

'Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class. Parental involvement can make the difference between a grade 9 and a grade 3 at GCSE'.

**The Times-The Campaign
for Learning**



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

YEAR 10 GCSE INFORMATION EVENING

23/09/2026

GCSES ARE NOW MORE DIFFICULT...

- No/less coursework
- More challenging content
- No copies of texts in the exam
- Increased demand
- Students will receive number grades at the end of year 11

WHAT DO THE NUMBERS MEAN?

9 = A**	4 = C
8 = A*	3 = D
7 = A	2 = E
6 = B	1 = F
5 = C/B	



GCSE RESULTS 2026

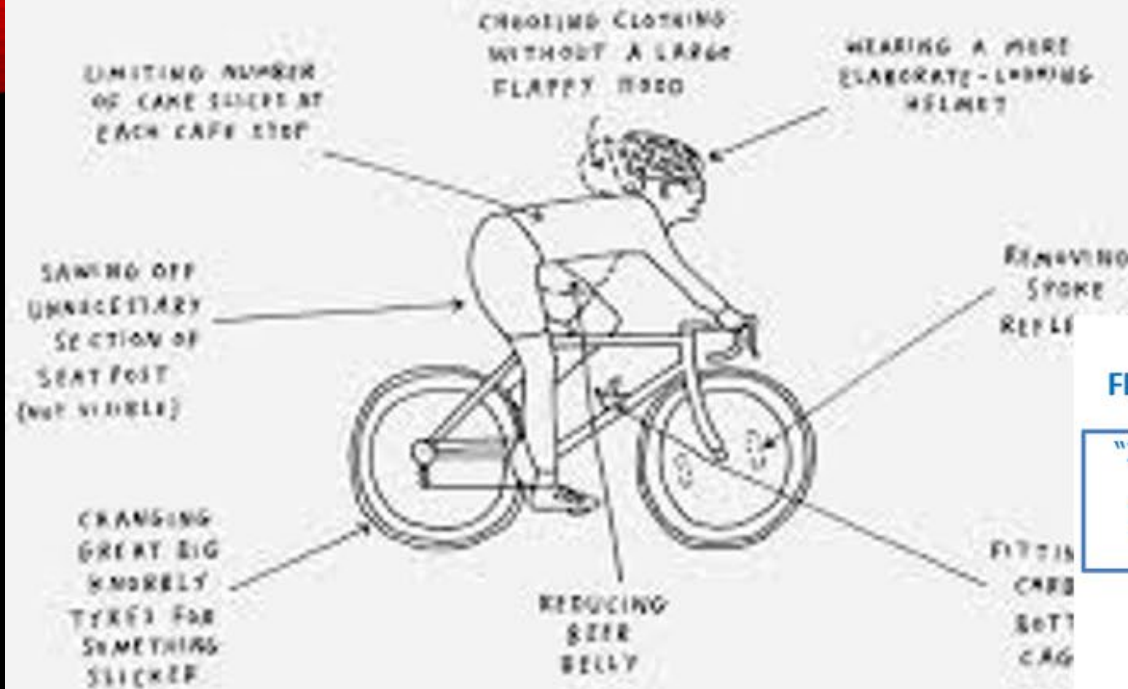
	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
P8	N/A	N/A	0.7	0.6
A8	71.4	71.3	71.5	71.3
Grades 7-9	61%	64%	61%	58%
% 7+ Eng and Maths	54%	58%	50%	46%
% 5+ Eng and Maths	98%	97%	93%	97%
APS	6.92	7.02	6.9	6.78

	A8	APS
SEND	72.0	6.85
PP	70.71	6.8



MARGINAL GAINS

HOW THE PROFESSIONALS MAKE SMALL CHANGES TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE



FIXED MIND-SET

"I'm not good at that.
I will never be good at it"



CHALLENGES

Avoid challenges

OBSTACLES

Give up easily

EFFORT

See effort as a waste of time

GROWTH MIND-SET

"I struggle with that at the moment but I'm going to get better"



Enjoy challenges

Resilient when faced with problems

See effort as part of the path to success

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON

- Quiet and tidy workspace
- Checking homework
- Planning study time
- Minimise screen time
- Balanced diet
- Sleep
- Punctuality and attendance
- Support with work experience
- Discussing KS5 plans, university and career pathways



WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL GCSE STUDENT?

1. Attendance
2. Setting realistic short-term targets.
3. Organisation and time management
4. Determination
5. Catching up missed work
6. Communicating with staff

Model GCSE Student

- On time to lessons ready to learn
- Learning mindset in lessons
- Ready to face challenges in lessons
- Correct uniform
- Homework completed to an excellent standard
- Revision schedule from September (40 minutes every night)
- Taking part in extra curricular activities in school



Use of Artificial Intelligence to submit summative assessment as though it is their own work constitutes academic misconduct; schools and exam boards have plagiarism tools!

