



Is your child prepared for their Year 9 exams and to select their GCSE qualifications?

Mrs Clay- Deputy Head (GCSE Options and Curriculum)

Mr Redpath - Assistant Head (Intervention and Academic Support)

Mr Crowe - (Head of Year 9)

Key Dates LCL

Half Term	Date	Event
2	13th November	NGRTA Reading Tests
3	9th January 17th January 22nd January 12th February	Parent & Student Options / Exams Evening Y9 Careers Speed Dating Year 9 Exams Year 9 Data and Subject Reports
4	29th February	SLT Options Day
6	11th June 8th July	Tutor Review Day Data and form tutor reports

GCSE OPTIONS LCL

1. Student preparation
2. Compulsory subjects
3. Non examined statutory subjects
4. 3 or 4 other subjects
5. SLT guidance interviews
6. Local careers
7. Decision day 1st March

Student preparation

School are currently working through a programme to help prepare your child to choose their options which includes:

1. Assemblies introduce the option programme
2. Options trial run to help the option blocks to be produced
3. Options booklet shared with students and parents
4. 4 to 5 hours of FFL lessons looking at careers and entry requirements
5. Options videos for each GCSE subject
6. Completion of options passport

On Thursday 29th February students and parents will have an interview with a senior leader in school and receive subject reports with current working grades and attitude data

Core Subjects

The **Core Curriculum** is the compulsory courses that all students in Years 10 and 11 must take:

English Language and Literature
Mathematics
Science (combined)

Statutory subjects are:

Cultural studies,
ICT
Citizenship (Fit for life)
PE

John Spence

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

What Happens at Key Stage 4 ?


John Spence
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

GCSE

NCFE

There are a new raft
of qualifications to
study for.

EBacc

OCR
NATIONALS

BTEC

Technical Awards

Course Awards

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

(or Ebacc as it has come to be known)

The English Baccalaureate is not a formal qualification and students will not receive a certificate

These subjects are:

English

Maths

Science

A humanities subject (**History or Geography**)

A Modern Foreign Language (**Spanish**)

Humanities

All students must study either History or Geography

There are certain combinations of subjects that students can not study as they are too similar, more information will be shared during the options meetings on Thursday 29th February

You will be able to sign up options meetings at the start of February via parent booking.

Grading structure

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

More challenging courses

Over the last few years the government has been increasing the level of challenge seen in GCSE or equivalent courses.

Longer exams

More difficult content

So your child will need to consider carefully what courses they choose!

Good choices

There are many things for you and your child to consider when choosing a subject:

- How well are they doing (**current attainment data**)
- **Advice** from staff
- Do they **enjoy** the lesson?
- Future Career

Students are going to be studying the subject for the next 2 years so they must enjoy the lessons. The more they enjoy the subject the harder they will work and the better grades they will achieve.

Poor choices

There are many reasons why not to choose a subject:

- I like the **teacher** I get this year (it maybe different member of staff next year)
- My **friends** are doing the subject
- I think it will be **easy**
- I know someone who **studied** the course a **few years ago** and they enjoyed it
- The title sounds good but I **do not know anything about it**

Labour Market Information

The four fastest growing employment sectors in the North East are:

- Health and life sciences
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Engineering/Renewable Energy
- Digital and Gaming industry



Labour Market Information

Did you know.....

The top 10 most popular jobs in 2020 did not exist in 2010

Nationally 11.1% of people are Not Employed or in Education/Training (NEET).

In the North Tyneside only 4.2% are NEET



Priority sectors

The North East LEP, the regional economic development body, has defined five areas of strategic importance:



These areas of strategic importance employ **150,000 people**. They include over **12,300 businesses**, about 3% more than in 2015.

A further **150,000** people work in three enabling services that support the growth of the North East economy:



Sources: Business Register Employment Survey 2021 and UK Business Count 2022. Data relates to VAT and PAYE registered businesses only; sector definitions based on 5 digit SIC codes selected by the North East LEP.

