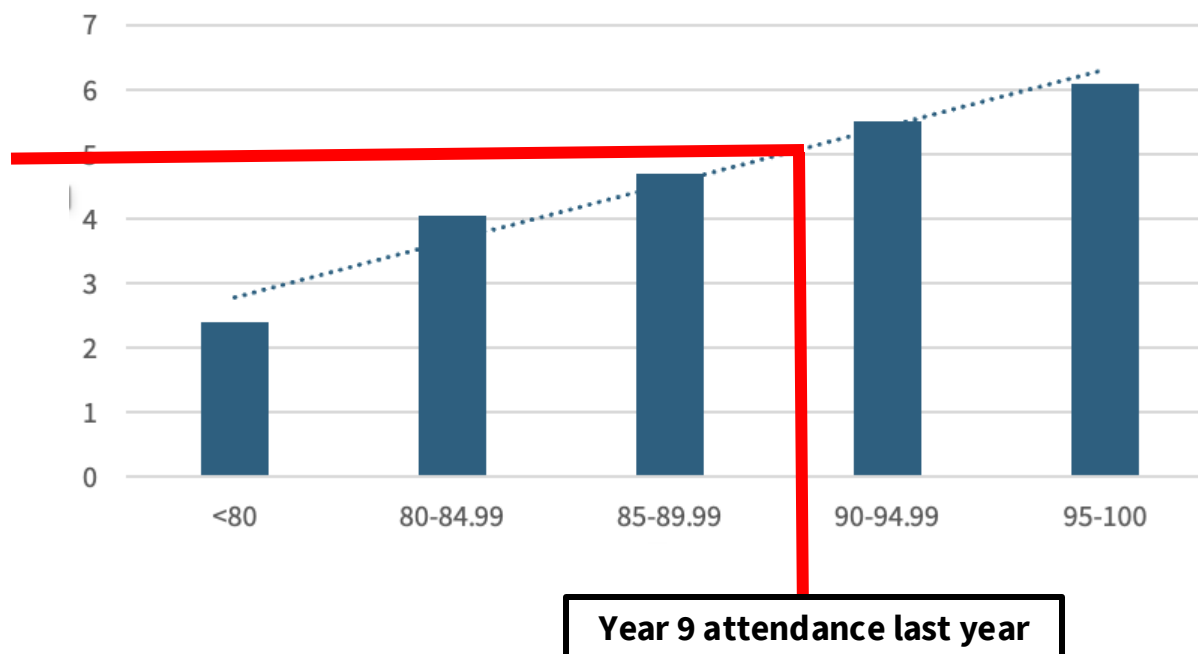


WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO SUCCESS AND HOW WE CAN SUPPORT?



ATTENDANCE

Student attendance and average grade at GCSE (25/26)





PASTORAL CARE AT HIGHDOWN



ASPIRATION RESPECT EXCELLENCE

Year 10 Team

HOA – Mrs Bonnett

AHOA – Miss Holmes

10C – Mr Davison

10D – Mr Thompson

10E – Mrs Homer & Mr Wilcox

10F – Mr Trimby

10G – Miss Francis

10H – Mrs Eaton

10J – Miss Clarke

10K – Miss Lobo

10L – Miss Eveleigh



Our Safeguarding Team



Dr Capaldi



Ms Smith



Mrs Birru



Mrs Boys



**Miss Woronkovicz
Designated Teacher**



Mrs Lovelock



Where else can I go for support?



Character, Culture & Citizenship

- Wellbeing for Life
- Food for thought
- Importance of exercise
- Men & Women's health
- The sleep factor
- Careers



Unifrog

The Universal Destinations Platform

- Highdown will now be using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform.
- The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures, and to help teachers embed careers education into their practice.

Unifrog supports schools by

- Helping students to explore careers, university, apprenticeships and future pathways
- Recording students' skills, achievements and activities in one place
- Helping students research and compare opportunities, to build strong applications

Why schools use

Unifrog

- ✓ **Student destination planning**
- ✓ **Careers guidance**
- ✓ **Application support**
- ✓ **Gatsby Benchmark evidence**



KEY DATES

- Y10 R2L Report – week beginning 19 October
- Careers Fair – Monday 23 November 6-8pm
- Apprenticeship Awareness Evening – Wednesday 27 January 2027
6-7.30pm
- Year 10 Information Report 1 – 4 February 2027
- Learning Review Evening – 11 March 2027
- PPEs – Start on 14 June 2027
- Work Experience – Thursday 15 July – Wednesday 21 July 2027



COURSE INTRODUCTION: CORE

- Mr Hutchinson – Overview
- Miss Bliss - English
- Mrs Rule and Mr Aldous – Science
- Mr Hutchinson – Maths



Multiple Choice Question: a one grade increase in nine GCSEs leads to an increase of how much in a student's lifetime earnings?

