



Sandbach High School
and Sixth Form College
Our Academy, Our Future



Core Subject Information

2021

CORE SUBJECTS

MATHEMATICS

ENGLISH

SCIENCE

**MODERN FOREIGN
LANGUAGES**

Mathematics

All you need to know!

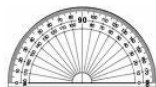
There are two tiers of entry for the exam qualification depending on the student's ability:

- Higher tier
- Foundation tier

How can you help your daughter?

**Make sure she has the correct equipment,
i.e. 'The Magnificent Seven'**

Pen – Pencil – Ruler – Rubber – Protractor - Pair of Compasses
Calculator (preferably a scientific one)



Encourage the use of equipment at home!

Sets 1 - 5:

GCSE Mathematics EDEXCEL linear course

- 100% exam
 - 3 exams taken in the summer of Year 11 - one without a calculator, the others allow the use of a calculator.
 - Topics covered include number, algebra, shape, space, geometry, probability and handling data.
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- Remember there is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics.
 - This means that learning takes place throughout the course.
 - Good attendance and keeping up with homework is essential at every stage.
 - Encourage your daughter to speak to her Maths teacher for help and guidance.
 - Lunchtime or after school revision sessions will be made available nearer to the exam. Make sure you remind your daughter to attend.

Encourage the use of revision websites such as:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize/>

or

<https://hegartymaths.com/>

For further details contact :-

Mr B Salisbury – Curriculum Leader, Mathematics

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature



“There can be no more important subject than English ...” (OFSTED 2012)

Classes in English

We do not ‘set’ in English, students are organised into loose bands based on their attainment over Key Stage 3. These broader bands enable students to push to achieve and exceed their targets, maximising their potential. We will have some smaller classes to benefit those who need more support

Lessons

Students enjoy English because we make sure that you are engaged and challenged in every lesson. There is plenty of choice and a range of activities so that you can learn the way you want to. You will be expected to get involved and join in!

Homework

English gives you two GCSEs for the price of one, so independent learning is important. You will be expected to work hard and meet deadlines, but we will be here to support you too.

Extra-curricular

There will be plenty of opportunities to enter competitions and write for real audiences as well as trips to keep you interested. Also, there will be some exciting trips on offer during your study of the two GCSEs.





GCSE - English Language

- **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Exam)**
You will be asked to read a literary fiction extract and answer questions on it. Then, you will complete a piece of creative writing.
- **Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Exam)**
You will be asked to read two thematically linked non-fiction texts and answer questions on them. Then you will complete one piece of writing in which you are asked to express your viewpoint on a given topic. The writing will be for a specific audience, purpose and form.
- **Spoken Language– separately assessed**
You will deliver a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session.

GCSE - English Literature

- **Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (Exam)**
With your class you will study one Shakespeare play and one 19th century novel. In the exam you will respond to an extract from the text and answer a whole text focused question for each of the texts you have studied.
- **Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry (Exam)**
With your class you will study one modern drama or prose text. In the exam you will answer one essay question, from a choice of two, on this text. In addition, you will read a collection of poetry from an anthology 'Poems Past and Present', about Love and Relationships or Power and Conflict. In the exam, you will write about these poems and also about two poems you may not have seen before.

For further details contact :-

Mr C Batty – Curriculum Leader, English

GCSEs in Science:

Combined Science, Triple Science

What are the choices?

You can choose to study for two or three Science GCSEs in Years 10 and 11.

Combined Science – You study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in “Science” lessons and you will gain a good understanding of the role of Science in the world around you. You will sit two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics exam papers at the end of year 11. Each will assess different topics and will be 1 hour 15 mins each.

2 This will give you 2 GCSEs in Combined Science graded on a scale from 1,1 up to 9,9.

If you really like Science and even think you might want to have a career in Science one day (e.g. be a doctor, vet or engineer) you will probably choose:-

Triple Science – this means that you will have Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons with separate teachers. You will study the Combined Science topics and also go into some more detail on several topics so that you have a full GCSE qualification in each of the three Sciences. You will sit two papers for each Science at the end of year 11 (1 hour 45 mins each). This will give you three GCSEs, each one graded from 1-9.

