



We are a
pilgrim school,
and we
journey with
Mary to
become the
person God
intends us
to be.

Year 10 – 2025/26 Information Evening Wednesday 7th October

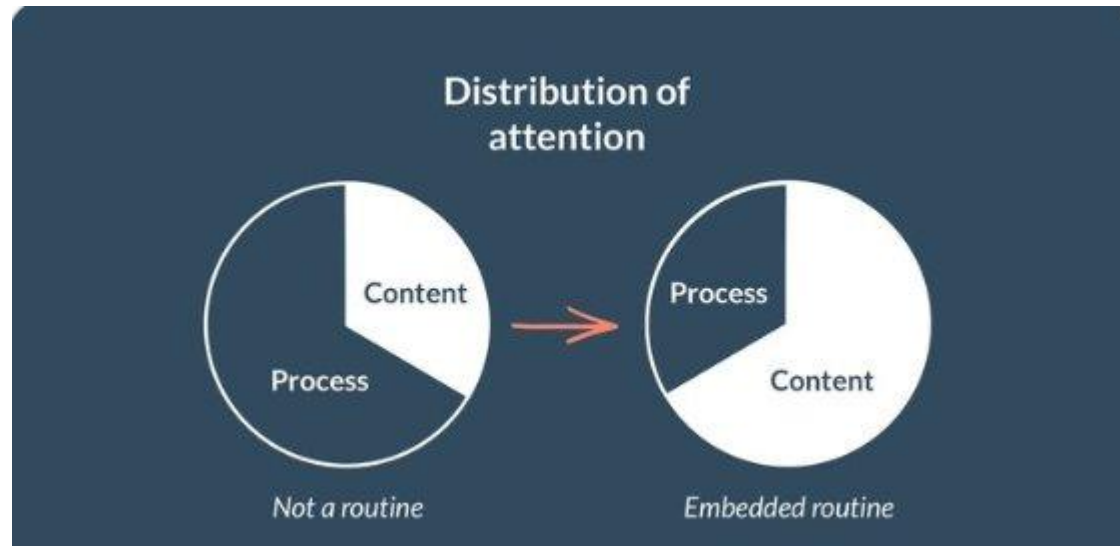


How success is achieved...



Empowering effective learners

- Encourage your child to develop purposeful working routines at home
- Make the learning process a habit (takes time **and** effort)
- Routines enable students to spend less time thinking about the process, the *how*, of their learning and more time thinking about the content, the ***what***, of their learning



Key Year 10 Dates

- Wednesday 7th October – Year 10 GCSE Core Subjects information evening
- Monday 12th October - French residential trip to Chateau de Warsy
- Thursday 23rd October – St Mary's 6th Form assembly
- Wednesday 16th December – PR1 reports to parents
- Thursday 27th November – Work experience launch assembly
- Tuesday 23rd March – Y10 Parents Evening (4:00 –7:00pm)
- Monday 26th April – 30th April: Year 10 PPE's (mock exams)
- Thursday 1st July – Friday 9th July – Lourdes Pilgrimage
- Monday 12th July – Careers Day
- Monday 12th July – Reports to parents
- Tuesday 13th July – Work Experience day



Consistently impressive exam results

School Headlines	2025 National %	2025 St Mary's %	2026 St Mary's %
%Basics 9-4 (standard pass)	66	80	86
%Basics 9-5 (strong pass)	46	60	71
%EBacc Entry	40	74	75
Attainment 8	46.28	55.03	56.33

School Headlines	St Mary's 2026 (vs National)	
	%7-9	%4-9
Maths	32.5 ⁽¹⁷⁾	89.5 ⁽⁵⁸⁾
English	19 ⁽¹⁶⁾	89.5 ⁽⁶⁰⁾
RE	47.9 ⁽³²⁾	84 ⁽⁷³⁾
Chemistry	62.3 ⁽⁴⁷⁾	100 ⁽⁹²⁾
Biology	62.3 ⁽⁴⁴⁾	100 ⁽⁸⁹⁾
Physics	53 ⁽⁴⁵⁾	100 ⁽⁹¹⁾



English GCSEs - Key Information

- All students study for two GCSEs in English - English Language and English Literature.
- These are not taught in separate lessons but are sequenced and taught throughout the two years by your child's teacher(s). We teach wholly in mixed ability classes in English



English GCSEs - Key Information

- The **English Language GCSE** is an unseen paper, so we work on developing the skills throughout the two-year course.
- For **English Literature**, by the end of Year 11, students will have studied Lord of the Flies, a Poetry anthology – Power and Conflict, Macbeth, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and developed poetry analysis skills for an unseen poetry question.
- Students should buy their own copies of set texts (except for the poetry anthology, which is provided) so that they can make their own notes.



