Dear Parents / Carers,

If circumstances had been different this year, we would have invited you in to talk through the below presentation. This year has obviously been a year like no other and we want to make sure that you are feeling informed each step of the way. In the following slides there is a wealth of material and information on examinations in general and also on how students can best prepare for their English, Maths and Science GCSEs.

As you may be aware, the Government has announced that all exams, with the exception of Maths and English are being pushed back by three weeks and will commence in June 2021.

We want to make sure your child is as prepared as they can be and that you, as their parent / carer are as prepared too!

If you have any questions or wish to speak to specific members of staff regarding any of the above, please see our website for specific contact details, including the Year 11 information tab that holds a host of contact details for you use.

WERNETH SCHOOL

The key benchmark your child will be aiming for

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

WERNETH SCHOOL

Why were the grades changed?

The new grades were introduced as part of a new curriculum that was introduced in 2014 in a bid to drive up standards.

Courses are designed for two years of study and are no longer be divided into different modules.

Students take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.

WERNETH SCHOOL

Does this seem a familiar conversation?

How was school?

Fine.

What did you do at school today?

Nothing.

Have got any homework?

No.

WERNETH SCHOOL

HOW CAN PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Parental support is crucial in determining a child's academic success.

One of the hardest demands on students is that of understanding the long-term importance of doing the best they can.

Your support, encouragement and interest can make a spectacular difference to your child's motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the exam period.

Attendance / Punctuality

The higher the absence rate, the lower the likely level of attainment.

‘… pupils with no absence are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs Grade 4 + or equivalent including English and mathematics, than pupils missing 15-20% of Key Stage 4 lessons.’

WERNETH SCHOOL

Understanding the importance Of GCSE revision

Proper revision is essential to achieving great GCSE results.

Revision benefits:

- Reinforces what they have learnt.
- Identifies weak points and problems areas.
- Helps them gain a solid understanding of the subject.
- Bolsters exam confidence.

WERNETH SCHOOL

eat. sleep. revise. And repeat.

Proper revision is essential to achieving great GCSE results.

- Getting enough sleep!
- Having a quiet place to study / complete homework / revise
- Healthy diets (bin the energy drinks and not skipping breakfast!)

WERNETH SCHOOL

KS4

gcsepod 2.0 education anywhere

Revision Apps and resources

1. Keep	2. Quizlet	3. Padlet	4. Popplet Lite	5. Spark Post
6. Clips	7. Classic	8. Texting Story	9. Gojimo	10. Paper

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature

Class of 2021

KEY OVERVIEW:

- **Your child will come out with two separate GCSEs for this subject.**

- **Both Language and Literature are of equal importance.**

- **The way they are assessed has changed;**
- **100% examination.**
- **No controlled assessments or coursework.**
- **NO TIERED PAPERS (unlike Maths, there is no Higher or Foundation paper. All pupils are entered for the same paper).**

- **They sit four papers (two for Language two for Literature).**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

What is my child studying and how is it assessed?

- **Your child is studying a range of non-fiction and fiction texts. Some texts are modern; some texts are older (and a lot more challenging).**

- **They will sit two exams at the end of the course (June 2021). Both exams are equally worth 50% of their GCSE.**

- **Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes in length.**

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Questions</th></tr>
<tr><td>Q1 – 4 marks – 5 minutes
Use lines 1-7.
List four things you learn about the location the story is set in.</td><td rowspan="3">Q4 – 20 marks – 25 minutes
Use lines 16-40.
A student said "The mother is presented as both upset and angry at the death, and the writer creates sympathy for her in this ending"
To what extent do you agree?
In your response, you could:
• write your own impressions about the characters
• evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
• support your opinions with references to the text.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q2– 8 marks – 10 minutes
Use lines 8-15.
How does the writer use language to describe the setting?</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q3– 8 marks – 10 minutes
Use the whole source.
How does the writer structure the text to interest you as a reader?</td></tr>
</table>

ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

How are we preparing them for these demanding exams?

- **The next set of mock exams will be in November. This exam will be on Paper 1.**

- **Students also sit mini-assessments in class throughout the year.**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

How can I help and best support my child?

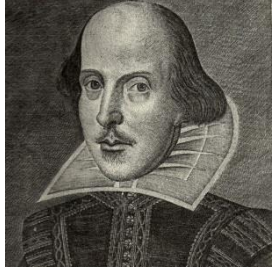
- **A simple way is to talk to them about what they're reading**. This could be a news article, sports report or magazine story. The first question on each paper are 'True or False' statements about the text. Can they tell you four facts from what they've read?