3

Practical assessment: You will carry out 20 compulsory practical experiments for Combined Science, or 25 for Triple Science over the two years. Questions in the written exams will draw on the knowledge and understanding gained by carrying out the practical activities. These questions will count for at least 15% of the overall marks on the exam. These experiments will be in addition to the wide range and number of other experiments also carried out in Science lessons.

Tiering: You will be entered for either the Foundation tier or Higher tier papers. Foundation tier papers have easier questions but only grades 1,1 to 5,5 are available. Higher tier papers are harder but grade boundaries will be lower and grades 4,4 to 9,9, can be achieved. You will discuss the appropriate tier for you with your teacher at different times in Years 10 and 11.

What will I study?



Biology: This is the study of living organisms including plants and animals. As well as many other things, you will learn about the processes of life such as respiration and nutrition, the links between living things and their environments and about inheritance and genetics.



Chemistry: This is the study of what everything is made of and how we can use the materials from the Earth and atmosphere to make everything we need – such as metals, petrol and plastics. An understanding of how chemicals react and behave allows us to make thousands of new substances as well as tackling environmental problems such as global warming.



Physics: This is the study of why the world around us behaves as it does - the forces which act on everything such as gravity and friction and the different types of energy we encounter every day (e.g. electricity, sound and light). An understanding of Physics allows us to understand our Universe and what a weird and wonderful place it is!

What to expect:

Practicals: We try and include practical work in Science lessons wherever possible. The best way to learn Science is to do experiments!

Homework: Science homework is set once per week – tasks will range from writing up experiments to internet research on a current Science topic. You need to be prepared to work hard and be organised.

Extracurricular: The Science department supports a very successful after school STEM club and a Senior Science Society that aims to put on a Science ‘show’ for younger students. We are very keen to train the scientists and engineers of the future!

Extra help: There is a “drop in” session for any Year 10 and 11 students who need extra help weekly – just turn up if you need to.

For further details contact :-

Mr C Broom – Curriculum Leader, Science

Modern Foreign Languages

(French, German and Spanish)



The study of a Modern Foreign Language at Key Stage 4 is compulsory.

You will continue to study the language you have been studying in Key Stage 3 and this will lead to a GCSE in French or Spanish. Additionally we offer the opportunity to study a second or third language from French, German and Spanish.

How is the GCSE assessed?

All four skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) are assessed at the end of Year 11 with speaking assessments taking place before all written GCSE exams start. Each skill is worth 25%. All three languages are assessed in the same way.

There are two levels of entry for each examination: Higher (Grades 9 to 4) and Foundation (Grades 5 to 1), however you will have to sit all examinations for the same language at the same level.

What will your child study?

The course for all three languages covers the following topics:

Identity and Culture

Self and relationships, technology and social media, health and fitness, entertainment and leisure, food and drink, festivals and celebrations.

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Local areas of interest, transport, local and regional features and characteristics, holidays and tourism, environment, social issues.



Current and future study and employment

School/college studies and life at school, work experience and part-time jobs, skills and personal qualities, career plans, applying for work/study.

In addition, you will learn how to:

- listen and respond to different types of language
- communicate in speech and writing for a variety of purposes
- read and respond to different types of written language
- use and understand a range of vocabulary and structures
- understand and apply the grammar of the language
- translate from English into the target language and translate from the target language into English

What can you do to ensure you get the best grade you can?

Make good use of all your resources (prior work in your exercise book, your GCSE pupil booklet as well as the websites listed below) when completing work at home.

Revise vocabulary on a regular basis (beyond learning vocabulary for class tests). It can be very helpful to ask someone to test you on vocabulary, even if they have never studied the language.

Make sure that you revise thoroughly for all assessments, including internal assessments.

Useful websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize/> (for listening and reading revision)

<http://www2.research.att.com/~ttsweb/tts/demo.php> (to help with pronunciation)

www.wordreference.com (an online dictionary – Google translate should not be used)

www.quizlet.com (for vocabulary learning and testing)

www.pearsonactivelearn.com (for practice of all skills and homework – username and password from your MFL teacher)



For further details contact :-

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