

# The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls



Aspiration and Expectation  
Evening 2016

Supporting your daughter  
through Year 11

September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 Students,

We extend a warm welcome to the Aspiration and Expectation Evening 2016.

As mentioned in our invitation letter we are now into the final stages of your daughter's preparation for her GCSEs. It is vital that she is fully prepared in order that she realises her full potential.

Achieving good results will open the doors to many opportunities in her future life, whether she continues in education, takes up employment or starts an apprenticeship.

Thank you for coming.

# Aspiration and Expectation Evening Schedule

Welcome	Mr David Turrell Vice Principal (i/c KS4)
Key Dates	Mr David Turrell Vice Principal (i/c KS4)
Attendance and Punctuality	Mrs Gill Bull Progress Manager
Grades and Examination Information	Mr David Turrell Vice Principal (i/c KS4)
Support in School	Mrs Gill Bull Progress Manager
Mathematics in Year 11	Mrs Victoria Wheelhouse Mathematics teacher
English in Year 11	Mr Peter Perrott Head of English
Plenary and Questions	Mr David Turrell Vice Principal (i/c KS4)

## English Department - Preparing for GCSE

The key requirements for success at GCSE are that girls should attend all their lessons and that they should try their best with the work that is set. It is also very important that their coursework should be the best that they can produce.



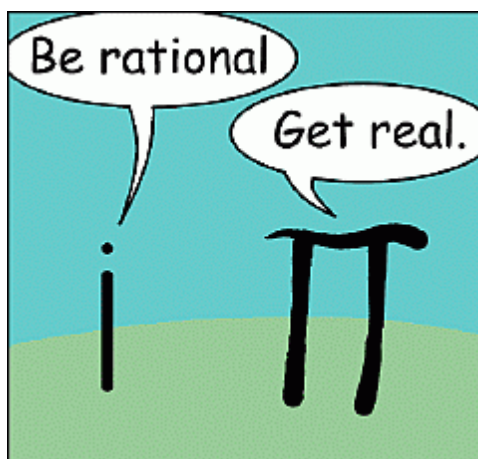
*It is not easy texting my mother.  
She is an English teacher and all she does is correct my spelling.*

The area that girls find most difficult, in our experience, is poetry and parents can help here just by talking to their daughters about what the poems might mean. The key to success at GCSE is that girls show that they are thinking about the poems and are trying to understand some of the ways in which poets use language. The poems can be approached in many different ways and there are no set answers - anything that encourages girls to think about the poems in their own way will be very beneficial.

In their writing, girls need to show that they are thinking about the purpose of the writing and about their audience. It can be very helpful when parents read through their daughters' work and discuss it in general terms e.g. is it clear? Do the ideas come across well? This is better than focusing on technical errors such as spelling. Spelling does matter of course, but it carries very few marks in the GCSE examination compared to the ability to write clearly and with an audience in mind. Above all, anything that can help girls to enjoy their writing and to take a pride in it is very helpful.

# Mathematics Department - Preparing for GCSE

You can support your daughter in this subject by:



- Getting involved with her homework - knowing when it is - checking that she has done enough.
- Your daughter will be tested regularly in Mathematics. Ask her how she is doing and what she needs to do to improve.
- Helping her organise a revision programme and ensuring she has sufficient resources. Every Year 11 has been given a Revision Guide with access to supporting videos. Also the students have access to MyMaths, a maths help and support website.
- Helping her plan revision which is best done in small parcels of time e.g. 15 minutes per night. Reminding her that doing practice questions is more likely to be productive than just reading notes in this subject.
- Checking that your daughter is still able to access the text book electronically from home. Ask her teacher about how to access it on the VLE (Moodle)

**3 OUT OF 2  
PEOPLE  
HAVE  
TROUBLE  
WITH  
FRACTIONS**

## Tips for Parents

*I hate this subject/teacher - I'm going to drop it!*



Students at exam age are often prone to 'all or nothing' thinking, leading them to exaggerate the importance of incidents and resort to extreme strategies such as 'giving it all up', running away or having an all-out argument in an effort to solve a problem. This is because their emotions are so strong at this age, and their strategies for dealing with them limited.