TIMETABLE

- Plan what to study each day.
 - Plan around homework, leisure time and food.
- Exercise and Sleep
- 5–10-minute break for every 30-40 minutes of work

WEEKLY REVISION PLANNER

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TIME	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:30AM–4PM	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	9AM–10AM	BREAKFAST/ SHOWER	BREAKFAST/ SHOWER
4PM–5PM	HOMEWORK	TV/ GAMING/ SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	TV/ GAMING/ SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	10AM–11AM	REVISION – ENGLISH	REVISION – SCIENCE
5PM–6PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	11AM–1PM	SEEING FRIENDS/ LUNCH	SPORT/ LUNCH
6PM–7PM	REVISION – GEOGRAPHY	HOMEWORK	REVISION – HISTORY	REVISION – FRENCH	REVISION – SCIENCE	1PM–3PM	REVISION – MATHS	REVISION – FLASH CARDS
7PM–8PM	REVISION – MATHS	REVISION – ENGLISH	FREE TIME	HOMEWORK	FREE TIME	3PM–5PM	OUT WITH FAMILY	SPORT/ TV/ GAMING
8PM–9PM	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	6PM–8PM	DINNER/ FREE TIME	DINNER/ FREE TIME

COURSE CALENDARS

- Track your learning
- Identify areas for improvement
- Plan revision timetables
- Exam dates

Maths – Edexcel



Year 10 - MATHS	RAG Rating	Review	Revise	Reinforce
Unit 16				
Recurring Decimals				
Advanced Straight Line Graphs (L2FM Only)				
Parallel and Perpendicular Lines				
Graphical Inequalities				
Non-Linear Graphs				
Unit 17				
Bounds and Error Intervals				
Basic Circle Theorems				
Direct and Inverse Proportion				

3 STEP PROCESS

1.Knowledge

2.Memory

3.Application



KNOWLEDGE

- How can you access the content outside of the classroom?
- Kerboodle
- Revision guides
- Websites e.g. BBC Bitesize, PMT Less detail
- Youtube More concise
- **Reading is not studying! You need to make it stick using active learning techniques**

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

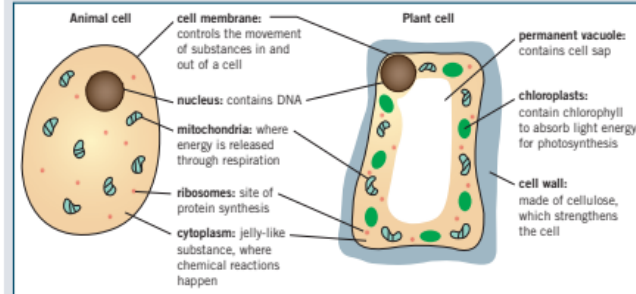
- Condense the information
- Useful for making flash card, mind maps etc.
- Test Knowledge
- Time efficient
- Identifying keywords

Chapter 1: Cell biology and transport

Knowledge organiser

Eukaryotic cells

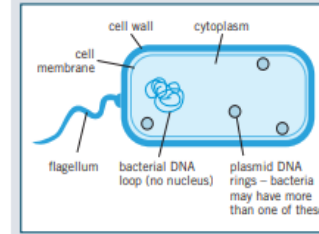
Animal and plant cells are eukaryotic. They have genetic material (DNA) that forms **chromosomes** and is contained in a **nucleus**.



Prokaryotic cells

Bacteria have the following characteristics:

- single-celled
- no nucleus – have a single loop of DNA
- have small rings of DNA called **plasmids**
- smaller than eukaryotic cells.



Microscopes

Light microscope	Electron microscope
uses light to form images	uses a beam of electrons to form images
living samples can be viewed	samples cannot be living
relatively cheap	expensive
low magnification	high magnification
low resolution	high resolution

Electron microscopes allow you to see sub-cellular structures, such as ribosomes, that are too small to be seen with a light microscope.

L To calculate the **magnification** of an image:

$$\text{magnification} = \frac{\text{image size}}{\text{actual size}}$$

Specialised cells

Cells in animals and plants differentiate to form different types of cells. Most animal cells differentiate at an early stage of development, whereas a plant's cells differentiate throughout its lifetime.

Specialised cell	Function	Adaptations
	fertilise an ovum (egg)	• tail to swim to the ovum and fertilise it • lots of mitochondria to release energy from respiration, enabling the sperm to swim to the ovum
	transport oxygen around the body	• no nucleus so more room to carry oxygen • contains a red pigment called haemoglobin that binds to oxygen molecules • flat bi-concave disc shape to increase surface area-to-volume ratio
	contract and relax to allow movement	• contains protein fibres, which can contract to make the cells shorter • contains lots of mitochondria to release energy from respiration, allowing the muscles to contract
	carry electrical impulses around the body	• branched endings, called dendrites, to make connections with other neurones or effectors • myelin sheath insulates the axon to increase the transmission speed of the electrical impulses
	absorb mineral ions and water from the soil	• long projection speeds up the absorption of water and mineral ions by increasing the surface area of the cell • lots of mitochondria to release energy for the active transport of mineral ions from the soil
	enable photosynthesis in the leaf	• lots of chloroplasts containing chlorophyll to absorb light energy • located at the top surface of the leaf where it can absorb the most light energy