Future sector requirements

Half a million extra workers required by 2035

183,000 Health, education, and public administration

140,000 Retail, hospitality and transport

125,000 Business, arts, recreation, and personal services

23,000 Manufacturing **19,000** Construction

10,000 Other, inc. agriculture and utilities

Source: DfE Labour market and skills projections 2020 to 2035, inc replacing retired workers
Geography: North East LEP area

Future occupational requirements



Half a million extra workers required by 2035:

44,000 Managers, directors and senior officials

135,000 Professional occupations

75,000 Associate professional and technical

49,000 Administrative and secretarial

26,000 Skilled trades occupations

49,000 Caring, leisure and other services

52,000 Sales and customer service

21,000 Process, plant and machine operatives

49,000 Elementary occupations

Source: DfE Labour market and skills projections 2020 to 2035, inc replacing retired workers
Geography: North East LEP area

In-demand professions 2022

The following professions appeared most regularly in monthly snapshots of online North East job adverts during 2022:

Care assistants and nurses	ICT programmers	Primary school teachers	Electrical engineers, designers, and technicians
Sales managers and sellers	Personnel and labour experts	Accountants and lawyers	Hospitality and service workers
Customer service managers and staff	Production workers	Social workers	
	Educational support staff	Cleaners	

Source: ONS Labour demand volumes by profession and local authority 2017 to 2022. Geography: North East LEP area

North East job adverts

5,825 jobs advertised on the DWP find a job website (May 2023)

Sectors with most jobs available:

1. Healthcare and Nursing	29%
2. Teaching	11%
3. Social Work	7%
4. Administration	5%
5. Engineering	4%
6. Logistics and warehouse	4%
7. Accounting and finance	3%
8. Trade and Construction	3%
9. Hospitality and catering	3%
10. Domestic help and cleaning	2%

Source: DWP Find a Job website (25 May 2023). Geography: North East LEP area

Labour Market Information

Which industries will need employees when my child leaves school?

Low Carbon Economy – Nissan Leaf, Biomass Energy – wind, wave, tidal

Health and Social Care

ICT and Digital

Engineering and Manufacturing

Construction

Hospitality

Science

Tourism



What happens now?

1. Watch the subject videos to find out more information on each subject
2. Take into account the recommendations the school makes during your appointment in Feb
3. Complete the option form and return it to school by Friday 1st March

We do try to accommodate students first choices for GCSE subjects, however this is not always possible. Subjects need a set number of students to run and some option combinations are not possible. If you have any queries please contact leanne.clay@johnspence.org.uk

How to consolidate learning JRE

YEAR 9 EXAMS TIMETABLE (19th – 26th January 2024)

A	FRI 19th JAN (WEEK A)	B	MONDAY 22nd	TUESDAY 23rd	WEDNESDAY 24th	THURSDAY 25th	FRIDAY 26th
1		1	<u>9X Technology</u> 9X Computing (FWL) U2 9Y Music (DGR) A3 9Z History (JGR) G7	9T Geography (ALA) G11 9U History (DBA) G13 9V Geography (LBN) A4	9T Music (KHO) A3 9X History (LGR) G8	9T History (LGR) G8 9U Music (KHO) A2 9V Computing (MHU) U1 9X Music (DGR) A3 9Y History (DBA) G10	
2	9T Computing (FWL) U2	2			9Z Computing (MHU) U1		<u>Science</u> (All students)
3	<u>English</u> (All students)	3	<u>Maths</u> (All students)	<u>9X Spanish</u> 9X Music (DGR) A3 9Z Geography (RHO) G14	<u>9Y Technology</u> 9W Geography (LPI) G13	<u>9Y Spanish</u> 9U Geography (RHO) G14 9W Computing (FWL) U2	
4		4	9W Music (KHO) A3 9Z Art (CEN) A8		9V Art (CEN) A8 9W Art (SMA) A5 9Y Geography (ALA) G13		9X Geography (LBN) A4 9Y Art (SMA) A5 9Z Music (KHO) A3
5		5	9X Art (CEN) A8				9U Computing (MHU) U1 9V History (JGR) G7 9W History (DBA) G10
9T Art (CEN) A8 - Wed 17.1.24 Lesson 3 9U Art (SMA) A5 - Wed 17.1.24 Lesson 3 9V Music (DGR) A3 - Wed 17.1.24 Lesson 3 9Y Computing (MHU) U1 - Thurs 18.1.24 Lesson 3							