- **Encourage them to read a lot!** They have to start feeling confident in reading different texts, some they may not usually read. Books, magazine, online articles. Any of these are encouraging their reading skills.

- **Keep in touch with their teachers**. Feel free to e-mail us with any concerns. If you think they never seem to have work to do at home you can directly contact us (the e-mail addresses are on the school website) directly and we can inform you on what work they should be doing.

- **Encourage them to complete exam practice homework.** Teachers will be setting homework on a regular basis. The best way to prepare for the English Language exam is to regularly practise the skills required for the exams.

ENGLISH LITERATURE:

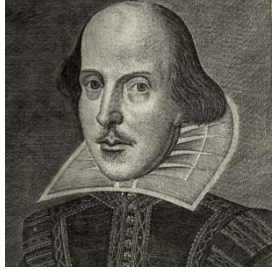


What is my child studying and how is it assessed?

- **Macbeth by William Shakespeare**
- **An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley**
- **A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens**
- **Unseen poetry (comparing two poems they haven't read before)**

- **Note: The exams are now 'closed book'. They will not be allowed copies of the texts in front of them in the exam. Remembering a few key quotes is key!**

ENGLISH LITERATURE: *A typical Shakespeare question:*

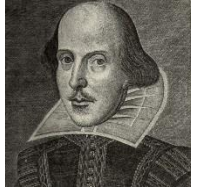


LADY MACBETH
Yet here's a spot.
DOCTOR
Hark! she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.
LADY MACBETH
Out, damned spot! out, I say!--One: two: why, then, 'tis time to do't.--Hell is murky!--Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard? What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account?--Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.
DOCTOR
Do you mark that?
LADY MACBETH
The thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now?--What, will these hands ne'er be clean?--No more o' that, my lord, no more o' that: you mar all with this starting.

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a vulnerable character.
Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

ENGLISH LITERATURE:



How are we preparing them for these demanding exams?

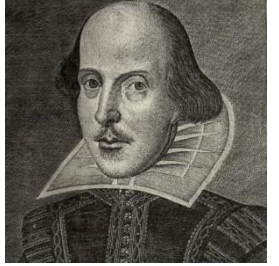
- **Your child is studying Macbeth this term. In their mocks, they will sit the Paper 2 exam on Macbeth and Unseen poetry.**

- **They will continue practising the skill of comparing poems and approaching poems they will never have seen before.**

- **In March, the whole year group will sit the Paper 1 exam on An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol**

- **It is important that your child continues to revise each text they have studied throughout the year. They can use Educake and GCSEPod to help them to do this.**

ENGLISH LITERATURE :