English GCSEs – Overview

- Year 10
 - Autumn – Lord of the Flies
 - Spring – English language Paper 2 Writing and Reading (non-fiction). Spoken language. Macbeth
 - Summer – Macbeth. Poetry anthology
- Year 11
 - Autumn – Poetry unseen and anthology. Eng Lang – Paper 1 (fiction/creative). Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.
 - Spring – Dr J and Mr Hyde. English Language. Revision



English GCSEs - Key Information

- Students should be making **revision cards** from the start.
- They should also be revising previous topics when they move on to the next eg. once they have finished Lord of the Flies they need to keep revising it.



English Language GCSEs - Exam structure

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

What's assessed

- Presenting/use of Standard English
- responding to questions and feedback

Assessed

- marked by teacher
- (0% weighting of GCSE)



English Literature GCSEs - Exam structure

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare (Macbeth): students will answer one question on Macbeth. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel (Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde): students will answer one question on Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on *Lord of the Flies*.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on two poems from the *Power and Conflict* anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on *one unseen poem* and one question *comparing this poem with a second unseen poem*



Maths GCSE - Key Information

Students have been placed into sets:

- Sets 1 – 3 are currently following the Higher Pathway (Grades 9 – 4)
- Set 4 are following the Foundation Pathway (Grades 5 – 1)
- Final tiering decisions will be made in January - based on progress, including PPE results
- A number of pupils will also complete the Level 2 certificate in Further Mathematics



Maths GCSE - Key Information

- Pupils need to know all the content (Higher or Foundation) and they also need to develop problem solving skills to enable them to choose and apply the appropriate Mathematics skills.
- It is essential that pupils show full working out for all questions – many of the marks are awarded for the method.

[Maths Genie • Learn GCSE Maths for Free](#)



Maths GCSE - Key Information

- Supporting at home
- White rose scheme 10v3 - [Maths resources for teachers | White Rose Education](#)
- Pupils often find Maths Genie really helpful – videos, exam questions and answers for each topic, organised by grade..

[Maths Genie • Learn GCSE Maths for Free](#)



We are a pilgrim school and we journey with Mary to become the person God intends us to be.

AUTUMN

SPRING

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Autumn	Algebra Algebraic manipulation Free trial VIEW	Algebra Equations, inequalities and formulae VIEW		Algebra Quadratic expressions and equations VIEW			Number Percentages VIEW		Ratio, proportion and rates of change Ratio and scale VIEW		Number Work with fractions VIEW	
	Number Non-calculator methods VIEW	Algebra Straight line graphs VIEW		Probability Probability VIEW		Number Rounding and estimation VIEW	Geometry and measures Perimeter, area and volume VIEW		Statistics Interpret and represent data VIEW		Algebra Non-linear graphs VIEW	

Maths GCSE - Exam structure

- In both the Higher and the Foundation tiers, there are 3 exams:
 - Paper 1 (Non – calculator) 80 marks
 - Paper 2 (Calculator) 80 marks
 - Paper 3 (Calculator) 80 marks
- All pupils are entered for the AQA Maths exams (8300)
- Further Maths - AQA 8365
 - Paper 1 (Non calculator) 80 marks
 - Paper 2 (Calculator) 80 marks



Maths GCSE – Revision tips

- Weekly emails will be sent to help prioritise and organise revision
- Maths Genie, Sparx, Onmaths, Mathsbot
- All previous questions and answers are available online – use mark schemes wisely!



RE GCSE - Key Information

- **All** students study for a GCSE in Religious Education
- Classes are mixed ability and were created using intelligent grouping
- Where possible, class groups will remain with the same teacher over the two-year GCSE



GCSE Course Overview

AQA Religious Studies (Specification B)



Exam Paper 1: Catholic Christianity

Catholic beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression in relation to six topics:

1. Creation
2. Incarnation
3. The Triune God
4. Redemption
5. Church
6. Eschatology

Exam paper 2:

Section A: Judaism, with a focus on the beliefs, teachings and practices of the religion.