How to consolidate learning JRE

YEAR 9 EXAMS TIMETABLE (19th – 26th January 2024)

Year 9 Exams Revision Plan (19th - 26th Jan 2024)

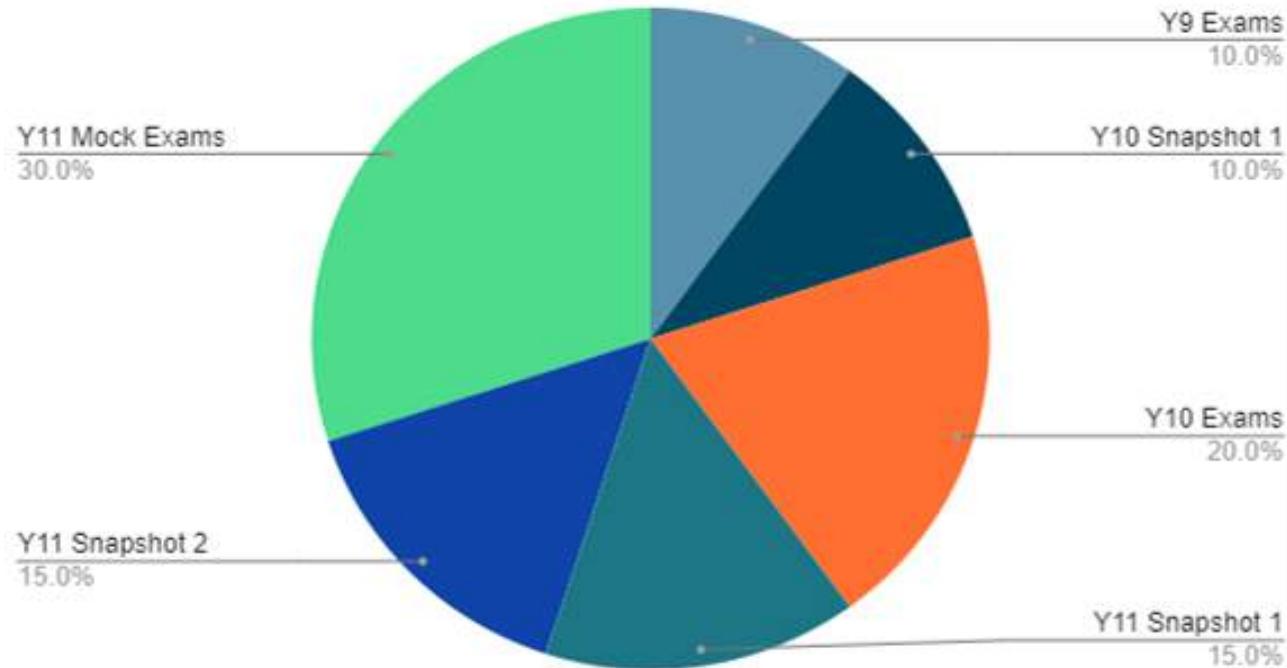
Below you will find details on the content for the exams you will sit. They provide you with a good opportunity to demonstrate what you can do and help inform your teachers how they can best support you moving forward as well as inform your option choices.

You must revise for these exams, aim for a minimum of 1 hour per night and slightly more at weekends.