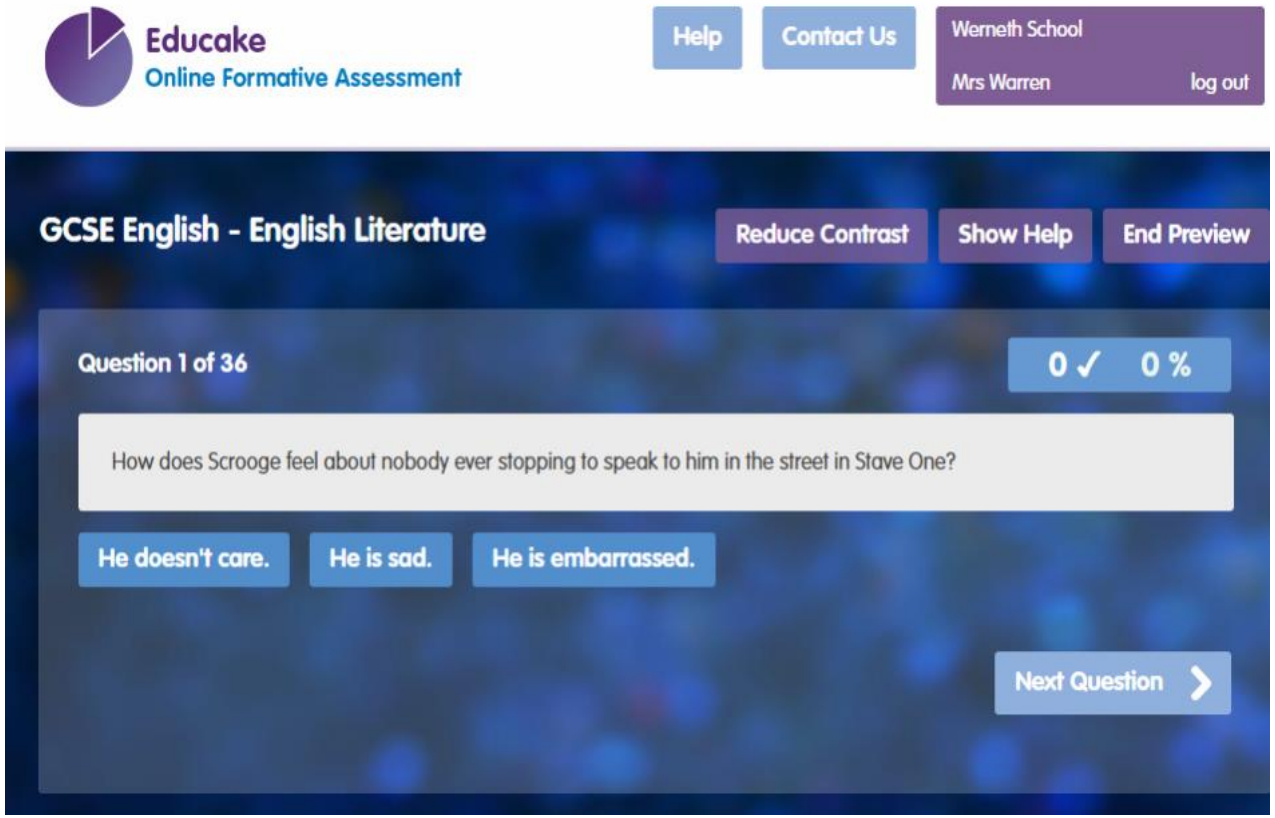


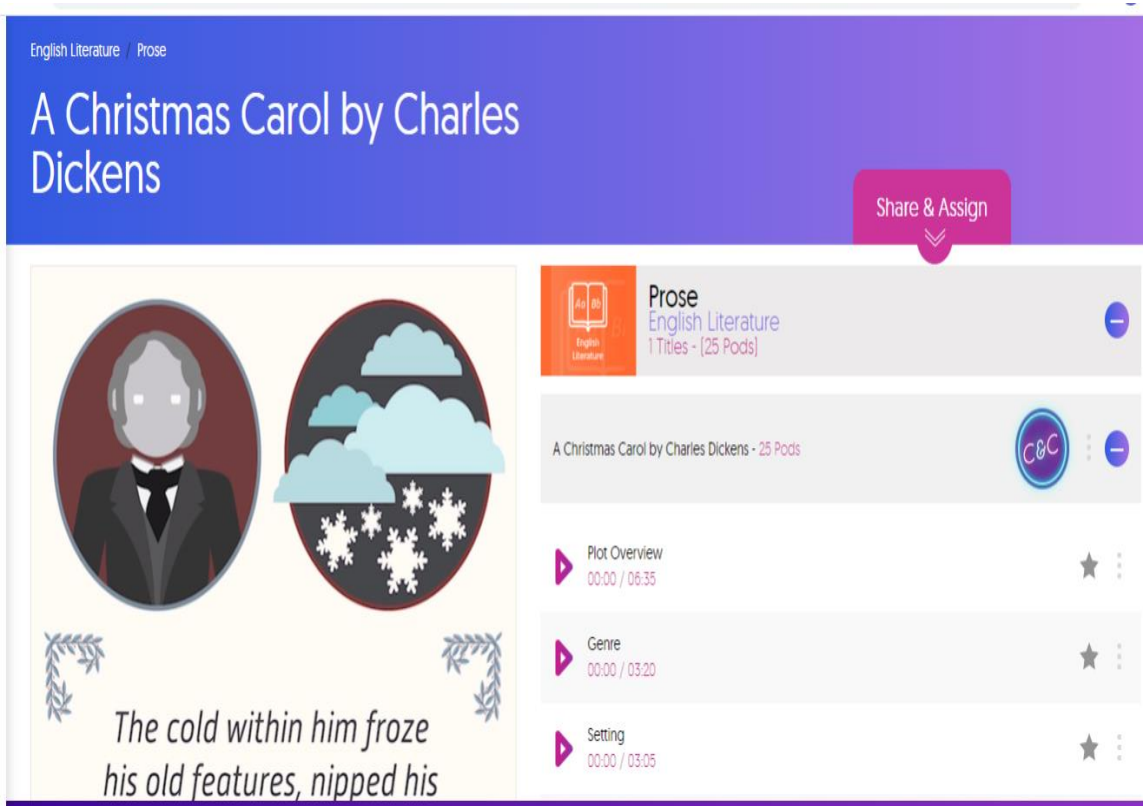
How can I help and best support my child?