Section B: a study of two religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes:

1. Religion, relationships and families
2. Religion, peace and conflict

- Paper 1 (Catholic Christianity) The exam tests the students on 4 of the 6 topics that they have studied.
- Paper 2 (Judaism and Ethics) The exam tests the students on the 4 topics that they have studied.
- Each topic question will be marked out of 24.
- Each topic question will have 5 question parts to it.
- The marks for the 5 questions are: 1, 2, 4, 5 & 12 marks.
- The 12 mark questions require the students to do extended writing, show analysis and evaluation.
- It will be marked out of 96 and there are 9 extra marks for SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)

RE GCSE - Key Information



Drive

... > RE > Revision

Name ↑



Bellarmino Lessons 2024



Paper 1- Catholic Christianity



Paper 2- Judaism and Themes



Past Paper Questions and Markschemes



Brilliant Together Day RE - How to revise.pptx



Checklist for RE AQA Spec B (3).docx

School website resources



Revision videos



Science GCSEs - Key Information

- All students began by studying for a GCSE in Combined Science.
- This year students have been placed into sets as follows:

Set 1a: Separate sciences - higher tier.

Set 1b: Combined science higher tier- aiming for 7-9 grades.

Set 2: Combined science higher tier aiming for a minimum of a 6.

Set 3: Combined science - Foundation tier.



Science GCSEs - Key Information

- In Year 11, some students complete additional study in lessons (beginning in January) to support preparation for separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Entries for separate science will be confirmed following the November PPEs in Year 11 (mock exams) - results from PPE will be used to help make this decision.



Science GCSEs - Exam Structure

	AQA Combined Trilogy in Science Papers	AQA Separate Science Papers
Paper 1- Biology	70 marks (16.7% of final grade)	100 marks (50% of Biology Grade)
Paper 2- Biology	70 marks (16.7% of final grade)	100 marks (50% of Biology Grade)
Paper 1- Chemistry	70 marks (16.7% of final grade)	100 marks (50% of Chemistry Grade)
Paper 2- Chemistry	70 marks (16.7% of final grade)	100 marks (50% of Chemistry Grade)
Paper 1- Physics	70 marks (16.7% of final grade)	100 marks (50% of Physics Grade)
Paper 2- Physics	70 marks (16.7% of final grade)	100 marks (50% of Physics Grade)

Exam board and specification combined science: AQA Combined Science Trilogy Code 8464

Exam board and specification separate sciences: AQA GCSE Biology- 8461/ AQA GCSE Chemistry 8462/ AQA GCSE Physics- 8463



Science GCSE - Using homework to ensure success

- All students will be set a 2-weekly homework per science discipline:
 1. Weekly- Recall questions and answers- students create a revision resource and memorise answers- this will be tested in lessons.
 2. Periodically- Revision resource to create at the end of a topic.
 3. After Christmas- students will be set past papers in addition to the above. Students should mark these and complete a metacognitive activity which will be explained to them by their teacher.



Science GCSE - Using homework to ensure success

Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table – Foundation and Higher

Atoms

Contained in the nucleus are the **protons** and **neutrons**. Moving around the nucleus are the **electron** shells. They are negatively charged.

Particle	Relative Mass	Charge
proton	1	+1
neutron	1	0
electron	Very small	-1



Overall, atoms have no charge; they have the same number of protons as electrons. An ion is a charged particle - it does not have an equal number of protons to electrons.

Atomic Number and Mass Number



Elements

Elements are made of atoms with the same atomic number. Atoms can be represented as symbols.

N = nitrogen **F** = fluorine **Zn** = zinc **Ca** = calcium

Isotopes – an isotope is an element with the **same number of protons** but a **different number of neutrons**. They have the same atomic number, but different mass number.

Isotope	Protons	Electrons	Neutrons
^1_1H	1	1	1 - 1 = 0
^2_1H	1	1	2 - 1 = 1
^3_1H	1	1	3 - 1 = 2

Compounds – a compound is when two or more elements are chemically joined. Examples of compounds are carbon dioxide and magnesium oxide. Some examples of formulas are CO_2 , NaCl , HCl , H_2O , Na_2SO_4 . They are held together by chemical bonds and are difficult to separate.