Comparing diffusion, osmosis, and active transport

	Diffusion	Osmosis	Active transport
Definition	The spreading out of particles, resulting in a net movement from an area of higher concentration to an area of lower concentration. Factors which affect the rate of diffusion: difference in concentration, temperature, and surface area of the membrane.	The diffusion of water from a dilute solution to a concentrated solution through a partially permeable membrane .	The movement of particles from a more dilute solution to a more concentrated solution using energy from respiration.
Movement of particles	Particles move down the concentration gradient – from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration.	Water moves from an area of lower solute concentration to an area of higher solute concentration.	Particles move against the concentration gradient – from an area of low concentration to an area of high concentration.
Energy required?	no – passive process	no – passive process	yes – energy released by respiration
Examples	Humans • Nutrients in the small intestine diffuse into the capillaries through the villi. • Oxygen diffuses from the air in the alveoli into the blood in the capillaries. Carbon dioxide diffuses from the blood in the capillaries into the air in the alveoli. • Urea diffuses from cells into the blood for excretion in the kidney. Fish • Oxygen from water passing over the gills diffuses into the blood in the gill filaments. • Carbon dioxide diffuses from the blood in the gill filaments into the water. Plants • Carbon dioxide used for photosynthesis diffuses into leaves through the stomata. • Oxygen produced during photosynthesis diffuses out of the leaves through the stomata.	Plants • Water moves by osmosis from a dilute solution in the soil to a concentrated solution in the root hair cell.	Humans • Active transport allows sugar molecules to be absorbed from the small intestine when the sugar concentration is higher in the blood than in the small intestine. Plants • Active transport is used to absorb mineral ions into the root hair cells from more dilute solutions in the soil.



Key terms

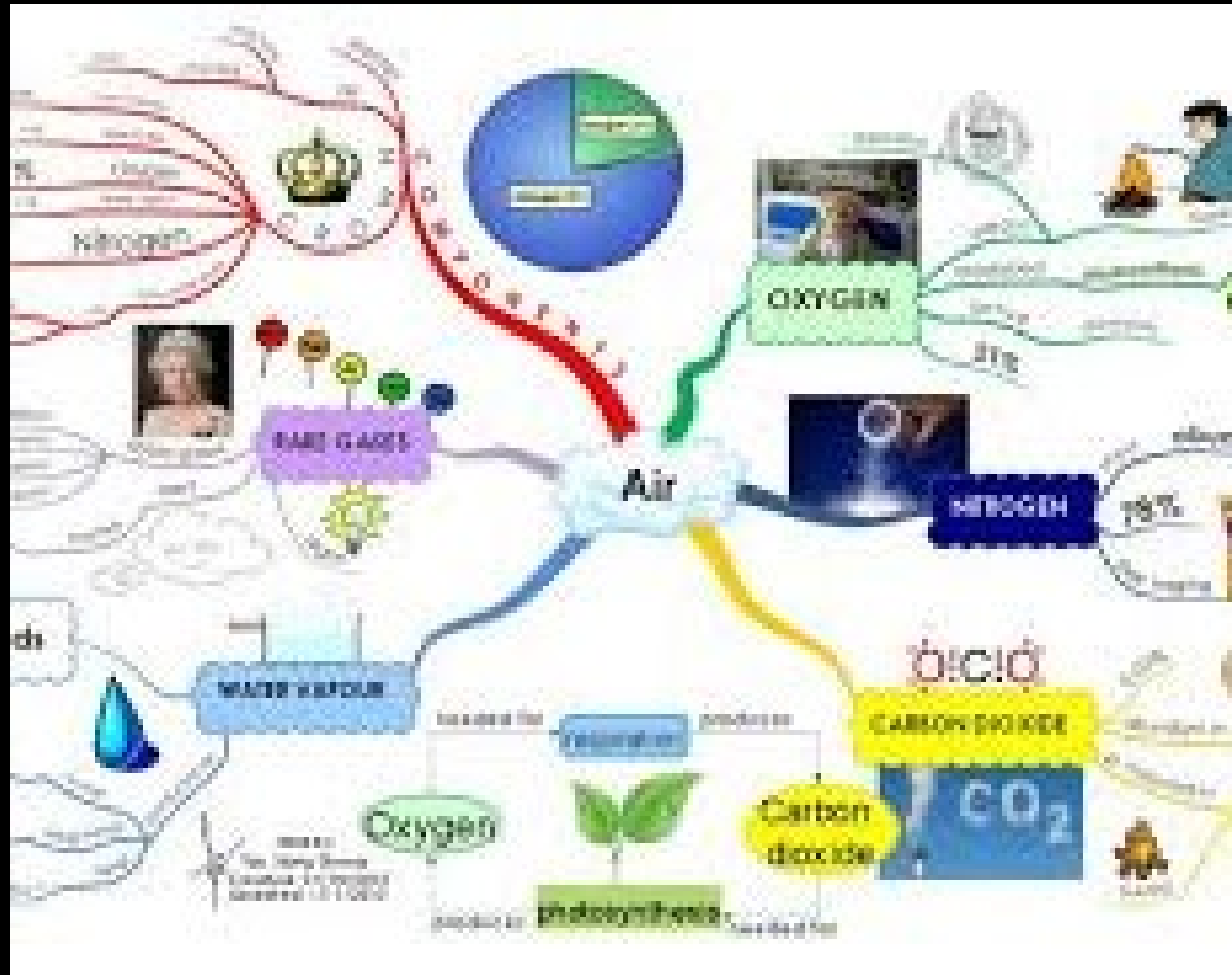
Make sure you can write a definition for these key terms.

