



WHITLEY BAY HIGH SCHOOL

Year 11
InFormation booklet

Information For
Parents/Carers

2025/26



ntl North Tyneside
Learning Trust





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@whitleybayhigh

SUPPORTING SUCCESS

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 students have made a fantastic start since their return from the summer holidays and have approached the new school year with a positive mindset, hard work, and maturity. This follows on from the excellent approach that the year group showed during Assessment Week and Work Experience towards the end of Year 10. Our aim is to help students not only achieve academically, but also further develop the skills and attributes needed for their chosen next step in their education journey. Throughout Year 11, your child will be well-supported by a team of staff who will be working with them, and you, every step of the way as the year progresses. Outstanding Teaching and Learning and positive relationships remain at the heart of all we do. Lessons are planned to be rigorous and engaging. As well as a focus on GCSE knowledge and skills, we will be providing guidance and information on possible next steps over the next few months. Post-16 options will be a key part of the personal development programme as students assess their future paths. We will do everything we can to help your child be successful and make the right choices.

We are also proud of the numerous successes outside of the classroom our Year 10 students achieved last year and are excited to see this continue in Year 11 alongside their academic efforts. Encouraging a balance between academics and extracurricular activities is crucial for their overall development. This booklet is designed to give you vital information to understand what your child is learning in English, Maths, and Science and the skills they will need for success.

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Key Dates

- Tuesday 30th September - Year 11 Parents' Information Evening, 6-7pm
- Wednesday 8th October - Year 11 Raising Achievement Assembly
- Wednesday 19th November - Progress Check 1 home
- Week beginning Monday 1st December - Yr 11 MFL Trial Speaking Exams
- Tuesday 9th December - Sixth Form Courses Evening
- Thursday 11th December - Art Trial Exams Begin
- Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th December - Textiles Trial Exams
- Friday 9th January - St James' Park Raising Achievement Event
- Week beginning Monday 12th January - Yr 11 Revision Launch Week
- Wednesday 14th January - Year 11 Raising Achievement Assembly 2
- Week beginning Monday 26th January - Practical Food Exams Start
- Wednesday 11th February - Year 11 Destinations Day
- Thursday 12th - Friday 27th February - Year 11 Trial Exams
- Monday 23rd March - Students receive Trial Exam Results and Targets
- Wednesday 25th March - Year 11 Raising Achievement Assembly 3
- Thursday 26th March - Parents Evening (X band)
- Week beginning Monday 30th March - Fine Art Exams
- Tuesday 31st March - Parents Evening (Y band)
- Wednesday 1st April - Year 11 Careers Assembly
- Week beginning Monday 20th April - Yr 11 Textile Exams
- Week beginning Monday 27th April - MFL Speaking Assessments Begin
- Thursday 7th May - Exam season begins
- Thursday 20th August 2026 - GCSE Results Day

GRADE EQUIVALENTS

How it affects Year 11 Students:

GCSE subjects are graded 9-1. This table shows the grade equivalents for other qualifications.

GCSE Grade	Approximate Cambridge National and BTEC equivalent grade Cambridge National - Child Development, Health & Social Care, Sport Studies BTEC – Digital Information Technology (Tech Award)
9	Level 2 Distinction *
8	
7	
6	
5	
4	Level 2 Merit
	Level 2 Pass
3	Level 1 Distinction
2	Level 1 Merit
1	Level 1 Pass

Across all subjects, all students will sit the same paper where all grades are accessible. The only exceptions to this are MFL, Maths and Science where students will either sit a Foundation tier (Grades 5 - 1 will be awarded) or a Higher tier (Grades 9 - 3 will be awarded).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE/LITERATURE

English Language

You need to be able to appreciate how writers do the following in their work. You also need to be able to do it in your own writing:

Paper 1 - Skills to Master	Paper 2 - Skills to Master
Reading and writing fiction texts <ul style="list-style-type: none">Create settingsCreate charactersUse dialogueReveal and develop a plotShift between action and detailed descriptionUse time to structure your textsConsider how to develop the overall structure of a textUse language for effect (individual word choices, simile, metaphor, personification etc.)Use voice and point of view to tell your storiesUse punctuation for effectUse a range of sentence types for effectUse paragraphing for effectPlan and draft, drawing on all of your previous writing ideas and structuresEdit and proof-read writing	Reading and writing non-fiction texts <ul style="list-style-type: none">Use various forms effectively – speech writing, articles, essays, lettersCreate an engaging voiceWrite to persuadeWrite to argueUse a range of methods effectively including rhetorical devices, statistics, anecdote, repetition, word play, anaphora, emotive language etc.Structure the text for effectUse punctuation for effectUse a range of sentence types for effectUse paragraphing for effectPlan and draft, drawing on all of your previous writing ideas and structuresEdit and proof-read writing

English Literature

Make sure that you know the following in as much detail as you can:

Paper 1 - Texts to Revise	Paper 2 - Texts to Revise
<ol style="list-style-type: none">MacbethJekyll and Hyde <ul style="list-style-type: none">Plot – what happens and in what orderThemesPatterns in Language and ImageryKey symbolismHow the texts are structuredConnections between the poemsThe writer's intentions and their effectsThe contexts in which the texts were writtenYou will need to memorise key quotations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Poetry anthology - Power and ConflictAn Inspector CallsUnseen poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none">Plot – what happens and in what orderThemesPatterns in Language and ImageryKey symbolismHow the texts are structuredThe writer's intentions and their effectsThe contexts in which the texts were writtenYou will need to memorise key quotationsHow to approach an unseen poemHow to make comparisons

Once you know your texts in as much detail as possible, you should write essays in response to exam style questions and hand them to your teacher for feedback.

Useful Websites:



[BBC Bitesize](#)



[AQA](#)



[MASSOLIT](#)



[Audiopi](#) (email: whitley@audiopi.co.uk
password: whitley)



[Digital Theatre](#) (login: [dtplus.wbhs](#)
password: wbhs123)



[WBHS English Channel](#) - Youtube

MATHS

Students will sit either AQA Foundation (Grades 1-5) or Higher (Grades 4-9) tier papers. There will be three equally weighted 1 hour 30 minutes exams (Paper 1 non-calculator) in May/June of Year 11, consisting of a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems.

HIGHER Topics to revise (taught in Year 10)	Foundation Topics to revise (taught in Year 10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounding & Bounds Sequences Collecting & Representing Data Basic Number Angles, Scale Diagrams & Bearings Basic Algebra Fractions, Decimals & Percentages Linear Graphs Perimeter & Area Real Life Graphs Properties of Polygons Ratio & Proportion Indices Equations Probability Standard Form Surds Metric Conversion & Compound Measure Statistical Measure Congruence & Similarity Volume Quadratics Rearranging Formula & Identities Functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Number Rounding & Bounds Collecting & Representing Data Angles, Scale Diagrams & Bearings Basic Algebra Linear Graphs Sequences Fractions, Decimals & Percentages Perimeter & Area Ratio & Proportion Properties of Polygons Equations Indices Standard Form Probability Metric Conversion & Compound Measure Real Life Graphs Statistical Measure Tree & Venn Diagrams Volume Similarity
New topics studied in Year 11	New topics studied in Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerical Methods Tree & Venn Diagrams Equation of a Circle Further Equations & Graphs Simultaneous Equations Sketching Graphs Transforming Graphs Growth & Decay Pythagoras Trigonometry Direct & Inverse Proportion Inequalities Vectors Algebraic Fractions Circle Theorems Transformations Rate of Change & Area under a Curve Constructions & Loci 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rearranging Formula & Identities Quadratics Money & Time Problems Linear Equations Inequalities Sketching Graphs Pythagoras Direct & Inverse Proportion Trigonometry Growth & Decay Vectors Congruence Constructions & Loci Transformations