Equations and Maths

To calculate the relative atomic weight, use the following equation:

relative atomic weight (A_r) =

$$\frac{\text{sum of (isotope abundance} \times \text{isotope mass number)}}{\text{sum of abundances of all isotopes}}$$

Balancing Symbol Equations

There must be the same number of atoms on both sides of the equation:



$$\text{C} = 1$$

$$\text{O} = 4$$

$$\text{H} = 4$$

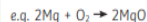
Chemical Equations

A chemical reaction can be shown by using a **word equation**.

e.g. magnesium + oxygen $\rightarrow$ magnesium oxide

On the left-hand side are the reactants, and the right-hand side are the products.

They can also be shown by a **symbol equation**.



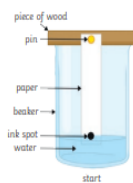
Equations need to be **balanced**, so the same number of atoms are on each side. To do this, numbers are put in front of the compounds.



Mixtures, Chromatography and Separation

Mixtures – in a mixture there are no chemical bonds, so the elements are easy to separate. Examples of mixtures are air and salt water.

Chromatography – to separate out mixtures.



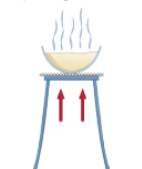
Evaporation – to separate a soluble salt from a solution; a quick way of separating out the salt.



Filtration – to separate solids from liquids.



Crystallisation – to separate a soluble salt from a solution; a slower method of separating out salt.



Separating out salt from rock salt:

1. Grind the mixture of rock salt.
2. Add water and stir.
3. Filter the mixture, leaving the sand in the filter paper
4. Evaporate the water from the salt, leaving the crystals.

AQA Chemistry GCSE Unit 4.1 Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table – Higher

Draw and label an atom. Include labels for the following: neutron, proton, electron.

True or false?

1. The radius of an atom is 0.1nm
2. Most of the mass is in the shell of the atom.

Fill in the table to show the charges and mass of the components of an atom.

Name	Charge	Relative Mass
proton		
neutron		
electron		

What is the overall charge of an atom?

Positive
Negative
No charge

A compound is 2 or more _____, chemically _____

Which of the following are compounds?
Put a ring round them.

oxygen, salt water, magnesium oxide, sodium chloride, nitrogen

Why have you circled the ones you have?

What are the symbols for the following elements?

Element	Symbol
oxygen	
lithium	
sodium	
potassium	
helium	
carbon	
magnesium	

Complete the following diagram for sodium, include the atomic number and the atomic mass number.

Name	Charge	Relative Mass
proton		
neutron		
electron		

What is the overall charge of an atom?

Positive
Negative
No charge

A compound is 2 or more _____, chemically _____

Which of the following are compounds?
Put a ring round them.

oxygen, salt water, magnesium oxide, sodium chloride, nitrogen

Why have you circled the ones you have?

Complete and balance the following equations. What is the name of the compound formed?



Mixtures

Write the definition of a mixture. Give two examples.

Name the compounds and the elements they contain.

NaCl = _____

MgO = _____

MgS = _____

FeS = _____

What is the ratio of the elements in the following compounds?

e.g. $\text{CaO} = 1:1$

NaCl = _____

MgCl_2 = _____

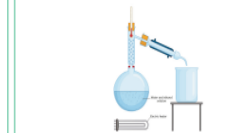
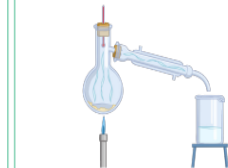
lithium fluoride = _____

K_2O = _____

sodium hydroxide = _____

Separating Mixtures

What are the following separation techniques?



What separation technique would you use to separate out different inks in pens?

How can salt be collected using the process of crystallisation?

Sand and water can be separated by using a process called

Describe, in 4 steps, how to collect salt from rock salt.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Exam access arrangements

- All students with SEND have their access arrangements stated on their Pupil Passport (these are shared with parents/carers)
- Must be a student's normal way of working throughout Year 7 to 11
- Very difficult to apply for and process in Year 11 as there is often not enough time to evidence normal way of working.
- Students who have arrangements in place will have practised using these already.



Exam access arrangements

- Significant evidence is required to support an application for Exam Access Arrangements
- Supervised rest breaks are often more effective and appropriate than 25% extra time for students with neurodivergence.
- If a student is not using their access arrangements, then they will be removed.



