

The Year Ahead

- The next few months are crucial for your son/daughter as they prepare to sit their GCSE exams. The grades achieved in these exams will largely determine what he or she does next in life
- We believe that creating good partnerships between the student, college and parents is essential if students are to reach their full potential and be successful and we want to support you as a family through this challenging year ahead.
- A study by The campaign For Learning found that *parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class* and can mean the difference between several grades.
- So what can you do to help your son/daughter this year?

Helping our students succeed in Year 11

- A recap on changes to assessment criteria, qualifications and examinations.
- Advice about how to support your son/daughter throughout the pressures of this year
- An overview of the year - key information and dates for the year ahead.



New GCSEs and Assessment Grades

Raising The Bar



New GCSEs and Assessment Grades

What Does it Mean?

- National Educational reform from primary School to 6th Form.
- New GCSE and A Levels that are linear with little/no opportunities for resits.
- Removal of coursework.
- Content heavy and increased amount of examination hours.
- GCSE grades phased out and replaced with new assessment grades 1-9.

2015 English and Mathematics GCSEs

The New Maths GCSE

- More content to study, and more stretching maths at the higher grades.
- Supports a deeper and broader understanding of the subject.

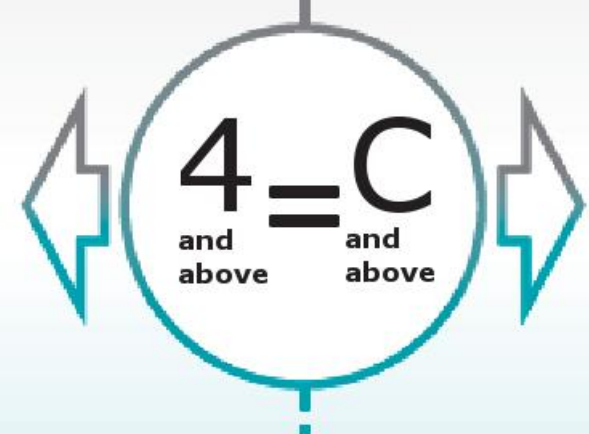
The New English Language GCSE

- Robust foundation in reading, and writing good English.
- 20% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The New English Literature GCSE

- Encourages students to read, write and think critically.
- Range of challenging and substantial whole texts, and unseen texts.

New grading structure 1-9

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above.■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.									
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U

**Grade 9 = top third
of A***

**Grade 7 and above
= Grade A**

**Grade 5 = Top third
of C Grades and
bottom third of B
Grades**

**Grade 4 = bottom 2
thirds of C Grade**

**Grade 1 = aligned
to bottom of
Grade G**

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	E
1	
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

Examination Pressures

English:	4 exams, 2 hours each
Maths:	3 exams, 2 hours each
Science Combined:	6 exams, 1hour 15mins
Science separate:	6 exams, 1 hour 45 mins
Computer Science:	2 exams, 1hour 30 mins
Engineering/Business/IT:	up to 3 exams, 1 hour
Geography:	3 exams, 1 hour 30 mins
PE:	2 exams, 2 hours
Art:	1 exam, 10 hours
Possible total:	in excess of 25 hours





What Can I do to help?

Your role may include some or all of the following:

Attendance officer

- Making sure your child attends school on time every day and understands the importance of making the most of lesson-times. Government statistics show that there is a link between attendance, punctuality and results at GCSEs. Every day lost in attendance reduces your child's chance of achieving their best.

Partner with college and child

- Going to parents' evenings, asking questions and finding out how you can best help your child at home.

Provider of the tools for homework and revision

- A quiet space for study, pens, paper and other necessities.

Study buddy

- Showing an interest in the subjects, helping with the homework (but not doing it for them), testing them when they ask you.

What Can I do to help?

Your role may include some or all of the following:

Adviser

- Helping your child to break tasks down so that they are manageable, keeping a subtle eye on progress and celebrating achievements. Seeing a positive way forward when things go wrong.

Project manager

- Agreeing the rules for homework or revision, helping them to make a realistic timetable, balancing work time against recreation time and reviewing the plans as necessary.

Go-between

- For your child and the college when necessary; making sure problems are addressed quickly.

Information provider

- Finding copies of old exam papers, searching out websites, finding out about the subject, exam structures and content.

Do you know what your child's
attendance is?

Do you know what it means?

?

This is Simon. He is in Year 11 and has 90% attendance.

- Is that good?
- What does this mean?



Simon thinks this is pretty good, so do his parents.
Are they right?

90% attendance = **½ day missed** every
week!!

Would this be acceptable at work?



Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri

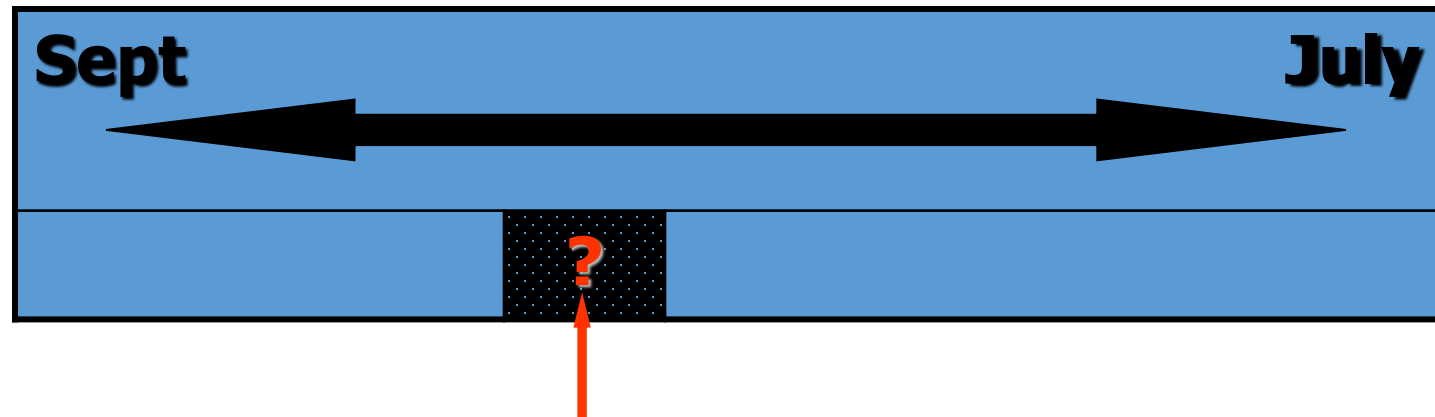


Absent half a day every week

Lets looks a little closer....

1 school year at **90%** attendance = **4** whole weeks of lessons **MISSED!!!**

38 school weeks



Absent for 4 weeks

Lessons missed?

- 90% attendance means 200 lessons missed at GCSE
- 90% attendance means 500 lessons missed during a school career
- The increased rigour and content of new GCSE exams means it is very difficult to pass examinations with that record

What impact might this have on Simon's life.....?