cell membrane cell wall chloroplast chromosome concentration cytoplasm dilute DNA eukaryotic gill filaments gradient magnification mitochondria nucleus partially permeable membrane passive process permanent vacuole plasmid prokaryotic resolution ribosome root hair cell stomata

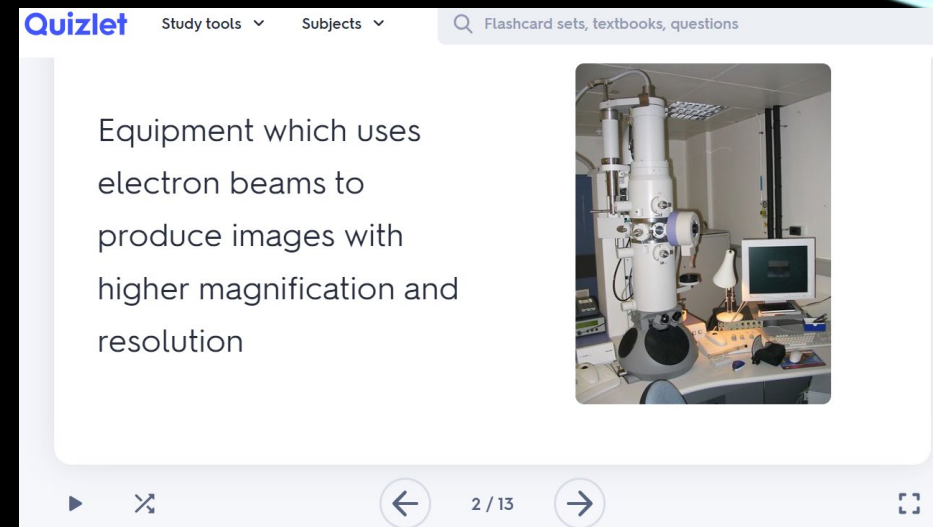
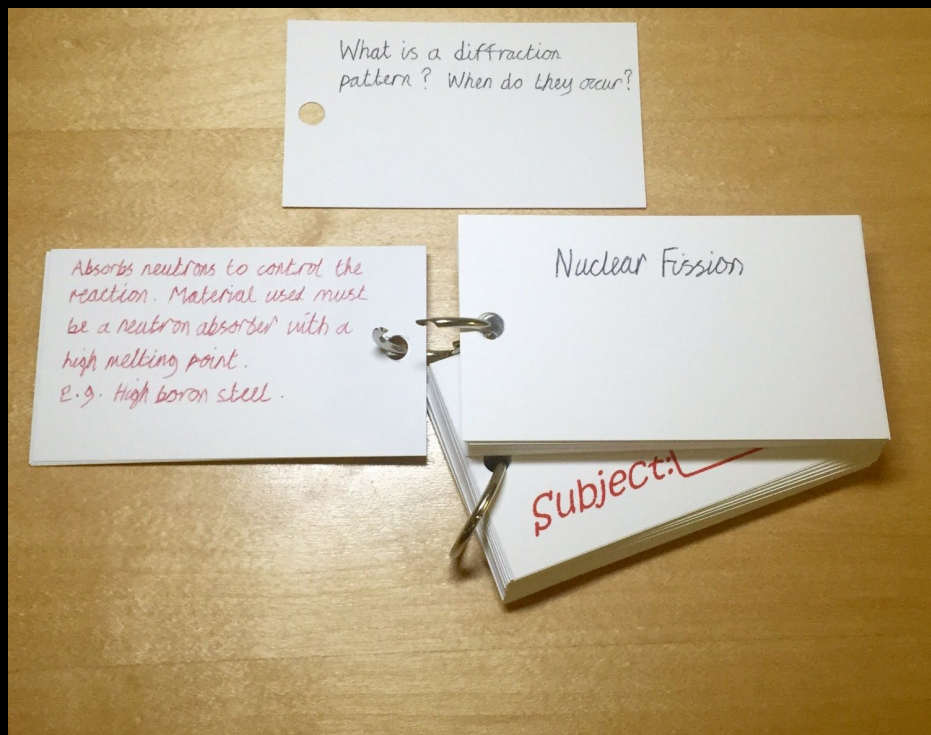
MAKE IT STICK!