- Make sure they are completing their Educake quizzes each week.
- Supporting and encouraging their attendance at **after-school revision** sessions. These are held on alternative Tuesdays.
- Encourage your child to **re-read, watch and remind** themselves of each of the texts studied regularly.
- Encourage your child to use **GCSEPod** to aid with their revision.
- Your child will be given **key quote** sheets to learn. Quiz them on the key quotes to help them to remember quotes from each of the set texts.
- Again, checking and monitoring their **homework** and how much effort they are putting into these pieces.
- We will be publishing a series of 'Tell me about…' cards for you to use with your child to help structure discussions about English texts. These will be available on our Google Classroom.

Educake is our online quizzing system. Students are set homework on this each week. They can also set themself a quiz to work on specific areas.

GCSEPod is an online revision resource with short video clips focused on the set texts and key English skills.





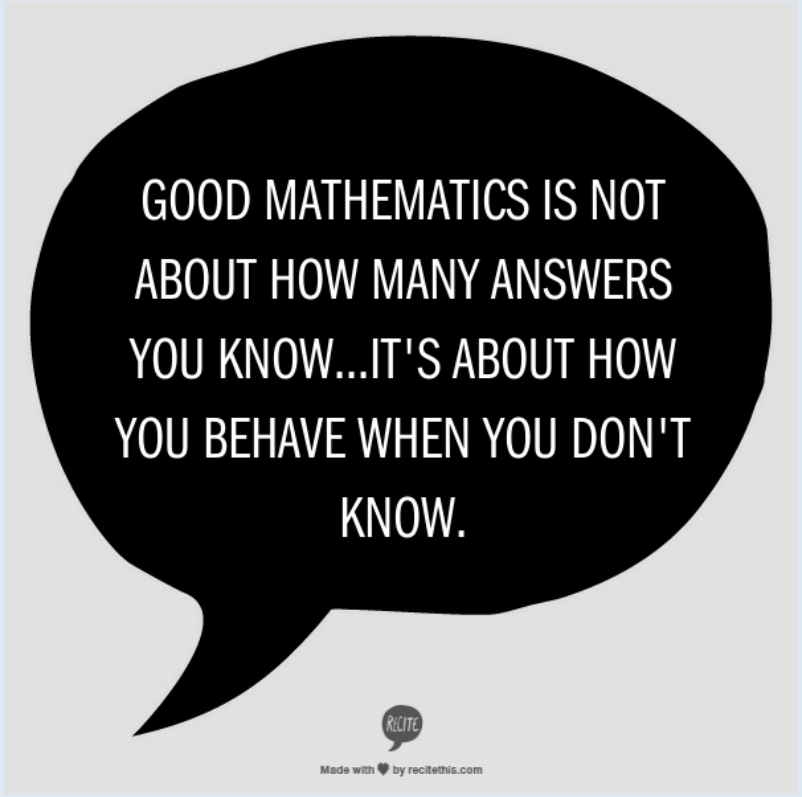
Tell me about… The character of Macbeth

I should be including:

- Regicide
- Traitor
- Tyrant
- Ambition
- Hero

How well was your child able to explain what they have been learning? Did they forget anything?

