



LIFE
Education
Trust



Introduction to GCSEs

KNOWLEDGEABLE • RESILIENT • ARTICULATE • CREATIVE • EMPATHETIC • REFLECTIVE • STUDIOUS

What are GCSEs?

Current	Old
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GCSEs are academic qualifications which take two years to complete. They mark the end of secondary education as they move to next stage of their education post 16.

Yr 10

Roadmap

Yr 11

Sept
She is Studious
continues

Dec
Year 10 Parents
Evening

Mar
First report

Apr/June
Year 10 Exams &
Report

July
Work
Experience

Sept
Period 6
WTM

Oct
Taster Day

Oct
Parents'
evening

Feb
Study
room open

Jan
Deadline for
Sixth Form
applications

Jan
Academic
Review
Evening*

Dec
Mock
Results
Day

Nov
FBA SF
Open
Evening

Oct/Nov
Mock 2
Exams

Feb
Mock 3
Exams

Mar/Apr
Full report
& mock
results

Apr
Easter
Revision &
Study room

May
GCSE
exams start

May
Leavers'
Day

May
Easter
Revision &
Study room

June
Contingency
Day

July
Prom

This is based
on the current
roadmap for
Year 10 & 11
in 2026-27
academic year



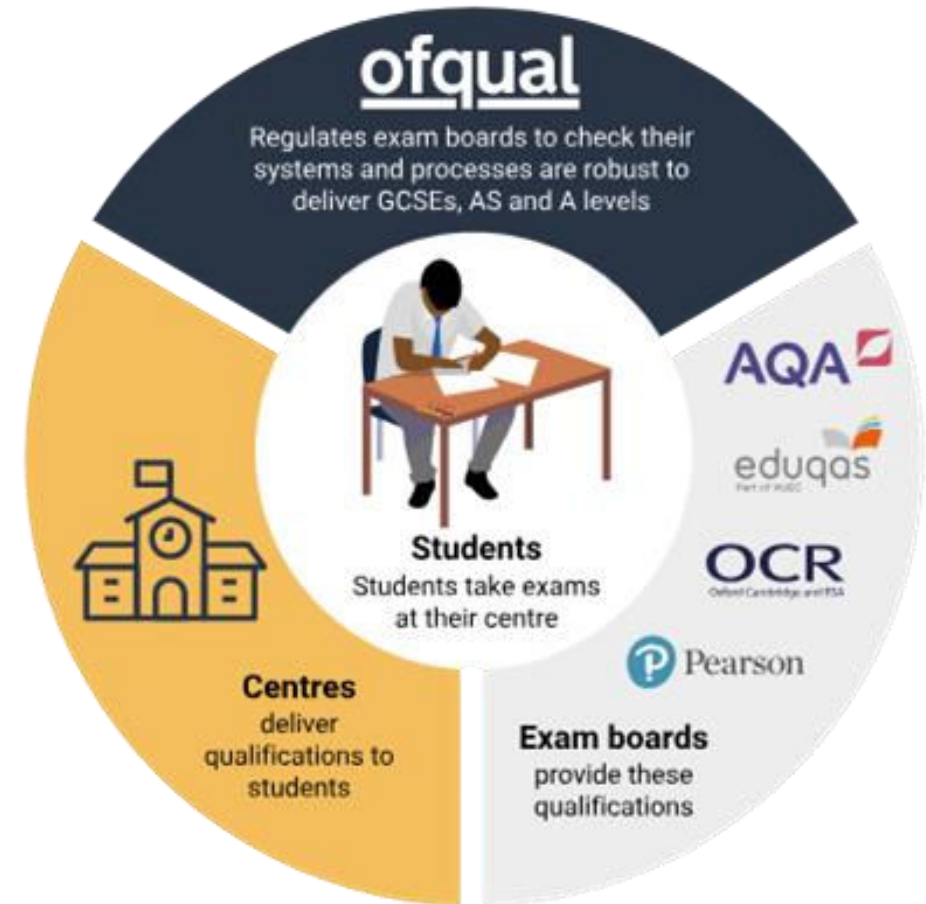
Structure of GCSEs

Ofqual organises all exams

Exam Boards

- Specification
- Exams
- Non Examined Assessment (Coursework)

Centres e.g. FBA follow the regulations to ensure exams are delivered effectively



What advice would you give to a Year 9 student who is about to start their GCSEs?