- Highlight
- Underline
- Annotate
- Rewrite
- Summarise
- Bullet points
- Mind Maps/Brainstorm
- Flash Cards
- Knowledge organisers
- Exam questions
- Textbook questions
- Websites e.g. PMT
- Youtube & podcasts
- TEAMS – Student resources
- Study groups
- School clubs

MIND MAPPING



FLASHCARDS AND POST IT NOTES



PMT
resources · tuition · courses

What are the differences between eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells?

www.pmt.education

PMT
resources · tuition · courses

What are the differences between eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells?

Prokaryotic cells are much smaller than eukaryotic cells.

Eukaryotic cells contain membrane bound-organelles and a nucleus containing genetic material, while prokaryotes do not.

www.pmt.education

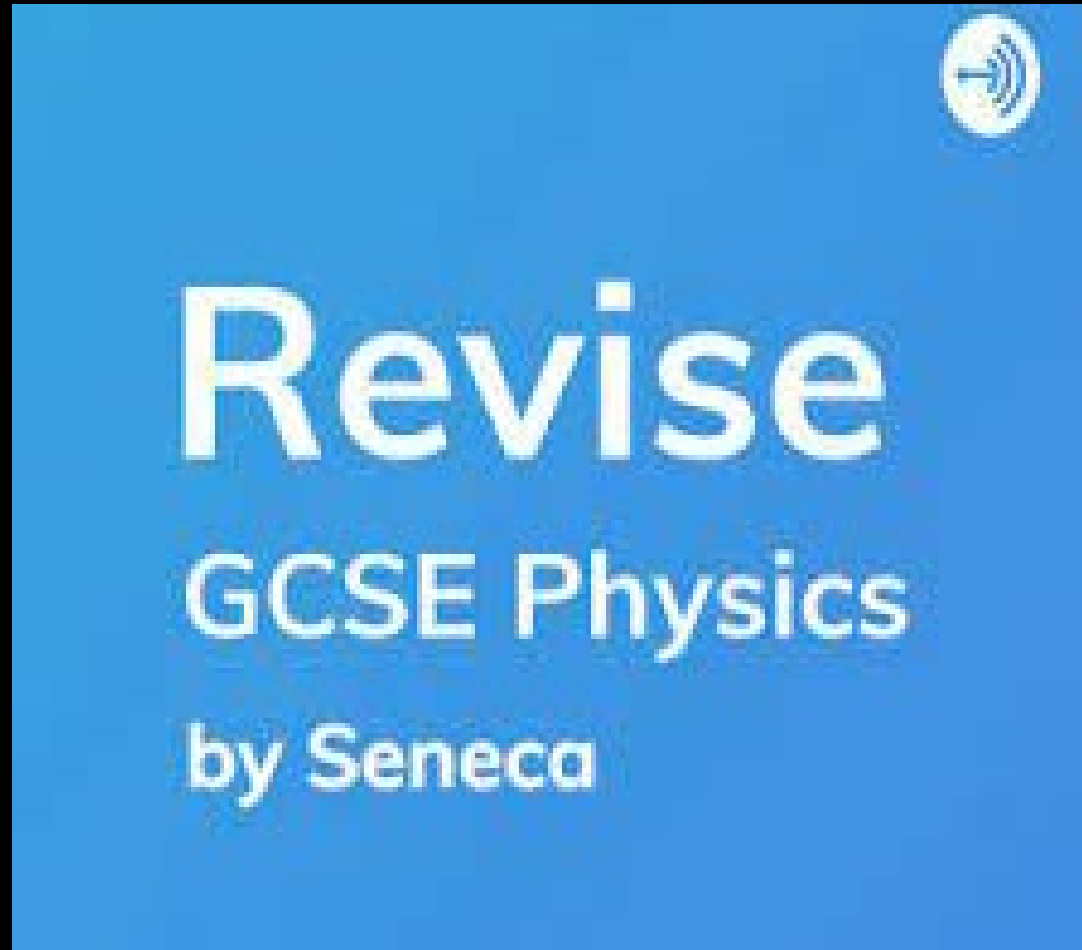
QUIZZING

Me, My Family and Friends Knowledge Organiser (Theme 1: Unit 1)			
es single-sex family uclear family arge family ngle-parent family oster family	 	my your his/her m mon ton son f ma ta sa pl mes tes ses	Key words et and aussi also mais but très very assez quite toujours always quelquefois sometimes souvent often à l'avenir in the future
Relationships with family and friends friend oyfriend irfriend e/woman man usband ancé(e)	je m'entends bien avec... je ne m'entends pas bien avec... il/elle m'énerv je ne peux pas supporter nous nous disputons il/elle me fait rire	I get on well with... I don't get on well with... he/she gets on my nerves I can't stand we argue he/she makes me laugh	être (to be) je suis I am tu es you are il/elle est he/she is nous sommes we are vous êtes you are ils/elles sont they are
Superlatives (most) Le/la/les + plus + adjective Elle est la plus intelligente Il est le plus religieux Je suis la plus grand(e) Irregular- 'meilleur(e)(s)' (best) Elle est ma meilleure amie	She is the most intelligent He is the most religious I am the tallest She is my best friend	avoir (to have) j'ai I have tu as you have il/elle a he/she has nous avons we have vous avez you have ils/elles ont they have	Adjectives placed before the noun petit(e) small/short jeune young grand(e) big/tall beau/belle handsome/beautiful joli(e) pretty nouveau/nouvelle new vieux/vieille old
Comparatives (more/less/as) Plus/moins/aussi + adjective + que Elle est plus intelligente que moi Il est moins religieux que Lucas Je suis aussi grand(e) que ma mère Irregular- 'mieux' (better) Il travaille mieux que moi	She is more intelligent than me He is less religious than Lucas I am as tall as my mother He works better than me	Adjectives placed after the noun généreux/généreuse generous gentil(le) kind intelligent(e) intelligent jaloux/jalouse jealous méchant(e) naughty/nasty mignon(ne) cute paresseux/paresseuse lazy sympa nice timide shy casse-pieds annoying divorcé(e) divorced amusant(e) funny drôle désagréable unpleasant difficile difficult égoïste selfish célibataire single heureux/heureuse