Y11 Maths Information



MATHS

Mathematics 2019-

Key information for your child's success

Mr Brighton – Subject leader Mathematics

WERNETH SCHOOL

Y11 Maths Information

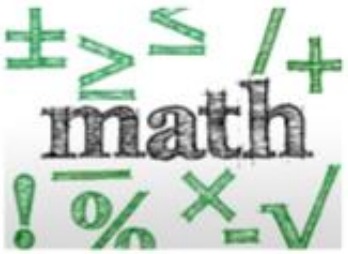
Examinations and exam content

edexcel

Pearson

How we will support your child

How to support your child at home



Resources

PiXL

hegartymaths

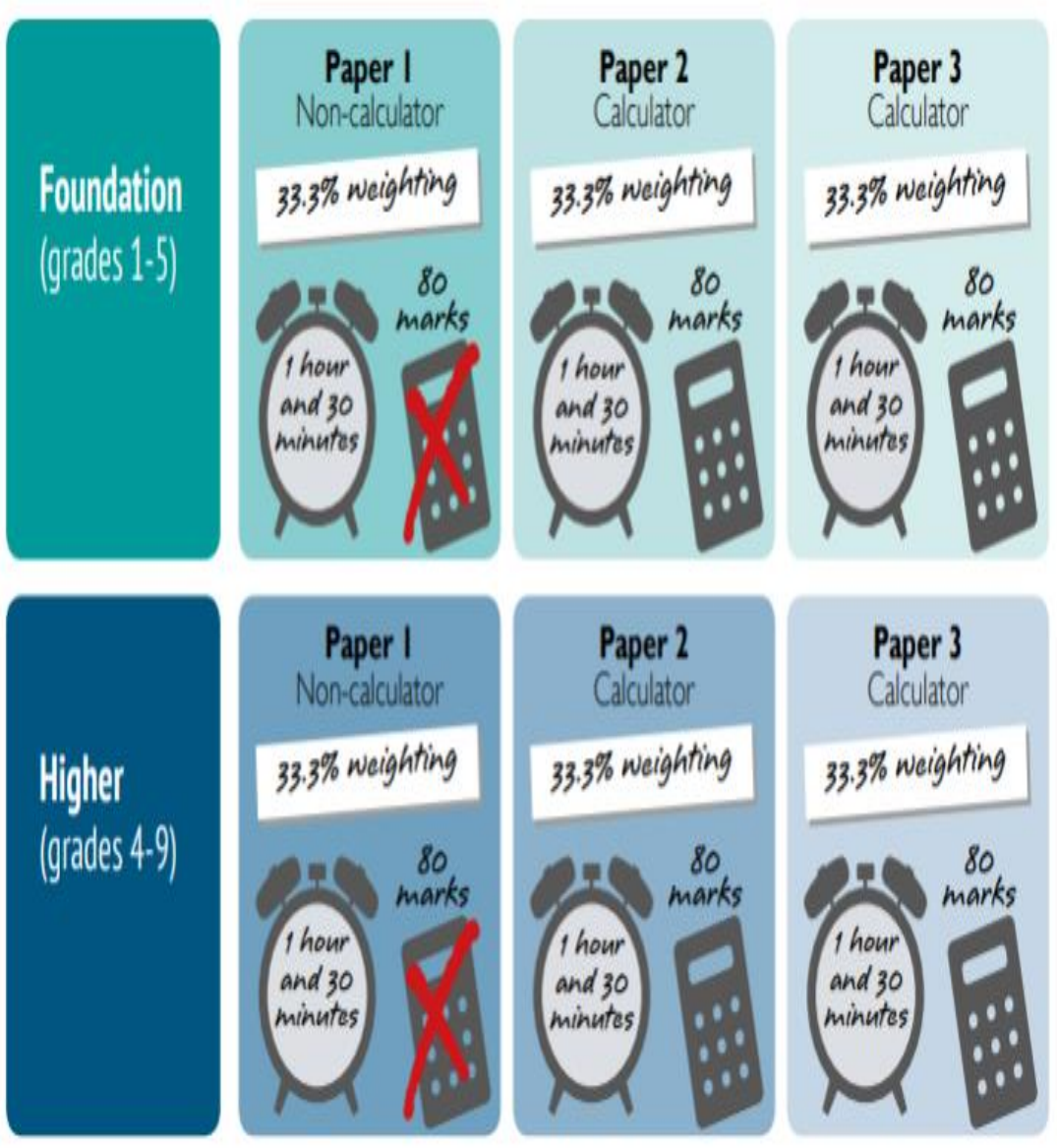
During this session we will cover

MATHS

WERNETH SCHOOL

Y11 Maths Information

Examinations and Content



Exam is split into the following format with the grades students can achieve on the side

Tier of entry is dependent on student performance throughout the academic year with final decision taken in March 2021