1) £57,000

2) £107,000

3) £157,000

4) £207,000





The Compounding Effect: One Grade Higher Across 9 Subjects

+£207,000
Lifetime Earnings

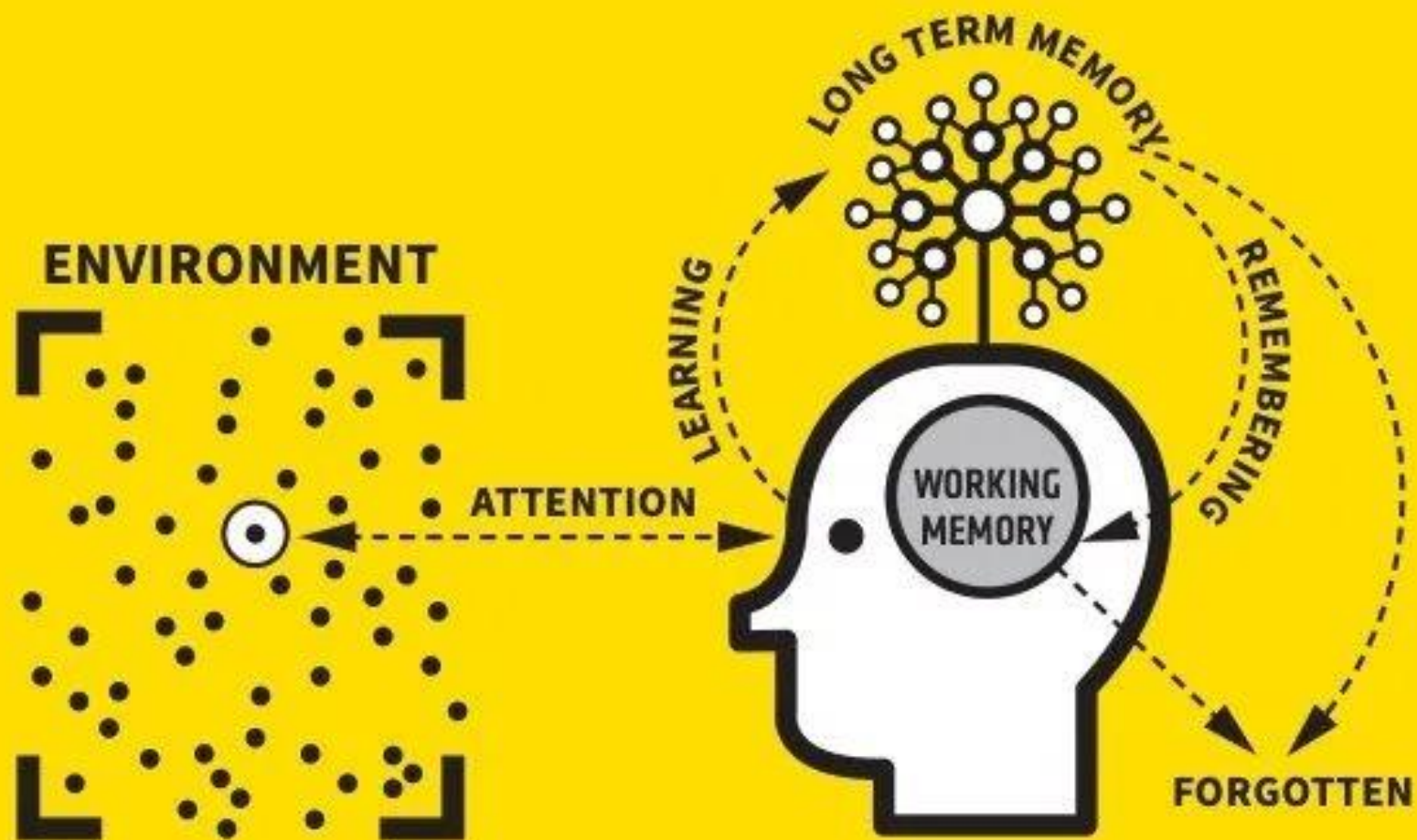
Total Value of 9 x Grade Improvements



Multiple Choice Question: which one of these learning strategies is most effective for revision?