For teenagers, problems often seem permanent ('I will never be able to understand this subject/get on with this teacher'), global ('I hate everything he/she says/does' or 'Everything about science is boring/difficult/ stupid') and insoluble. The trick is to talk to them using language that makes the problem more manageable, by making it seem:

- **Specific rather than global** ('What is it specifically that you find difficult/do not like about what she says/does?')
- **Temporary** ('How long have you been feeling like this about her/the subject?')
- **Solvable** ('What would you like to happen? What would make it more bearable?')

Try to find out exactly what is causing the problem by encouraging your daughter to talk about what happens in the class, what is it that the teacher does or says that your daughter objects to. Don't minimise the feelings that your daughter is experiencing as this leads to the 'you just don't understand' response— accept that the feelings are real and that the problem to be sorted out is one of finding a less extreme strategy.

If, after discussion, there does seem to be an underlying personality clash, rather than a temporary hiccup in the relationship, or if the work really does seem to be beyond her, it is always a good idea to talk to the teacher concerned where your daughter's worries can be explained in a calm environment. A clear partnership between you and the teacher will help to solve a problem. If this doesn't work, it is worth following up the matter with the Progress Manager or Head of Department.

### **I've left it too late to revise**

One of the biggest mistakes that students make is not allowing enough time for revision. This usually results, when they do realise what is involved in demotivation and the attitude that there is no point in doing anything as the task is too big. 'The first bullet point in 'I hate this subject/teacher - I'm going to drop it' is relevant here.

The key point to remember is that it is never too late until you enter the exam room with revision; a little knowledge is better than none and could make the difference between pass and fail.

Put in place a damage-limitation plan. Help your daughter to make use of the time they have got, however little, by helping them to prioritise and structure revision tasks into manageable chunks. Focus on the subjects in which they are likely to get passes, ignoring those in which there is no hope, and rather than reading hurriedly through the whole syllabus, identify and agree on a few key areas and encourage them to revise these as thoroughly as possible.

Keep up motivation and self-esteem by reminding them of how they have coped with difficult situations in the past, that the exam period will soon be over and by talking about the strengths and qualities that they have which will contribute to the best outcome in the circumstances.

# Year 11 Student Resources

Links to all of these resources can be found on the Student section of the school website.

**Moodle** – This is our school Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), a place where teachers can set work for students and upload useful resources. It can contain links to websites, documents to download, quizzes and tests, video resources and can also be used for online discussions. Students login to Moodle using their USO accounts.

**Doddle** – Is an online teaching resource purchased by the school. This contains lots of learning aids such as presentations, documents, videos, quizzes and interactive activities. Teachers can use these re-sources in class or they can be set for homework. Doddle covers a wide range of subjects over Key stages 3 & 4. Students can access any of the resources via a web browser. A lot of the resources on Doddle have been optimized to work on mobile devices such as phones and tablets. Students login to Doddle using their USO accounts

**My Maths** – A teaching resource used in the maths department. It has been created by practicing maths teachers and contains interactive lessons, games and worksheets. These resources can be used in class or as homework. Students will need to get logons from their teachers.

**Kerboodle** – An online resource used by the languages department. This contains teaching resources and assessment packs which the teachers can use in the classroom. Kerboodle has a selection of self-marking tests and controlled assessments and is useful for testing skill levels. Students will need to get logons from their teachers.

**Show My Homework** – Is used by teachers for setting homework. They will give an outline of the homework as well as adding any links or resources that students will need. Deadlines for homework can also be set. Students can go to their calenderers to see what work they have set and what is still outstanding. All students should have received a letter with both the student and parent logon details.

**Office 365** - Office 365 offers an online version of office to all students. This includes Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. You can also use OneDrive as cloud storage. This is accessible via a web browser and can be used on all computers and mobile devices. Students log in using their USO accounts.