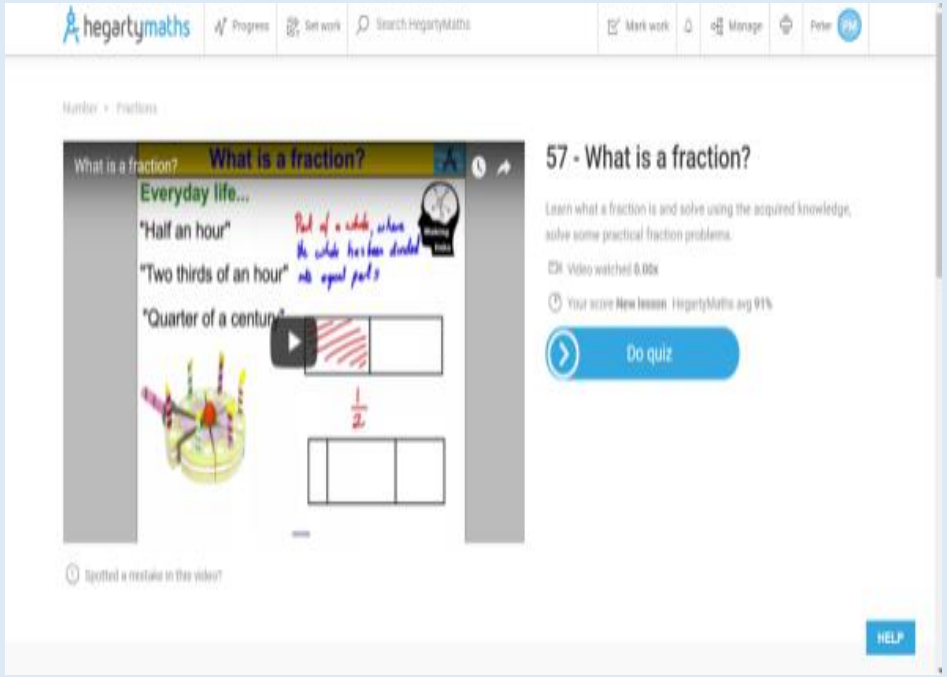
MATHS

WERNETH SCHOOL

Y11 Maths Information

How your child can be successful

- Work hard every lesson and access the support network provided by the maths department including revision sessions
- Utilize Hegarty maths as a revision resource and complete weekly papers on method maths to drive improvement (1 mark better a week is a whole grade in 10 weeks!)
- Be ambitious and honest – Students need to know their areas of weakness and work to address these