happy religieux/religieuse religious séparé(e) separated traditionnel(le) traditional charmant(e) charming fidèle faithful travailleur/travailleuse hardworking compréhensif/ve understanding égal(e) equal sévère strict	la m le p la m le p la bell le bea la mèn fan d'ac le pèr fan d'ac les p la s le f la gran le gran la peti le pet la dem le dem la s ado le frère la gran le gran les g par la t l'oi le cou cou les co la t le le fils u filie u

REVISE WITH OTHERS



RECORDINGS/ PODCASTS/ VIDEOS



PAST PAPER PRACTICE MARK SCHEMES

Q3.(a) Why is glucose found in the blood but not in the urine? Use your knowledge of how the kidney works to explain your answer as fully as you can.

(3)

Q3.

(a) any **three** from:

- glucose enters blood from gut / liver / glycogen
- glucose is **filtered out** of the blood
ignore 'diffusion'
- glucose is (a) small (molecule)
- taken / etc back into the blood / reabsorbed
allow *absorbed into the blood but **not** absorbed unqualified*
- by active transport
ignore diffusion

KEY DATES

Reports

- Yr 10 PR1- Thursday 12th November
- Yr 10 PR2- Friday 26th April
- Yr 10 Final Report- Thursday 15th July

Parents Evening

- Thursday 14th January (4pm to 7pm)

Work Experience

- WB 17th May

Exam Week

- Monday 21st June to Thursday 1st July

Options Deadline

- **Friday 25th September**

STUDY SKILLS



KING EDWARD VI
HANDSWORTH GRAMMAR
SCHOOL FOR BOYS

SAFEGUARDING
CONTACT US



160 years
of achievement



Search our site...

▶ The School

▼ Curriculum

- General Information
- Personal Development
- Subjects
- Super Curriculum
- Knowledge Rich Curriculum
- Extra-curricular

- Exam Information
- Exam Results
- Careers
- Study Skills
- Year 9 GCSE Options for 2025

▶ Sixth Form

▶ Calendar

▶ Gallery

▶ Resources

▶ Publications

▶ Vacancies

▶ News

SIXTH FORM

Entry requirements September 2024

- A minimum of 7 GCSEs at grade 7 or higher including English and Maths.
- A Level subjects have a minimum entry requirement of a grade 7 in one or more subjects.
- A Level Further Maths requires a grade 8 minimum

A Level Subject	Minimum GCSE Requirement
Art @	7 in Art
Biology á	7 in Biology
Business	7 in English Lang or Lit and 7 in Mathematics and 7 in Business Studies (If studied)
Chemistry á	7 in Chemistry
Computer Science	7 in Computer Science and 7 in Mathematics
Economics	7 in English Lang or Lit and 7 in Mathematics and 7 in Business Studies (If studied)
English Literature	7 in English Literature and 7 in English Language
French @	7 in French
Further Maths	8 or 9 in Mathematics
Geography	7 in Geography
German @	7 in German
History	7 in History
Law	7 in English Language or Literature and 7 in Mathematics
Mathematics	7 in Mathematics
Music @	7 in Music and at least grade 5 on one instrument
Physics á	7 in Physics
Product Design @	7 in a Design Technology subject
Psychology	7 in English Language or Literature and 7 in Mathematics
RS, Philosophy and Ethics	7 in RS