Revise little and consistently not cramming like it's a panic emergency the night before and learn from your mistakes instead of getting annoyed by them.



GCSEs will be mentioned everyday up until the exam. Don't overwhelm yourself. Revise well but take care of yourself; physically and mentally
Ella Year 10

A good simple way to begin is short focused revision sessions 15-30 mins long using practice questions rather than only reading notes
Ellen Year 10

Take Year 10 seriously so that its not hard work in Year 11 but don't overwork yourself
Addia Year 10

Make sure you start revising 3 months before mocks and focus in class rather than messing about
Elle Year 10

How to be successful at GCSE

Attendance

Punctuality

Equipment

Habits

Resilience



Attendance matters

Year 11 pupils with 98% attendance are almost **twice as likely** to achieve **grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE**, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time.

Missing just **10 extra days a year** **reduces** the likelihood of achieving these grades by around **50%**.

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact **future earnings** too.

Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could earn **£10,000 less at age 28** compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance.

For each **additional day of absence** between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of **£750** in future lifetime earnings.

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Lost Learning Hours	
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0	The best chance of achieving good GCSE grades
	99%	188 days	2	10	
Good	98%	186 days	4	20	This is the equivalent of missing an entire topic
	97%	184 days	6	30	
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5	
Cause for concern.	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5	This is the equivalent of missing an entire GCSE English unit
	94%	179 days	11	55	
	93%	177 days	13	65	
	92%	175 days	15	75	
	91%	173 days	17	85	
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95	GCSE course are made up of 120 guided learning hours
	89%	169 days	21	105	
	88%	167 days	23	115	
	87%	165 days	25	125	
Serious cause for concern	86%	163 days	27	135	This is almost 40% of the GCSE course
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5	
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5	
	83%	158 days	32	160	
	82%	156 days	34	170	
	81%	154 days	36	180	
	80%	152 days	38	190	

Punctuality matters

Our lesson structure is based on research.

Retrieval Practice is very important in the learning process.

All lessons start with an activity to recall prior knowledge and use this as an opportunity to identify and address misconceptions.

Missing 5 minutes of a lesson will result in a student missing out on this important learning activity.

Remember!
Lateness = Lost Opportunity!



**In a school year, if
you are late every
day by...**

5 minutes
10 minutes
15 minutes
20 minutes
30 minutes

**You would
have lost
approximately...**

3 days from school
6 days from school
9 days from school
12 days from school
18 days from school