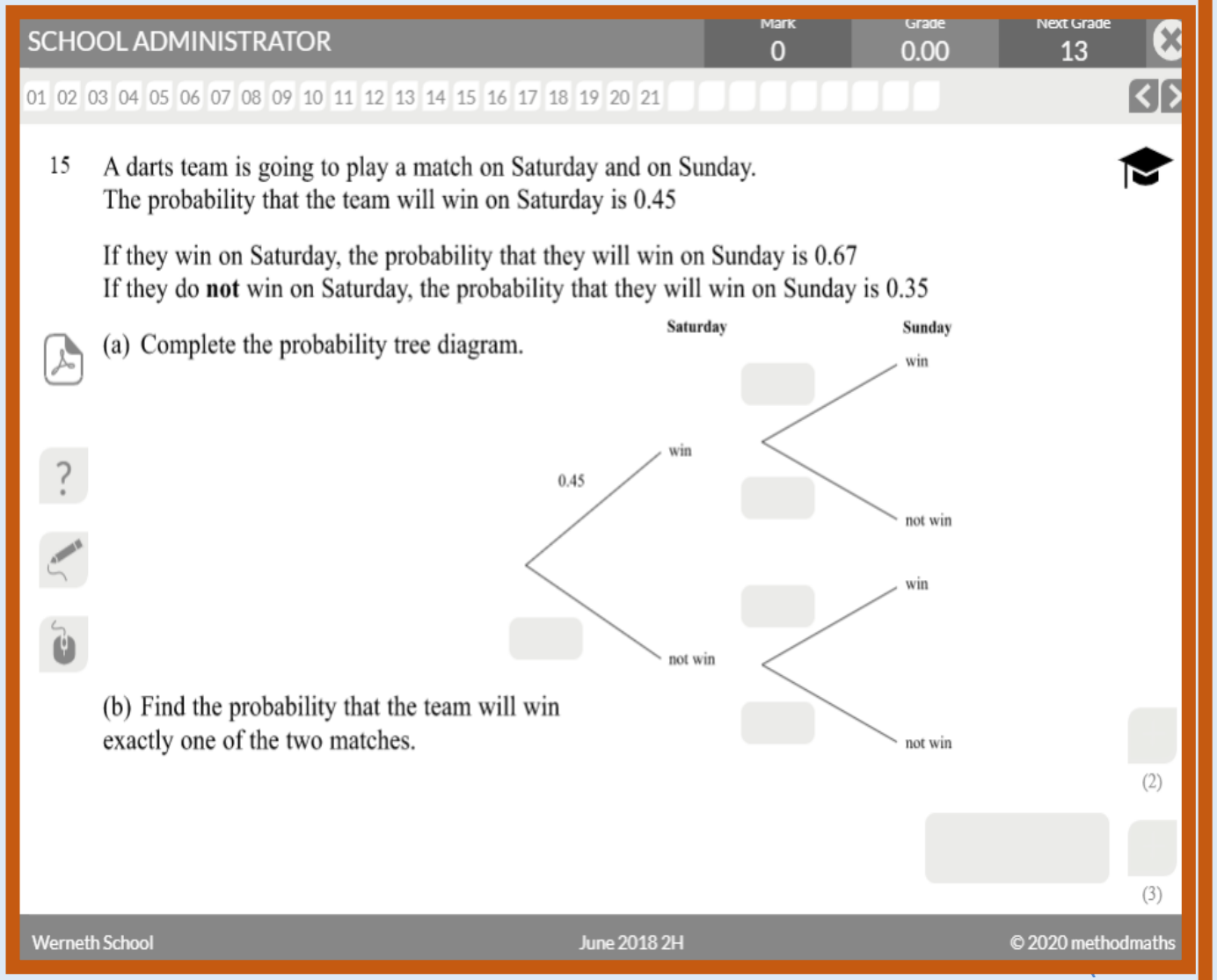
MATHS

WERNETH SCHOOL

Y11 Maths Information

How we will support your child

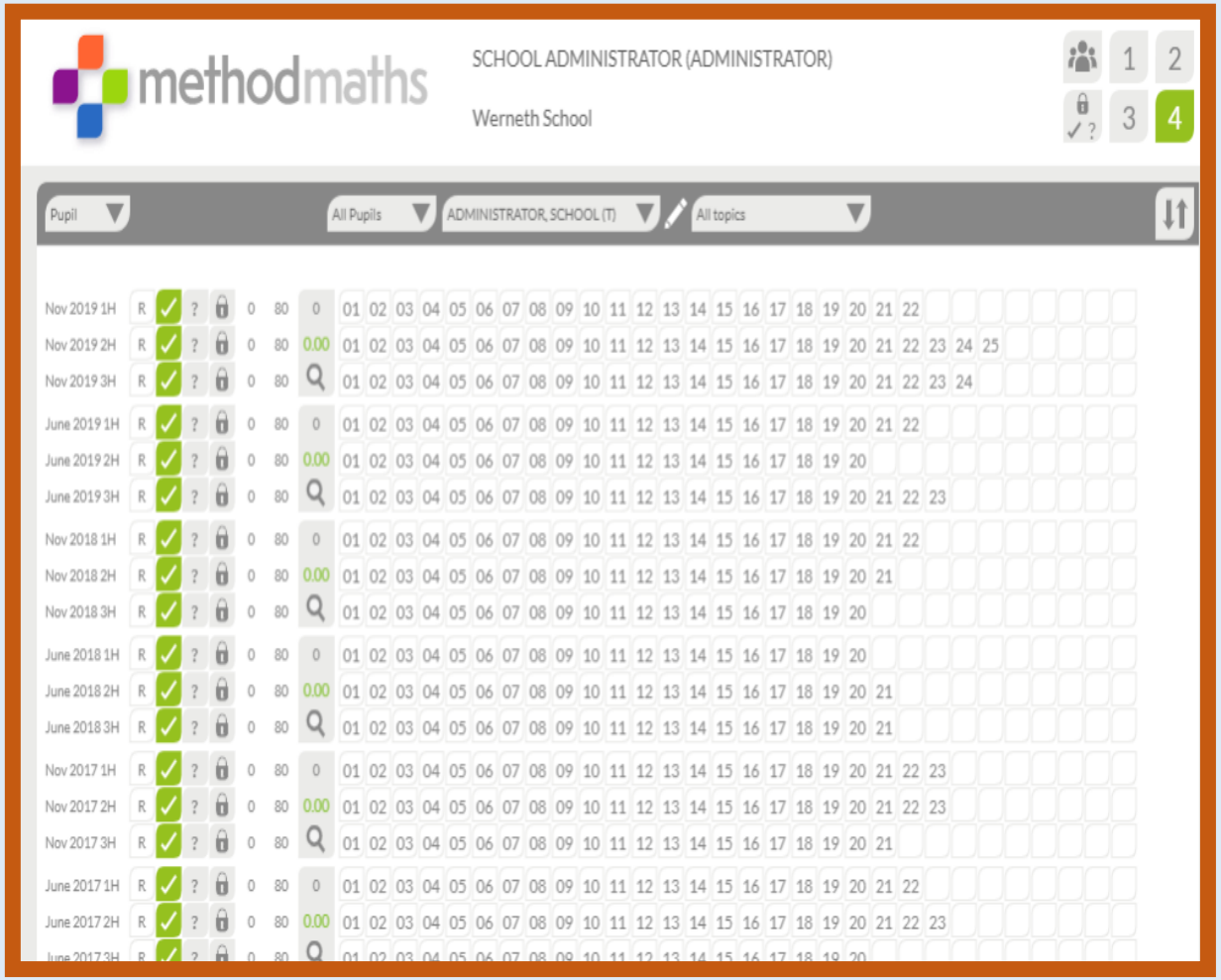
- Lessons planned so that your son/daughter has every chance of being successful
- Small group intervention timetabled for students that require that little bit extra support
- Weekly homework papers on method maths where they will receive instant feedback and support
- Detailed individual feedback after examinations