WORK EXPERIENCE 2027



EXPECTATIONS

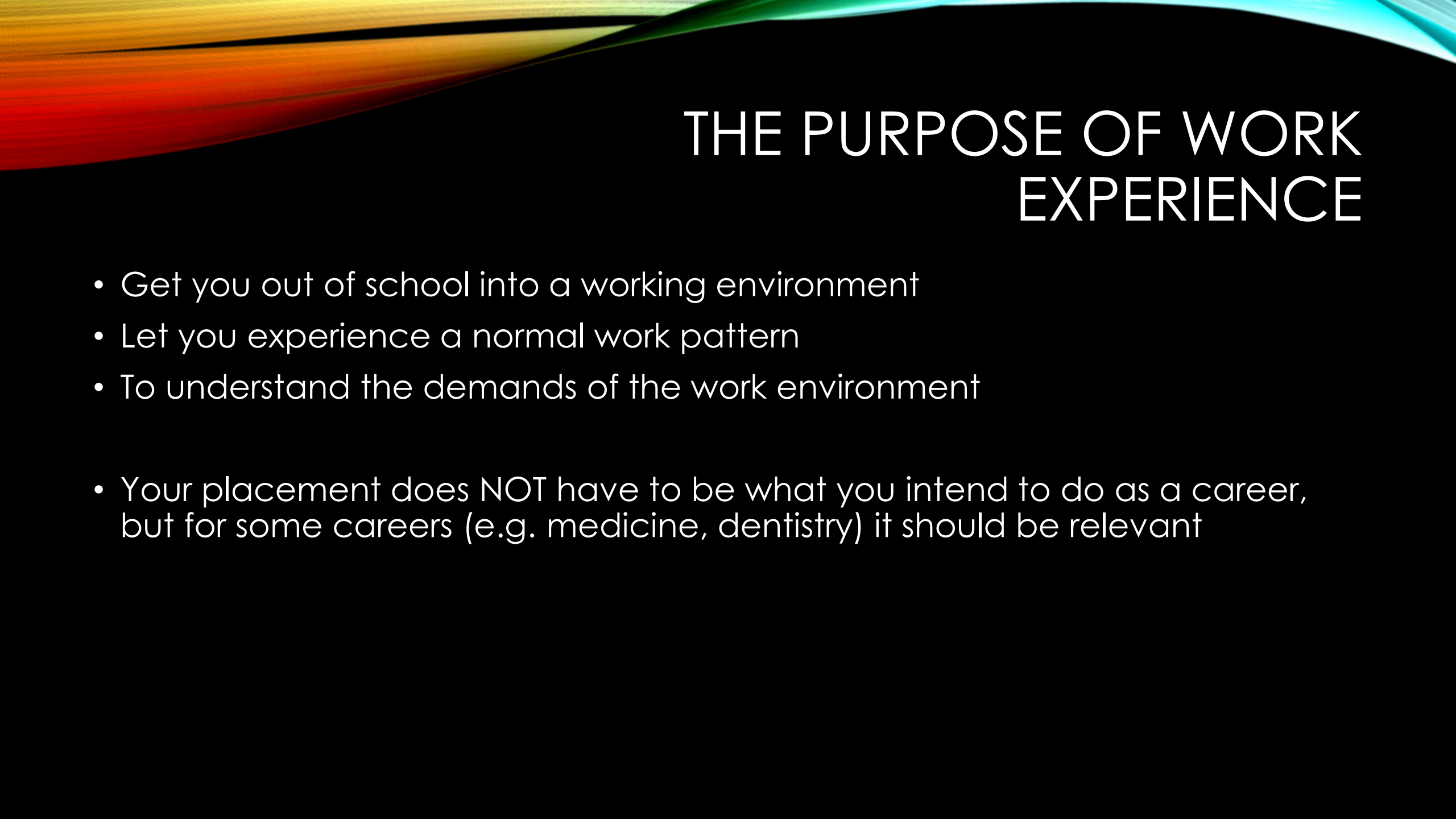
We expect you to do one of the following-

1. Secure a live, in person work experience placement
2. Complete virtual placements in school



WHEN?

- Live and virtual placements will take place for 1 week from the week beginning Monday May 17th, 2027



THE PURPOSE OF WORK EXPERIENCE

- Get you out of school into a working environment
- Let you experience a normal work pattern
- To understand the demands of the work environment

- Your placement does NOT have to be what you intend to do as a career, but for some careers (e.g. medicine, dentistry) it should be relevant

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

- If you successfully secure a live work experience, you must submit details of the placement by Friday February 26th, 2027
- An introductory letter will be emailed to you and available on TEAMS and the school website for you to offer to potential hosts- this explains when and what you are seeking.
- You **MUST** ensure you have acknowledgement from the business that they are happy to host you- do not assume that just because you asked, it is sorted. Acknowledgement should be from either the contact name you enter onto the database or the most senior person responsible for you at the business
- If you do not have a placement by then, you will automatically be assigned to virtual placements in May

WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY LIVE PLACEMENT DETAILS ?