Subject	Revision topics / information
English	Reading (read an extract and write an analytical paragraph about how the author presents a character or setting). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revise how to write analytical paragraphs and literary devices such as simile, metaphor, personification, adjectives, verbs etc. Writing (write the opening to a story) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revise writing a variety of sentence starters and writing descriptive techniques.
Maths	A variety of topics covered from Units A-D. A detailed topic list will be added to Google Classroom in January.
Science	Microscope use, blood components, defining pathogens, respiration, inheritance of DNA, photosynthesis, material properties, periodic table, law of conservation of mass, reactions of metals, neutralisation, rusting, identify compounds, elements, mixtures,. Identify forces, circuit function, energy transfer using particle theory, calculating weight, calculating speed and time
History	The essay questions will be on The Treaty of Versailles. There will also be an unseen source question and multiple choice knowledge questions on key themes from KS3.
Geography	Weather and Climate, Biomes and some retrieval from Y7 and Y8
Spanish	Somos Asi (opinions, hobbies, frequency phrases, how you organise your week, past tense;how you celebrated your last birthday) Las películas (opinions of types of films/TV) Grammar: present/past and future tenses, adverbs of frequency, opinion phrases, connectives.
Technology	Sustainability and environmental issues, all materials knowledge and application, job roles in the kitchen.
Music	None - but a listening task at the end of the unit.
Art	None - continue to work on classwork