**or you would
have missed
approximately...**

15 lessons
30 lessons
45 lessons
60 lessons
90 lessons

Equipment matters

Equipment needed for lessons and exams



Clear pencil case



Black pens



Pencils



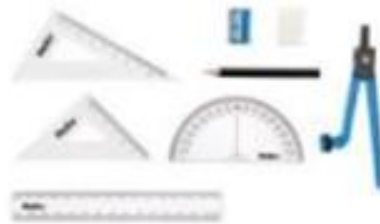
Pencil sharpener



Rubber



Calculator needed for exams not just in Maths - ask your teacher



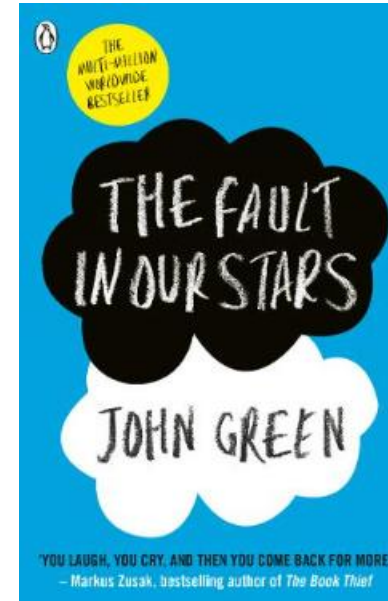
Maths set



Clear water bottle



Highlighters



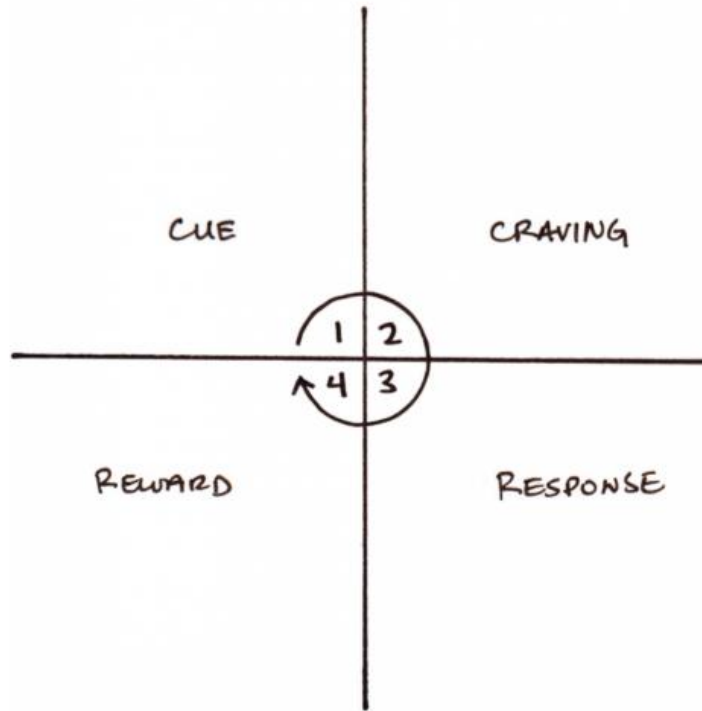
Reading book for pleasure & developing vocabulary

Pack your bag the night before, make sure you have your books/folders
Your books/folders are very important.



Focus on being 1% better everyday

THE HABIT LOOP



"Whenever you want to change your behaviour, you can simply ask yourself:

How can I make it obvious?

How can I make it attractive?

How can I make it easy?

How can I make it satisfying?"

-James Clear Atomic Habits

Habits matter



Downtime

- ☐ Listen to Music
- ☐ Read a book
- ☐ Do some exercise
- ☐ Tidy your room

Homework by order of priority

- ☐ Educake
- ☐ Sparx Maths

Or **revision** using She is Studious resources

satchel:
one



[Pork with apples and celery](#)



[Prawn jambalaya](#)



[Quorn and vegetable stir-fry](#)



[Roast chicken breast with peppers](#)

Evening Meal & Family time

Organise:

Look at your timetable & pack your bag with books, pencil case & reading book



Resilience matters

"That was the worst exam ever"

"Can't believe that topic came up"

"I could have added to Q1.10"

"She's done better than me"



"I ran out of time"

"I may as well give up on this subject"



Example Structure of a GCSE subject without NEA

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Topic 1	Topic 1	Topic 1
Topic 2	Topic 2	Topic 2
Topic 3	Topic 3	Topic 3

Example Structure of a GCSE subject with an NEA

Paper 1	Paper 2	Non Examined Assessment (NEA)
Topic 1	Topic 1	
Topic 2	Topic 2	
Topic 3	Topic 3	

“I only need Maths and English...” – Why that’s not enough

10 GCSEs
APS 4.1
Attendance
96.1%



7 GCSEs
APS 3.9
Attendance
90.1%



Average Point Score (APS) The average of ALL your GCSE results

Sixth Form and Colleges don’t just look at:

- Subjects you need for **entry requirements**
- Subjects you want to study Post 16

They look at:

- Your **overall profile** including attendance, punctuality, suspensions etc.

Why APS matters:

- Higher APS = **stronger application & future success**
- It separates you from other students
- It can determine whether you get onto:
 - Competitive courses
 - Sixth form pathways or College courses

Examinations

Assessments use past exam questions & they are marked using mark schemes to ensure consistency.

Data is analysed and tracked over time with regards to entries for subjects with tiers – Maths, Sciences & Languages and data entry for reports.

Mock exams mirror the actual exams, they take place in a formal setting e.g. Sports Hall, receive a timetable and invigilators are used to run the exams.