- 1) **Retrieval practice (practice testing)**
Active retrieval of information from the memory with the help of practice tests or index cards
- 2) **Distributed practice**
Learning from learning materials in several sessions over a long period with constant repetition of the learned material in the later sessions
- 3) **Rereading**
Repeatedly re-reading text material
- 4) **Highlighting**
Marking important information by highlighting or underlining the learning material while reading





Opportunities for Active Recall

- Homeworks (Sparx Maths, Sparx Science, GCSE Pod, EverLearner etc.)
- Do Nows during your Strong Starts
- Study Skills and Study Sprints during mentor
- Revision before regular skills checks and assessment
- Every lesson, every day



Week	Y10 Topic
W/C 7/9	Reviewing Schedules
W/C 14/9	Introduction to 25 Minute Sprints
W/C 21/9	Active Recall – Using Exercise Books
W/C 5/10	Active Recall – Using Revision Books
W/C 12/10	Active Recall – Making Flash Cards
W/C 19/10	Active Recall – Using Flash Cards
W/C 2/11	Active Recall – Mind Maps
W/C 9/11	Active Recall - Consolidation
W/C 16/11	Cornell Notes - summarisation
W/C 30/11	Cornell Notes – using for active recall
W/C 7/12	Graphical Organisers 1
W/C 14/12	Graphical Organisers 2



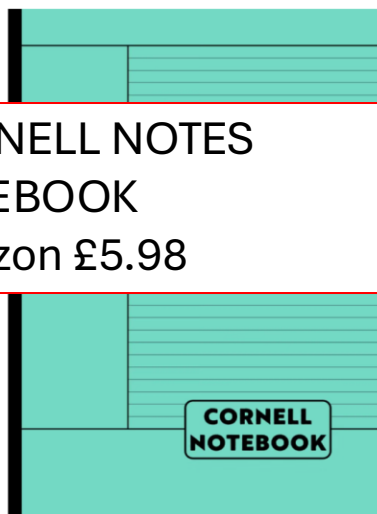


FLASHCARDS (with metal rings)

Amazon £3.99

CORNELL NOTES
NOTEBOOK

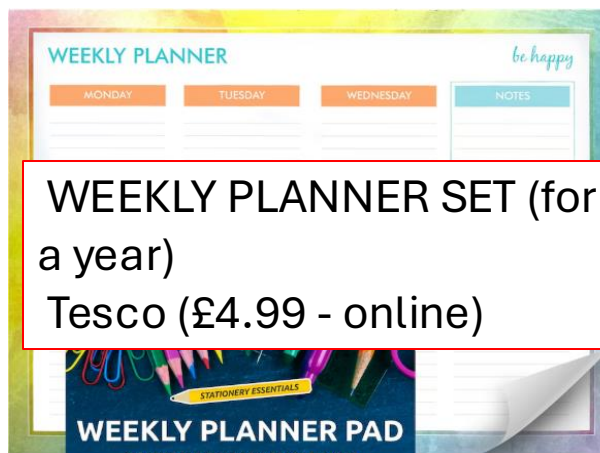
Amazon £5.98



REUSABLE MAGNETIC
WRITING PAD B&M £5



MINI WHITEBOARD SET
B&M £3



WEEKLY PLANNER SET (for
a year)

Tesco (£4.99 - online)



FOUR-COLOUR
PENS

Amazon (£3.75)



KS4 Study Hub

- An after-school area to study, revise and do homework open Monday to Thursday – starting soon for only Y10 and Y11 students



- Summer Half Term Study Hub
Tuesday 1st June - Friday 4th June 2027



GCSE Target Grades

- GCSE target grades will be communicated to students and parents in October
- These are not a ceiling on achievement but a guide as to the student's expected grades based on KS2 data

CURRICULUM LEADER: MS N SALMON

KEY STAGE 4 COORDINATOR: MRS E BLISS

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature



AQA English Language (8700)

Paper 1: Explorations in
Creative Reading and
Writing (50%)

Section A (Q1-4): 40
marks

Section B (Q5): 40 marks

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints
and Perspectives (50%)