Sitting Exams in an alternative location

- JCQ determines how all exam centers administer examinations
- Our main Examination venue is our Sports Hall
- A small number of students each year take their exams in an alternative room
- To do so a candidate must have a **substantial and long-term** impairment which has an **adverse effect** when they sit internal tests and mock examinations (PPEs) in the main examination hall/room
- The candidate's difficulties must be well established, and alternative rooming **must** reflect the candidate's **normal and current** way of working in internal school tests and mock examinations (PPEs)
- Nervousness, low level anxiety or being worried about examinations **is not** sufficient grounds for separate/alternative invigilation



Useful exam related links

- Joint Council for Qualifications <https://www.jcq.org.uk/>
- [Information for candidates documents - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#)
- DfE & Ofqual
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-mathematics-physics-and-combined-science-gcses-in-2025-2026-and-2027>
- [St Mary's Menston - Examination Information 2025/2026](#)



Careers Guidance

- **Careers guidance** is organised by Mr Trickett. You can find out more and find useful resources on our school **website**.
- We use the **Unifrog** platform for personalised careers, apprenticeship and higher-education information. Students will be introduced to this in Year 10, parents/carers can also create an account to access webinars and start comparing future pathways.
- All students will have an individual careers interview during year 11 with our independent careers advisor, Sarah Humphreys.
- Appointments can be requested* by emailing our careers administrator, c.hawkins@stmarysmenston.org (*Year 11 students will have priority access to this service)
- The Pastoral Inclusion Team can also offer additional support to help students with college course applications



Barriers to learning

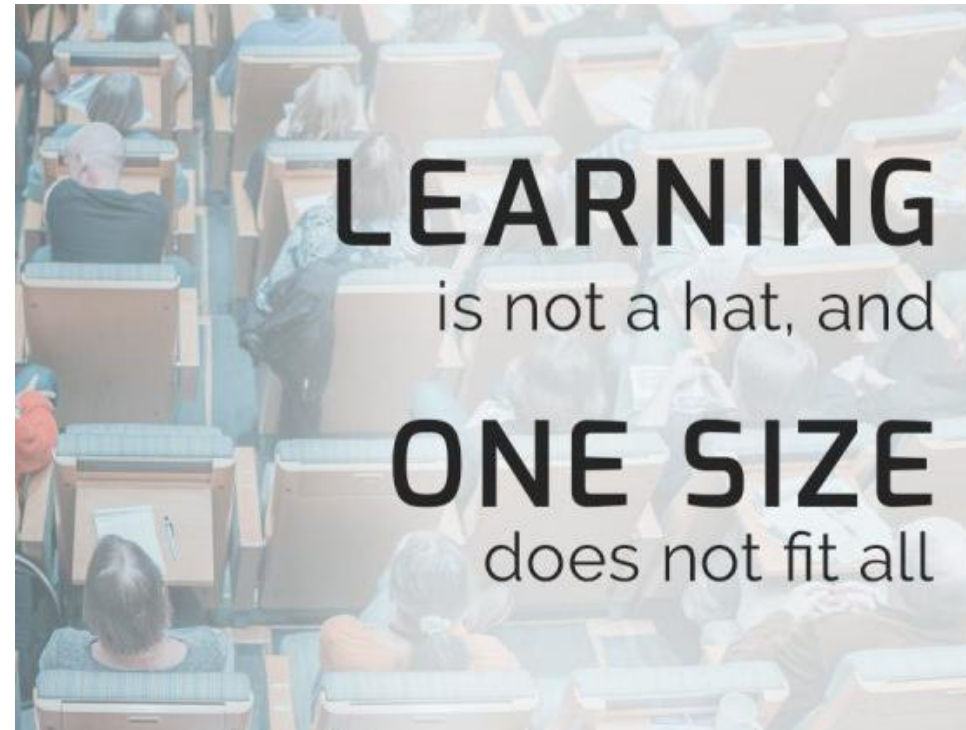
Learning without supplementary reviews/revision can lead to:

- Up to 50% of new information forgotten within 24 hours
- 66-90% information forgotten within 7 days
- Simply 'reading over' your notes leads to a 10% retention of what has been taught
- Revision after lessons and preparation before them is essential



What are my options after Year 11?

- St Mary's Sixth Form
- Other Sixth Forms
- College
- Apprenticeships



Next steps

- Help them to create a quiet, clear and permanent working space
- Talk to them about their 'Why' - purpose and goal
- Provide resources
- Discuss your role and ask them how they want you to support them
- Agree expectations and establish routines
- Keep us updated