How to consolidate learning JRE

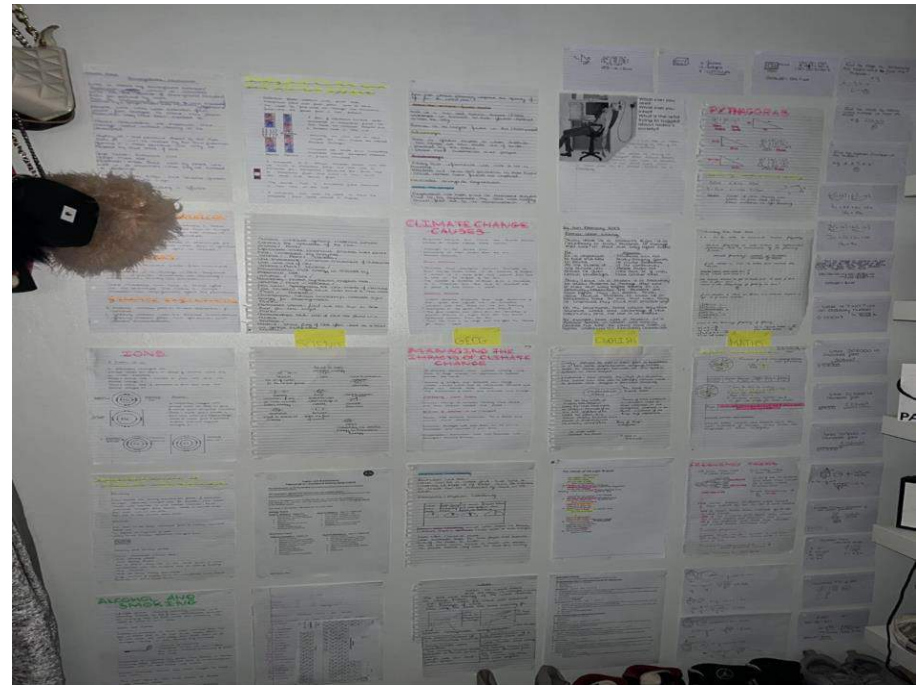
Consolidating Learning - Maths



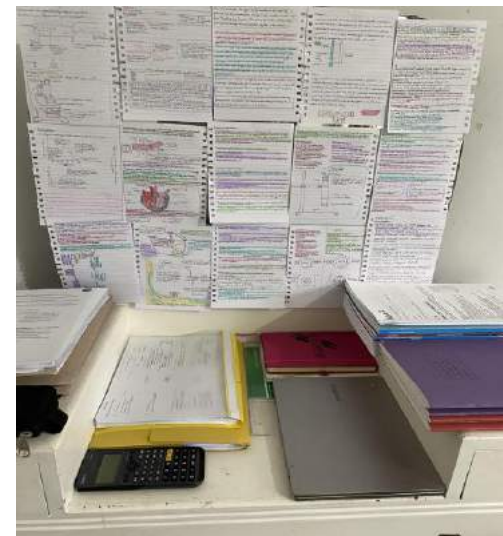
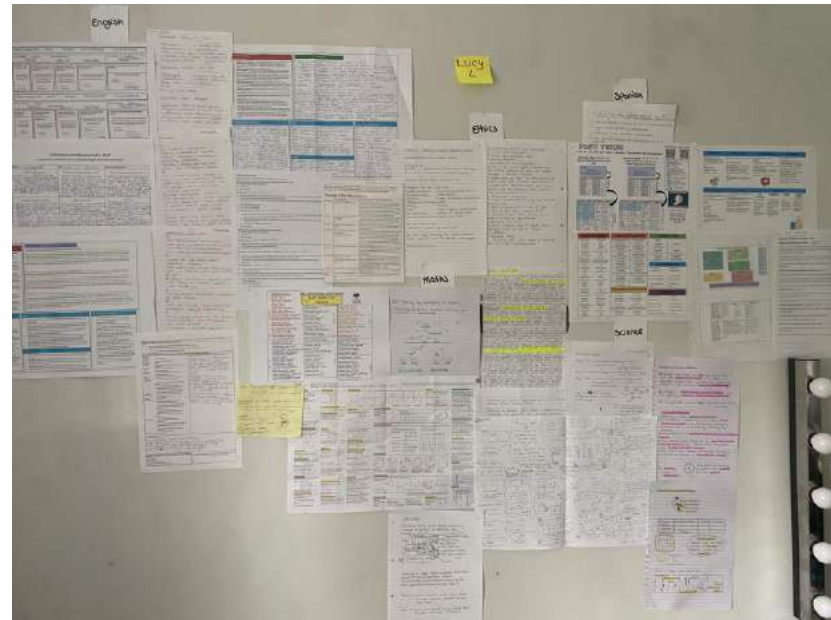
So we would strongly encourage you to:

1. Each week consolidate your learning of particular topics in different subjects by producing revision resources (e.g. flashcards)
1. Consider which topics you find difficult and spend a little bit more time on them (e.g. read through your notes / flashcards - get someone to ask you questions to test your knowledge)

Study / Independent Learning Skills - JRE



Study / Independent Learning Skills - JRE



CHUNKING

Chunking is a method of taking large pieces of information and grouping it in a way to make remembering it easier.

Studies have found that chunking also improves our short term memory.

For example:

The average person can take in four numbers or words at a time, can concentrate on revision for a maximum of 45 minutes at a time and remembers information best shortly before bedtime.

Chunked

- Remember 4 words/numbers at a time
- 45 mins max revision
- Remember best before bed.



SCAN ME

Coming up with your own acronyms to recall information can be useful too. For example: Never Eat Shredded Wheat as a way to recall all the points on the compass (North, East, South and West).

Sparxmaths

Use the search bar at the top of the Sparx Homepage to find topics that your teachers have told you to revise! Simply type the number of the video and press search!

Scan the QR Code to head to Sparx



SCAN ME



How to learn and revise

FLASH CARDS



Flash Cards are small double sided cards used to learn key information and details around a topic.

It involves writing a topic heading or question on one side and the relevant information on the other.

You can then use these cards as a revision technique to test your memory and find out which topics you need to revise more thoroughly.