Things you can do at home to help:

- Ensure they have the correct equipment for lessons and exams – including a geometry set and a scientific calculator.
- Encourage your child to complete homework and revision tasks set each week.
- Encourage your child to try various revision strategies:
 - utilise unit booklets and note cards given out in lessons
 - review topics on MathsWatch, utilising support videos
 - use corbettmaths.com
 - complete past papers

Useful Websites:



[AQA Maths](#)



[corbettmaths.com](https://www.corbettmaths.com)



[mathswatch](#)

GCSE SCIENCE

Combined Science - AQA Trilogy 8464

- All exams are taken in Summer of Year 11.
- 6 papers, 2 for each Science. Each exam is 75 minutes and contributes 16.7% of the GCSE.
- Full details of the studied topics and their sequencing can be found on the Curriculum Map section of the Whitley Bay High School website.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology topics 5-7• Chemistry topics 7-10• Physics topics 5-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology topics 5-7• Chemistry topics 7-10• Physics topics 5-7• Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision• Exam preparation

Things you can do at home to help:

- Go over past test questions with your child.
- Make a quiet area for them at home where they can complete homework without distraction.
- Use their revision guide to support understanding and help test if their knowledge is secure by asking questions from it.

Useful Websites:



[AQA Combined Science Trilogy](#)



[BBC Bitesize Combined Science](#)

Separate Science - AQA GCSE Biology 8461, Chemistry 8462, Physics 8463

- Each course has 2 exams worth 50% of the marks. Each exam is 105 minutes.
- There is significantly more content on Separate Science but it is taught in the same time as the dual course, so it requires a great deal of independent study.
- Full details of the studied topics and their sequencing can be found on the Curriculum Map section of the Whitley Bay High School website.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
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- Go over past test questions with your child.
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- Use their revision guide to support understanding and help test if their knowledge is secure by asking questions from it.

Useful Websites:



[AQA Science](#)



[BBC Bitesize Biology](#)



[BBC Bitesize Chemistry](#)



[BBC Bitesize Physics](#)

HEALTHY BODY AND HEALTHY MIND

We know Year 11 can be a challenging and stressful time for your child, and although we will do all we can to support them in school, there are some things that we can all do to make sure they are getting things right. A healthy mind and body is as important for success as a revision booklet, and some healthy choices out of school can make a real difference.

Self Help

SLEEP



A good rest each night is important to recover from the busy day and is paramount for overall health and brain function.

SCREEN TIME



Reducing screen time regularly and before bed allows the mind to relax and prepare for sleep.

BREAKFAST AND DIET



In times of stress it is easy to fall into a trap of grabbing comfort food, but it is important to ensure a healthy balanced diet is followed.

EXERCISE



Regular exercise has been proven to reduce stress levels by taking your mind off your worries and pumping feel good endorphins to improve your mood.

KEEPING ORGANISED



Students need to be prepared with the correct equipment each day. When exams approach encourage your child to make a revision timetable.

DOWNTIME



Whether watching a film, reading, listening to music or doing exercise... it is really important that your child has some down time.

WATER



Staying hydrated and taking in enough water helps levels of concentration and combats tiredness.

TALKING



It may sound simple but talking to your child is really important to try and understand how they are feeling.

USEFUL LINKS AND APPS

Click or scan on the links below to take you directly to the websites.

For Parents/Carers:

[Young Minds](#)



YOUNGminds
fighting for young people's mental health

[WBHS](#)



[Every Mind Matters](#)



[Padlet](#)



[Anna Freud](#)



[We Heart CBT](#)



For Students:

[Young Minds](#)



YOUNGminds
fighting for young people's mental health

[WBHS](#)



[Every Mind Matters](#)



[Padlet](#)



[Anna Freud](#)



[Kooth](#)



[Childline](#)



[Stop. Breathe. Think](#)



Apps



happify™



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Please note: The information in this booklet is up
to date at time of printing (September 2025).