Section A (Q1-4): 40 marks

Section B (Q5): 40 marks

+ Spoken Language
Assessment



AQA English Literature (8702)

Paper 1: Shakespeare
and 19th Century Novel
(40%)

A Christmas Carol (32
marks)

The Merchant of Venice
(32 marks + 4 SPaG)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
(60%)

An Inspector Calls (32 marks + 4
SPaG)

Poetry Anthology Comparison (32
marks)

Unseen Poetry (24 marks)

Unseen Poetry Comparison (8 marks)



COURSE CONTENT

Year 10 English	Year 11 English
• 19th Century Text - A Christmas Carol • Shakespeare Play - The Merchant of Venice • Language Paper 1 - 19th Century Literary Fiction Extracts (language and structure analysis, evaluation of ideas) - Descriptive and Narrative Writing • Language Paper 2 - 19th Century – 21st Century Non-Fiction Extracts (comparison, language analysis, comparative evaluation) - Non-fiction Writing • Poetry - Power and Conflict Poetry - Unseen Poetry	• Modern Text - An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley • Revision, revisiting and embedding of Literature and Language



- Weekly Home Learning
- Massolit
- GCSE Pod
- Mr Bruff YouTube Videos
- BBC Bitesize
- Oxford Revise Revision Guide



- TEAMS!
- Padlets for Literature and Language
- Independence booklets for all set texts
- Knowledge Organisers
- Academic Writing Resources
- Grade 9 Schemes of Work

English Lit: <https://padlet.com/elbliss/english-literature-ccyqye75xlyt6148>

English Lang: <https://padlet.com/elbliss/english-language-x7wwsntf01h4k5no>



Key Points

- English is a linear exam! This means all students of all levels will sit the same paper, for both Language and Literature.
- All English groupings are focussed on "teaching to the top"
- There are many different routes students can take to achieve their GCSE: Y11 examinations or completing Functional Skills-the first two terms of Year 10 is all about getting to know students and finding the best pathway for them



GCSE SCIENCES

The examination board for GCSE Sciences is AQA

All students have lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and have specialist teachers for each.

CURRICULUM LEADERS:

Mrs M Rule

Mr E Aldous

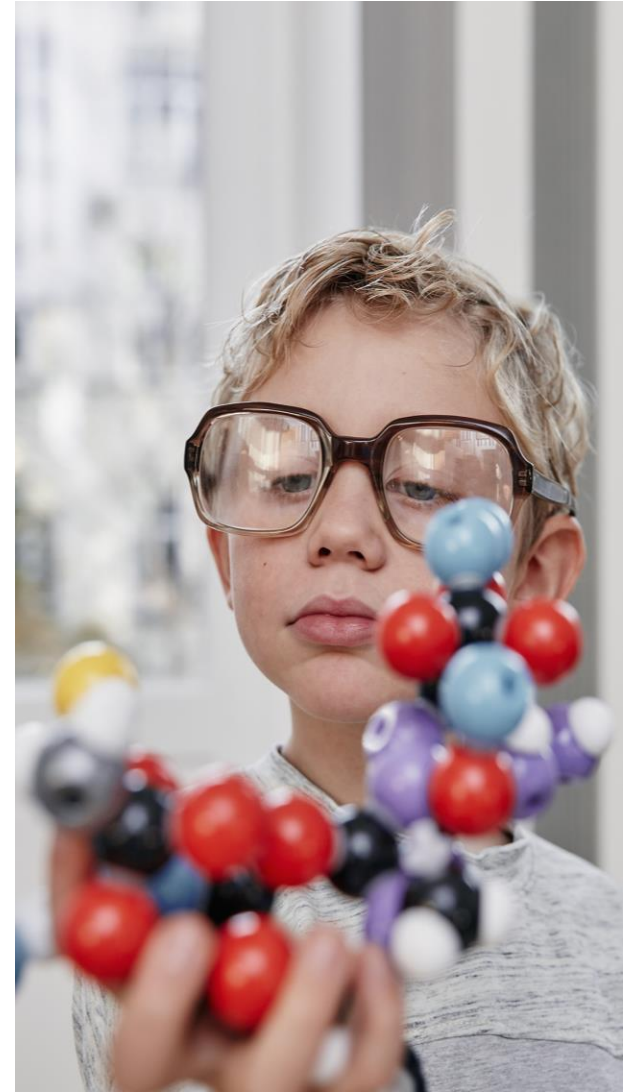
KS4 Coordinator:

Mr D Kemp



BIOLOGY CONTENT

- Cell Biology
- Bioenergetics
- **Organisation**
- **Infection and response**
- **Homeostasis and response**
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology



CHEMISTRY CONTENT

- Atomic Structure and the periodic table
- Structure and bonding
- Chemical changes
- **Amounts of substance**
- **Energy changes**
- **Chemical analysis**
- Organic chemistry
- Rates of reaction and equilibria
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources



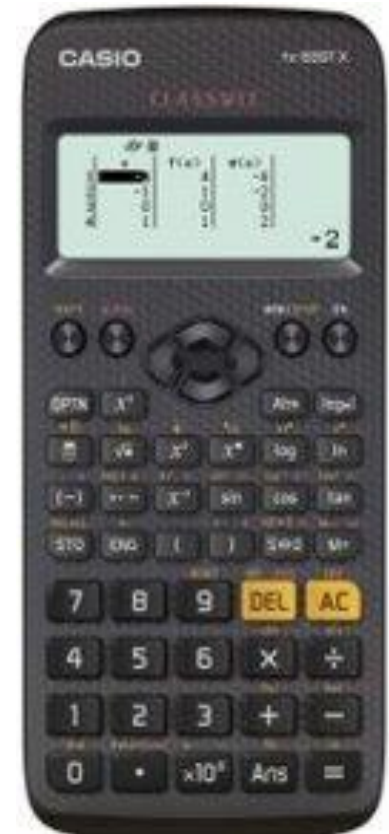
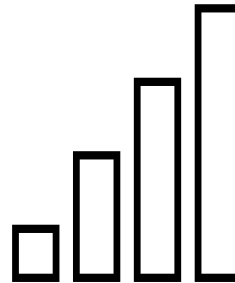
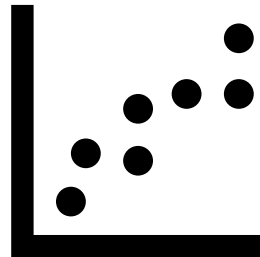
PHYSICS CONTENT

- Energy
- Particle model of matter
- **Atomic structure**
- **Electricity**
- **Forces**
- Waves
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism



MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

- Standard Form and order of magnitude
- Estimates and significant figures
- Averages
- Simple probability
- Algebra skills
- Graphs



ALL Students will sit
6 exam papers of at least
1 hour 15 min each
(2 x papers for each Science)

Core Practical content ('Required Practical') examined
in the papers



Core Numeracy content also 10-30 % of final papers.

Marks from all six papers are
combined to give grades from 9-9
to 1-1



SPECIFICATIONS

Some students will be selected to enter Separate Science Examinations in Year 11 and will be taught some extra material mostly in year 11. Their 6 papers will all be 1 hour and 45 minutes long and they will receive a separate grade for each of the 3 Sciences



<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>



Support and Stretch

- **Homework Diet** (at least)
 - Weekly Sparx Science
 - Set and due Thursdays
- **Resources**
 - Sparx Independent Learning
 - Past Papers (Physics and Maths Tutor)
- **Intervention**
 - Weekly for Y11s
 - Selected for Y10s later in year
- **Astro Club**
 - Speak with Mr Verebelyi
- **Reptile Club**
 - Speak with Dr Love
- **Science Challenges**
 - Physics: 6th May (Y10)
 - Astro: 12th November
 - Chemistry: 25th January



HELPING AT HOME

1. Encourage them to make a keyword glossary and test your child regularly.
 2. Encourage use of the resources available to make review materials.
- www.kerboodle.com Institution code Li7
 - <https://sparxscience.com/> Same log-in as Sparx Maths
 - Any AQA GCSE Revision guide for Trilogy Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics
 - And please keep in touch with the science teachers so that we can all work together as a team.