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname		Other names	
Centre Number		Candidate Number	
[][][][][]		[][][][][]	
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)			
Time 1 hour 30 minutes		Paper reference 1MA1/2H	
Mathematics PAPER 2 (Calculator) Higher Tier			
You must have: Ruler graduated in centimetres and millimetres, protractor, pair of compasses, pen, HB pencil, eraser, calculator, Formulae Sheet (enclosed). Tracing paper may be used.			Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – *there may be more space than you need.*
- You must **show all your working**.
- Diagrams are **NOT** accurately drawn, unless otherwise indicated.
- **Calculators may be used.**
- If your calculator does not have a π button, take the value of π to be 3.142 unless the question instructs otherwise.



Information

- The total mark for this paper is 80
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

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Turn over ➤



Student timetable

This is the name printed on certificates, there is a charge to alter this so any errors must be reported to Miss Woodward

Candidate Timetables Report

The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls



Name: Frances Bardsley
DoB: 06/01/2009
Candidate No: 1906
Centre No: 12837
Tutor Gp: 11W
UCI: 12345678910
Season: SUMMER GCSE/GCE/VCE 2025

Date	Start	Board	Level	Option Title	Option Code	Exam	Unit Code	Room	Seat	Length
09/05/2025	1:15PM	WJEC GCSE	GCSE	Business	C510QS	Business COMP1 Business Dynamics	C510U10-1	GYM	G1	2h00m
12/05/2025	8:45AM	AQA	GCSE	English Literature	8702	English Literature Paper 1	8702/1	GYM	K17	1h45m
13/05/2025	8:45AM	Edexcel GCSE	GCSE	Religious Studies B Option ZN	1RB0ZN	Christianity	1RB0 1B	GYM	K17	1h45m
13/05/2025	1:15PM	AQA	GCSE	Combined Sci: Trilogy Tier H	8464H	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P1H	8464/B/1H	GYM	E14	1h15m
14/05/2025	8:45AM	AQA	GCSE	Geography	8035	Geography Paper 1	8035/1	GYM	G7	1h30m
15/05/2025	8:45AM	Edexcel GCSE	GCSE	Mathematics Option H	1MA1H	Non Calculator (H)	1MA1 1H	GYM	C19	1h30m
16/05/2025	1:15PM	WJEC GCSE	GCSE	Business	C510QS	Business COMP2 Business Considerations	C510U20-1	GYM	G1	1h30m

Students must be present for their exams at the date and time stated on their timetable. Exams cannot be rearranged.

Students must sit in the correct seat or they may get the wrong paper or be marked absent

Invigilators

- Invigilators are FBA members of staff
- They are trained and many are very experienced
- They are there to ensure that the students are safe and students must follow their instructions
- They make sure that the exam runs smoothly
- They are there to help students if they become ill



Exam regulations



1

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2

Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.

3

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.