**Email** – All students have a school email address that can be access via outlook in office 365. We ask that if a student is ever asked to email work to teachers that they use the accounts provided by the school. They should not be using their personal accounts for communication with teachers under any circumstance. Students email addresses are in the following format: username@lgflmail.net



## **Key Dates 2016/2017**

- 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September – Work Experience
- 6<sup>th</sup> October – Havering RPA event (evening)
- 19<sup>th</sup> October – Year 11 6<sup>th</sup> Form Taster Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> October – Data Report & Parents' Evening
- 9<sup>th</sup> November – Prospective 6<sup>th</sup> form evening
- 10<sup>th</sup> November – Safe Drive Stay Alive
- 28<sup>th</sup> Nov to 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Mock Examinations
- 26<sup>th</sup> January – Mock Results Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 10<sup>th</sup> March – Mock Examinations
- 29<sup>th</sup> March – Mock Results Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> March – Parents' Evening
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Easter revision sessions start
- Formal Examinations Period – May and June 2017
- 13<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers' Day and Prom

## Contact Information

**Mrs Bull** - Progress Manager Year 11: [gbull@fbaok.co.uk](mailto:gbull@fbaok.co.uk)

**Mr Turrell** - Vice Principal: [dturrell@fbaok.co.uk](mailto:dturrell@fbaok.co.uk)

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11E	Mrs Chapman & Miss Hawkins	<a href="mailto:schapman@fbaok.co.uk">schapman@fbaok.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:ahawkins@fbaok.co.uk">ahawkins@fbaok.co.uk</a>
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11S	Mr Hall	<a href="mailto:ghall@fbaok.co.uk">ghall@fbaok.co.uk</a>
11W	Mrs Appleby	<a href="mailto:jappleby@fbaok.co.uk">jappleby@fbaok.co.uk</a>

## Heads of Department and Key Stage Coordinators

English	Mr Perrott (HoD)	<a href="mailto:pperrott@fbaok.co.uk">pperrott@fbaok.co.uk</a>
English	Miss Lucas (KS4 coordinator)	<a href="mailto:alucas@fbaok.co.uk">alucas@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Mathematics	Mr Gaya	<a href="mailto:dgaya@fbaok.co.uk">dgaya@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Mathematics	Mr Dalley (KS4 coordinator)	<a href="mailto:rdalley@fbaok.co.uk">rdalley@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Science	Mrs Holland	<a href="mailto:lholland@fbaok.co.uk">lholland@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Art	Mrs Appleby	<a href="mailto:jappleby@fbaok.co.uk">jappleby@fbaok.co.uk</a>
ASDAN	Mrs Lickfold	<a href="mailto:dlickfold@fbaok.co.uk">dlickfold@fbaok.co.uk</a>
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Child Development	Mrs Haylock	<a href="mailto:thaylock@fbaok.co.uk">thaylock@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Dance	Miss Hawkins	<a href="mailto:ahawkins@fbaok.co.uk">ahawkins@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Drama	Miss Mond	<a href="mailto:hmond@fbaok.co.uk">hmond@fbaok.co.uk</a>
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Graphic Products	Mrs Jackson	<a href="mailto:mjackson@fbaok.co.uk">mjackson@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Health & Social Care	Mrs Jackson	<a href="mailto:mjackson@fbaok.co.uk">mjackson@fbaok.co.uk</a>
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Music	Miss Johnson	<a href="mailto:ajohnson@fbaok.co.uk">ajohnson@fbaok.co.uk</a>
PE	Mrs Cambridge	<a href="mailto:mcambridge@fbaok.co.uk">mcambridge@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Photography	Miss Chapman	<a href="mailto:lchapman@fbaok.co.uk">lchapman@fbaok.co.uk</a>
Religious Studies	Miss Pitty	<a href="mailto:gpitty@fbaok.co.uk">gpitty@fbaok.co.uk</a>

# New GCSE Grading Structure

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
U	U

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

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

# Top ten tips for parents

1. Attendance – every day counts.
2. Homework - Check their planner and SMHW, if you have any concerns e.g. No homework then contact their form tutor.
3. Create a revision timetable with your daughter (we will look at doing this in form time at school also) and ensure they stick to it. The mocks are after half term. They should be revising now.
4. Help your daughter to organise a work area, ensure they have all the stationery they need.
5. Have clear expectations of how much work they should be doing each night/week.
6. Discuss with your daughter if the TV/music helps or hinders them. There are some good revision apps available but unless you definitely know they need their phone/l-pad/laptop etc, they should probably not be working with them.
7. Put key dates/exams in your own diary/ calendar so you can support before the 'panic stage'.
8. Time your daughter answering questions; timings in examinations can be key to success.
9. Choose one good revision guide for each subject. Ask your daughter to check with their teacher one they recommend.
10. Ensure they eat a good breakfast before their examinations and have a bottle of water with them.