GCSE Mathematics

Curriculum Leader – Mr W Dineley

KS4 Coordinator – Mr M Hutchinson

(Email: mhutchinson1@glfschools.org)



Tiered Entry

Foundation Tier (Sets 3 & 4)



Higher Tier (Sets 1 & 2)

Exam Board: AQA
Scheme of Learning: White Rose Maths
(Y10 Version 3)

**Further
Maths**



The Exam

Paper 1

Non-Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks

Any content

Paper 2

Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks

Any content

Paper 3

Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks

Any content

All sat in May and June 2028



Calculators

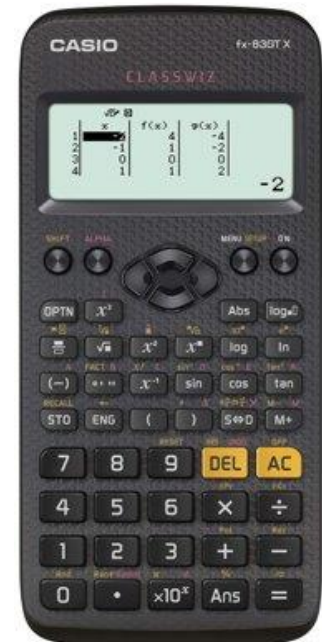
Casio fx-991CW

- Suitable for A Level
- £25-30



Casio fx-83GTCW

- Suitable for GCSE
- £10-£12



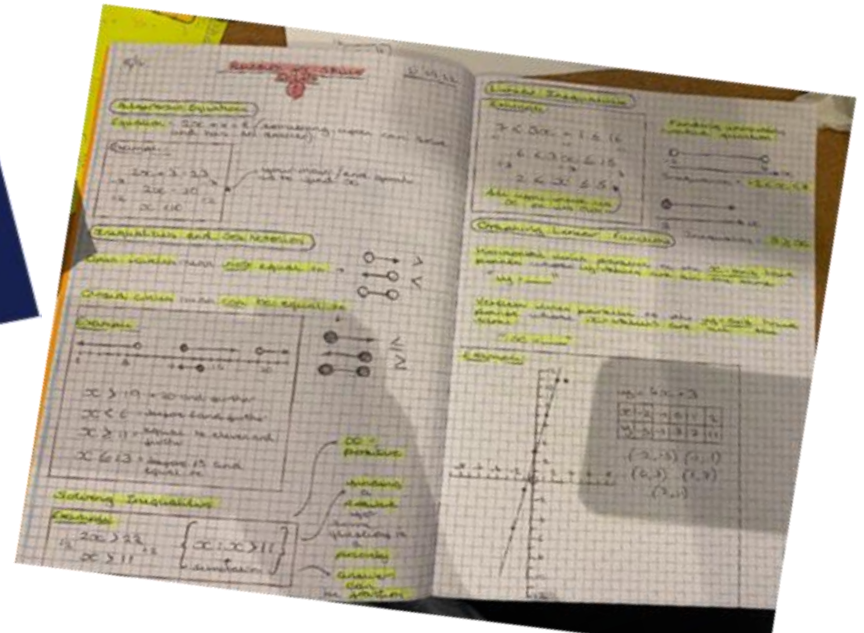
Support and Stretch

- **Intervention**
- **Effective Revision**
 - Fortnightly Skills Checks
 - Y11 Revision Sessions
- **Resources**
 - Sparx Platform
 - Maths Genie Revision
 - Past Papers (Physics and Maths Tutor)
- **The Maths Team (Sparx Club Tuesday Lunchtime M5)**
- **Intermediate Maths Challenge** for Y10 and Y11
- **Further Maths GCSE** optional qualification started end of Y10 when Y11 exams finish



Homework and Assessment: Weekly Sparx and Fortnightly Skills Checks

Sparx Maths



“The only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics.”

Paul R Halmos




Homework


Personal Practice


Independent Learning

Independent Learning

Previous activity

Search for topics:

Your curriculum:

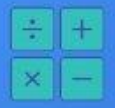
GCSE

Default level:

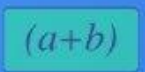
Level 3

Select a topic:

Number



Algebra



Ratio and Proportion



Geometry



Probability



Statistics



[Home](#)[Revision Planner](#)[Ask Genie AI](#)[Worksheets](#)[Grade 4](#)[Compound Interest and Depreciation](#)[Indices](#)[Prime Factors, HCF and LCM](#)[Real Life and Distance Time Graphs](#)[Inequalities](#)[Forming and Solving Equations](#)[Sequences \(Nth Term\)](#)[Expanding and Factorising](#)

Maths Genie

Practice



Question bank

Practise exam-style questions for this topic



Question Rush

Race the clock on quick-fire multiple-choice questions

Learn



Revision Guides

Study notes with worked examples



Videos

Revision videos for this topic



Flashcards

Active-recall flashcards to self-test this topic



Excellence Evenings 2026