- All placements need to be checked to make sure they are safe and suitable
- Details must be uploaded to a website called Mainframe
- It should include the following information-
 - Student First name
 - Student Surname
 - Company Name
 - Company address
 - Post Code
 - Telephone Number
 - Contact Name
 - Email Address
 - Parental details/approval
 - Notes

MAINFRAME

<https://mainframeng.co.uk/portal/schools>

This link will connect you to Mainframe, where you can select either some information on placements or upload your placement details to the database using the below logons-

Username: studentkehandsworth10

Password: studentkehandsworth10

A Safer Work Experience

Mainframe aims to provide a tailor-made service to schools for checking the suitability of work placements prior to students starting their Work Experience. Our policies include up-front pricing without hidden charges, flexible service agreements, along with ongoing support from an experienced and dedicated team providing a consistent, reliable service.

Mainframe personnel are highly qualified and competent in Health & Safety with relevant professional qualifications such as IOSH and NEBOSH.

The Company carries full Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. We are an Approved Contractor for both Birmingham and Solihull Local Authorities.



About Us

Mainframe Engineering Limited was established in December 2007 to offer schools an alternative to other costly companies carrying out checks for Work Experience. We started out very small with just a few schools. By providing a reliable and efficient service and listening to our schools needs, word quickly spread about the excellent service we provide, at very competitive prices.

The company now deals with a large number of schools in Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and surrounding areas. We continue to strive to provide the best possible service and maintain close contact with all the schools we deliver to.



This database was introduced by Mainframe in July 2011 as a simpler and more cost effective way for schools to choose placements for work experience.

Until now, schools have been required to compile a list of employers they intend to use and send it to Mainframe for checking, to ensure they were suitable for Work Experience students.

With the new database-led system, all the companies checked and approved by Mainframe can be available to schools to choose their placements. The database lists thousands of employers. Searches can be made by Post Code (to find an employer in a particular area), by type of employer (e.g. Retail, Hairdresser etc) or by Name of company. Pupils will contact the companies in the normal way to apply for a placement.

Access to the database is via a password provided by Mainframe after an initial payment from the school and will last until Work Experience has been completed when the final payment is due.

Please login below with your Username and Password to access the database:

Username or Email

Password

Log in

Submit Request to Mainframe Engineering Limited

Student Information

Student First Name

Student Last Name

Student Date of Birth

Employer Information

Company Name

Address 1

Address 2

Address 3

Post Code

AFTER THE DEADLINE

- All placements must be checked for health and safety- THIS CAN TAKE A LONG TIME!
- If a placement is considered unsuitable, you cannot use it and will be expected to attend the school –based virtual work experience
- After Friday February 26th, updates will be shared when available via form tutors

WHY CONSIDER OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY?



Unique opportunities for growth and academic excellence

What have Oxford and Cambridge ever done for us?

- No-needle injections -1993
- Antibodies- 1967
- Atomic scale defects in metals- 1956
- Election swing and voting trends- 1960
- Penicillin- 1930s
- Weather predictions/ ozone layer- 1990s
- Lithium-ion batteries- 1970s
- Measuring distant planets – 1950s

- Reflecting telescope (1688)
- The rules of football (1848)
- Webcams (1991)
- IVF (1968-78)
- The ARM processor (1983-1985)
- An algorithm for iris recognition (1991)
- Thermos flask (1892)
- The first graphical computer game (1952)

Academic Excellence

Oxbridge universities are renowned for rigorous academic programs and high research standards.

Unique Traditions

Students participate in centuries-old traditions that enrich their university experience.

Career Prospects

Graduates benefit from strong career networks and global professional opportunities.

Collegiate Community

Close-knit colleges foster social, cultural, and personal development opportunities.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Rigorous Academic Programs

Small-group tutorials and supervisions promote deep understanding and critical thinking among students.

Distinguished Faculty

Faculty leaders provide pioneering knowledge and mentorship across diverse disciplines.

Cutting-edge Research

Universities support extensive research and resources to foster innovation and intellectual curiosity.





WHAT'S THE PATHWAY TO APPLICATION FROM YEAR 10?

1. High academic results

- Nothing but grades 7-9 at GCSE
- Grades A/ A* at A-level

2. University Aptitude test

- Taken in the Autumn of Year 13
- More difficult/ new content

3. Interview

- Early December of Year 13

A. How many real solutions x are there to this equation?

$$x|x| + 1 = 3|x|$$

- (a) 0
- (b) 1
- (c) 2
- (d) 3
- (e) 4

[Note that $|x|$ is equal to x if $x \geq 0$, and equal to $-x$ otherwise]

1. FILL THE SENTENCE WITH ONE SINGLE WORD. (20 marks, 2 per sentence):

Example: J'ai pensé rendre le livre à la bibliothèque.

Answer : J'ai pensé **à** rendre le livre à la bibliothèque.

- a. Je vais certainement lire le livre tu m'as parlé.
- b. Il a offert des fleurssa mère.
- c. La voiturej'ai achetée est bleue.
- d. La ville j'habite est très agréable l'été.

WHAT CAN I DO IN SCHOOL?

- Do your best in all lessons and ask questions. Don't accept the status quo
- Be intellectually curious- read books, listen to podcasts, watch tv and films which will challenge and interest you
- Find something that really interests you and discuss it with your friends
- Enjoy learning!