SCAN ME



STUDY SKILLS - Flashcards JRE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMPLE

SIMILE

METAPHOR

ADJECTIVE

VERB

STUDY SKILLS - Flashcards JRE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMPLE

<p>A comparison of 2 things often naming the quality which makes them alike</p> <p>(E.g. She is as fierce as a lion)</p>	<p>A word or phrase used to describe something as if it were something else</p> <p>(E.g. A wave of terror washed over him)</p>
<p>A word that describes a noun (the name of a thing or place)</p> <p>(E.g. It was a <u>terrible</u> book)</p>	<p>A word used to describe an action, state or occurrence</p> <p>(E.g. Ben <u>narrowed</u> his sight)</p>

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How to consolidate learning JRE

REVISION TIMETABLE (WEEK 1 – 11th – 17th JANUARY 2024)

(A MINIMUM OF 2 HOURS PER DAY IS OUR EXPECTATION)

WK A	AFTERSCHOOL (3-4.30)	Between 5-7pm	Between 7-9pm
EXAMPLE	1. English 2. Literary Devices 3. Flashcards	1. History 2. Treaty of Versailles 3. Chunking - Mind Map	Watch TV
Thursday 11/1/24	1. Computing 2. Online Safety		1. Technology 2. Sustainability and environmental issues
Friday 12/1/24	1. History 2. Treaty of Versailles 1	1. Geography 2. Weather & Climate	
Saturday 13/1/24	1. Technology 2. Materials knowledge and application / Job roles in the kitchen	1. Computing 2. Computational thinking	
Sunday 14/1/24	1. Maths 2. Basic Calculation Skills	1. History 2. Treaty of Versailles 2	
Monday 15/1/24	1. Geography 2. Biomes	1. English 2. Writing descriptive techniques	

REVISION TIMETABLE (WEEK 2 – 18th – 25th JANUARY 2024)

(A MINIMUM OF 2 HOURS PER DAY IS OUR EXPECTATION)

WK B	AFTERSCHOOL (3-4.30)	Between 5-7pm	Between 7-9pm
Thursday 18/1/24	1. English 2. Analytical paragraphs	1. Spanish 2. Las Peliculas	
Friday 19/1/24 (ENGLISH)		1. Maths 2. Algebraic expressions	
Saturday 20/1/24	1. Spanish 2. Grammar	1. Science 2. 5 Topics from list	
Sunday 21/1/24	1. Maths 2. Functions & sequences		
Monday 22/1/24 (MATHS)			

Behaviour effort and attitude SCR



Attendance - attending every lesson means there will be no gaps in your learning. If you miss 1 day a fortnight that is 95 lessons a year

Punctuality - you must be in form for 8.40am, being late 5 minutes every lesson means you miss 4750 minutes of learning a year

Behaviour - No child has the right to harm the education or welfare of others

Being prepared Checking your timetable each evening and knowing what you have the next day , bringing the correct equipment to school ready to learn (a pen, pencil, ruler, calculator)



Staying healthy

Diet - eating healthy will keep you energised and support you to stay on top of your studies. Eating balanced, regular meals and staying hydrated.

Sleep - you need 9 hours of sleep a night. Not eating too late, avoiding caffeine before bed and avoiding using phones / computers for the last 30 minutes before bed and allow your brain time to unwind.

Time to relax - you need a balance of working hard and time out! Exercise, socialising and doing things you enjoy are all really important.



Google classroom SCR

Homework - you will be expected to do more homework and revision for exams than last year. Get into the habit of doing one hour of homework or revision at least a night.

Google Classroom - all students have a log in to check homework set by class teachers. They can message and communicate with teachers on this also.

Parents can also log in to and monitor the completion of this.

Maths homework is set on SPARKS on a Tuesday and due in the following Tuesday every week.



Pastoral support SCR

Alongside all of the academic support and interventions available, there is also support for students who may be struggling with the demands.

I know Year 9 students and your families very well now. I am aware of those students that may become overwhelmed or anxious.

We have **learning mentors, support groups and external agencies available.**

Please continue to **communicate** with me any concerns, worries, issues that you may have, however big or small. **Communication between students, home and school is paramount** to success for your child.

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