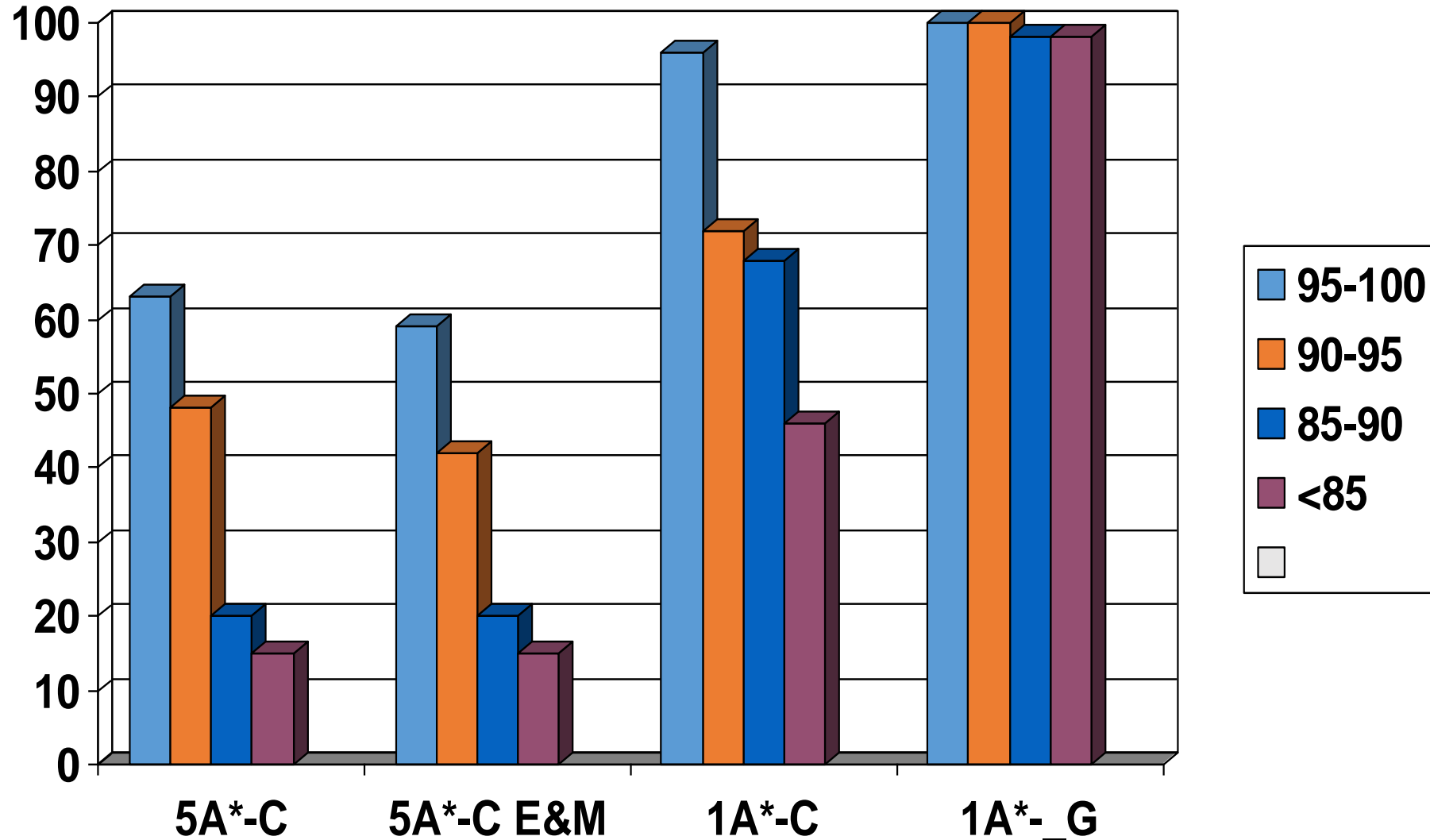


Research suggests that **17 missed school days** a year
= GCSE grade **DROP** in achievement. (DfES)

The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.



Attainment and Attendance



Ways for parents to encourage attendance:

1. Find out **regularly** your child's **absence**. (Ask for half days if easier) and check this matches with your **own record**.
2. **Talk** regularly with your child about school and how they feel about it. More likely to attend if they feel supported and anxieties **listened** to.
3. **Phone** us as soon as possible to tell us why your child is absent, and when you expect them to return. Putting the school number in your phone can save you time. Know the school routine for alerting you to absence.
4. Only grant days at home for **genuine** illness. (you will know!!)
5. **Avoid** taking holidays in school time.

Attend and Achieve!

- If a school can **improve** attendance by **1%**, they will see a **5-6%** improvement in **attainment**. (Department for Education and Skills)
- Please **help** us and **your son/daughter** by ensuring their attendance remains above **95%**, allowing them to **achieve** their potential.



Revision tips for Parents

- Help your child to make a study/revision timetable which includes the dates and times of the examinations in May and June as well as dates of any controlled assessments. The timetable should be used to plan revision sessions. These should be spread out evenly so that your son/daughter is not planning to do too much all at once.
- Have the timetable displayed in their room and help them to stick to the plan.
- Ask to see your son/daughter's revision notes and make sure that they speak to their teachers if they are missing any.
- Encourage your son/daughter to ask for help at school on any work that they do not understand.
- Encourage your child to attend all revision sessions offered by the school.
- Limit/negotiate time spent on games/tablets.
- You can buy revision guides to help with study. Make sure that your child knows which exam board and syllabus have been followed for each subject.
- Make sure that the study area is quiet and well-lit.

Organising your Revision

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9am					Football Match	Get up late
10am					↓	
11am						
12am						
1pm						
2pm						Go to Nan's for
3pm						Sunday dinner
4pm ICT Revision				Dance Practice		
5pm						
6pm	Band practice					
7pm				Out with Friends	Out with friends	
8pm						

- Even in a full life = 33hours available for revision every week!
- In holidays there is opportunity to do even more.
- Just 2 hours a day = extra 20 hours over next 2 weeks.
- Do not waste this time – get organised. Make your timetable and stick to it
- Remember – little and often is better than hours on end. Plan your time in 20min/half hour sessions and record how much time you have spent on each subject.
- Good Luck.....you're nearly there and then you'll have the whole summer to relax. Don't give up 😊

The Day of the Exam

Make sure that your child knows:

- What day the exam is on and at what time it starts
- How long the exam is
- What is being tested in each exam



Before exams, try to ensure that:

- Your son/daughter gets enough sleep, especially the night before exams
- He/she is eating sensibly – especially breakfast on exam days
- He/she has all the equipment required:
 - pens and sharp pencils, erasers, a ruler and a watch (mobile phones are not allowed in the exams)
 - a calculator and a protractor or other Math's/Science equipment
 - a bottle of water

What else can I do?



- Recognise the importance of GCSEs exams and the preparation time needed to do as well as possible
- Reward your child's efforts to revise
- Reduce the number of chores that they have to do when exams start
- Make sure that the whole family respects the importance of keeping disturbances to a minimum
- Be sensitive to the pressure and stress that your teenager may be experiencing. encourage them to speak to you about it
- Make sure that time is built in for exercise and recreation
- Respect their growing independence. Ask them how you can best support them
- Help them to keep things in perspective and keep in touch with us at school so we can work together.