AQA

City & Guilds

CCEA

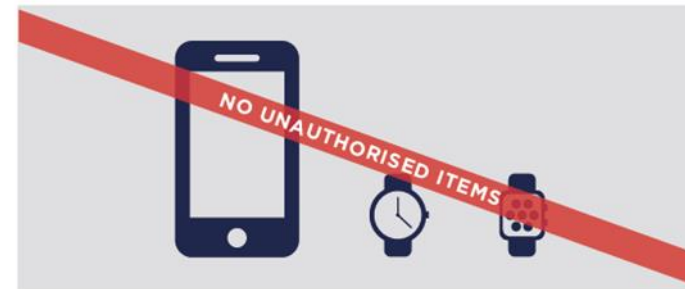
OCR

Pearson

WJEC

**NO MOBILE PHONES
NO WATCHES**

**NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB
ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION**



Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in

DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

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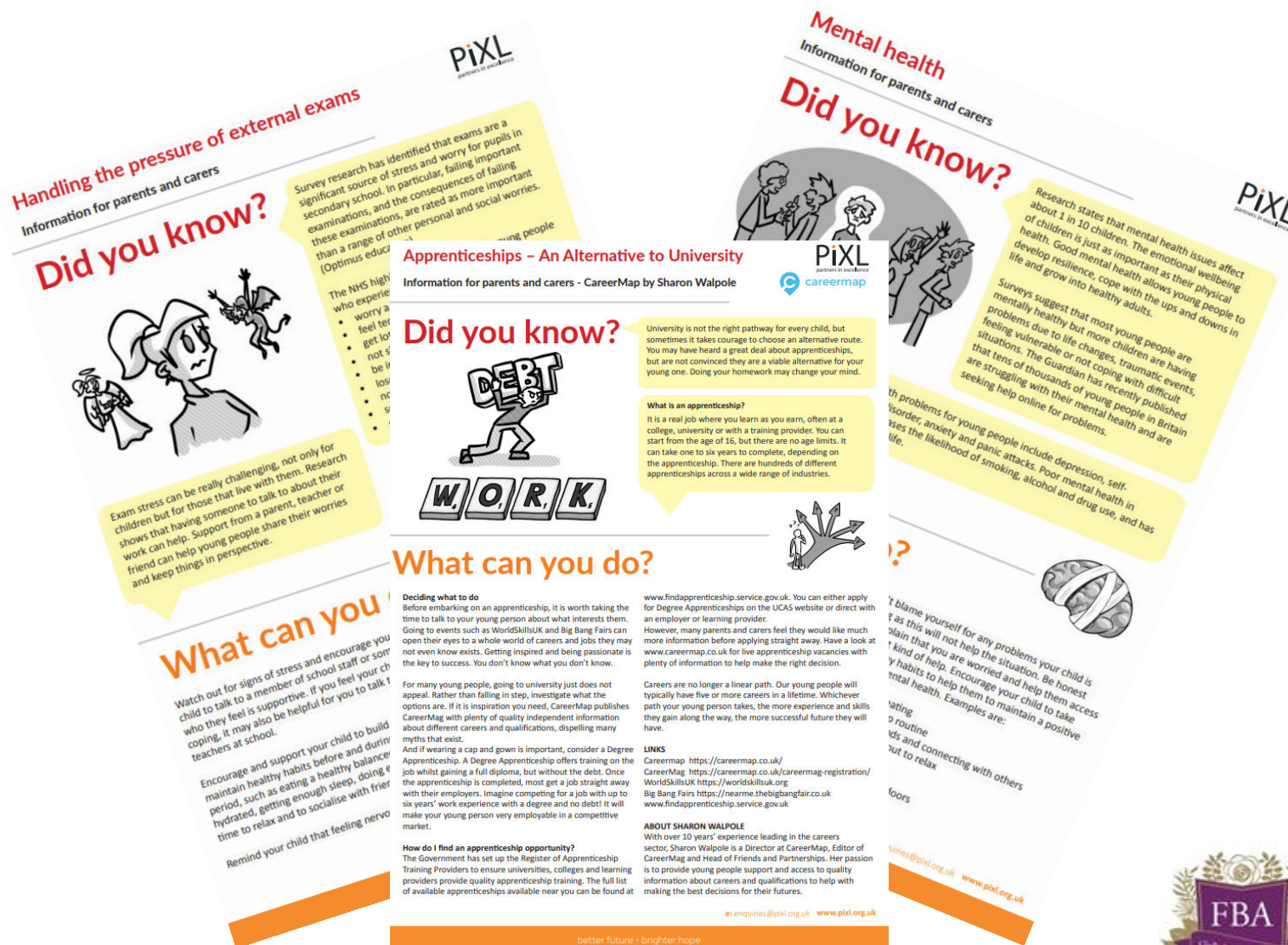
Academic Support

In-School Support

- Tutor time – Careers, PSCHEE, Reading & She is Studious programme including English, Maths & Science interventions.
- Subject intervention sessions
- Study room open during half term and Easter
- Easter & Half term revision
- Form time & PE Intervention
- Mentoring
- Breakfast before exams

We would encourage you to read the parent booklet and pamphlets about how to support your child as they begin their GCSEs. These are available on the school website

Each pamphlet gives you practical advice about what you can do and useful websites to find out more information



Student wellbeing & Pastoral Care

It is important that students should be able to talk about their feelings to an adult they trust this could be:

- Form tutor
- Teachers
- Head of Year
- SLT link
- Wellbeing Team Mrs Martin, Mr Lynagh & Mrs O'Shaughnessy

For parents/carers/family members:

- Use the suggested websites for information and support if required.
- Keep us informed



MCS Parent App



- Download the MCS Parent App
- All letters are sent out on the app
- Update your contact details
- Get your child's reports to your phone
- See attendance, punctuality and much more
- Payments will be made on the app

Questions

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Thank you for listening

SHE IS...

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