WERNETH SCHOOL

Y11 Maths Information

Using Method Maths



- Method maths is an essential tool to help progression in maths where you can keep track of how your child is doing and their grades on a weekly basis
- Students will get instant feedback on their answers and it guides them towards exam techniques
- Help is available on each questions to give students a structure to complete
- One paper is released to them each week
- Maths is done through practice this is essential revision to support them to do well

ID werneth
Username FirstnameSuranme i.e. JohnSmith
Password Werneth1!

MATHS

WERNETH SCHOOL

Y11 Maths Information

Supporting your child at home

Ensure they have the correct revision guide	Check the guide weekly to see if they have been answering the questions
Ensure they attempt as much of the paper for homework each week on method maths	Pick one question and ask them to talk to you about what they have done to answer
When they get feedback from examinations ask to see this and put it somewhere visible so that students can see it daily. Crossing each one off as they complete some work against it	This powerful tool will enable students to pinpoint where their learning needs to be focused
Ensure that students access the plethora of additional resources. Hegarty maths is a vastly useful too	This will ensure that students don't get frustrated when try to complete questions and they preserve. Direct link to their teacher

MATHS

WERNETH SCHOOL

Science 2020/21

Mr. M. Brighton
Subject Leader of Science

WERNETH SCHOOL
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Course	Combined Science	Triple Science
Number of Examinations	6 (2 Biol, 2 Chem & 2Phys)	6 (2 Biol, 2 Chem & 2Phys)
Duration of Examinations	1 Hour 15 Minutes (including 5 minutes reading time)	1 Hour 45 Minutes (including 5 minutes reading time)
Number of Marks Available in Each Exam	75	100
Practical Elements Examined? *(Please refer to your handout)*	Yes	Yes

WERNETH SCHOOL
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

TASSOMAI
The Learning Program

https://www.tassomai.com

Controlled Assessment Replacement

- Required practicals have now replaced controlled assessments (course work)
- Pupils will undertake the practical activities in lessons
- Students are examined with respect to the practical activities in their final examinations
- Accounts for 15% of the marks available in each exam paper

UNIT	BIOLOGY	CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS
1	1. Microscopy 2. Microbiology (biology only) 3. Osmosis		1. Specific Heat Capacity 2. Thermal Insulation (physics only)
2	4. Food tests 5. Enzymes		3. Resistance 4. V-I Characteristics
3			5. Density
4	6. Photosynthesis	1. Making salts 2. Neutralisation (chemistry only) 3. Electrolysis	
5	7. Reaction Times 8. Germination (biology only)	4. Temperature changes	6. Force & Extension 7. Acceleration
6		5. Rates of Reaction	8. Waves 9. Radiation & Absorption (physics only) 10. Light (physics only)
7	9. Field Investigations 10. Decay (biology only)		
8		6. Chromatography 7. Identifying Ions (chemistry only)	
9			
10		8. Water Purification	

How can I Help my Child?

- Ensure that they have purchased a revision guide through Parent Pay
- Test their knowledge of the physics equations using the tables in the hand out
- Help them to complete the following:

CREATE NOTE CARDS – there are some on the shared area to guide them. They can log in to this from home

MAKE SUMMARY NOTES - there are some on the shared area to guide them

PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS – they will be given a handout of previous exam questions to answer

SPEED TESTS – throughout the year pupils will sit multiple choice tests. These can be used as part of their revision at home

GET HELP – attend a revision session.

UNIT 1	work done = force × distance along the line of action of the force	$W = F\,s$
	Kinetic energy = 0.5 x mass x (speed)^2	$E_k = \frac{1}{2}\,m\,v^2$
	gravitational potential energy = mass × gravitational field strength × height	$E_p = m\,g\,h$
	power = $\frac{\text{energy transferred}}{\text{time}}$	$P = \frac{E}{t}$
	power = $\frac{\text{work done}}{\text{time}}$	$P = \frac{W}{t}$
	efficiency = $\frac{\text{useful output energy transfer}}{\text{useful input energy transfer}}$	
	efficiency = $\frac{\text{useful power output}}{\text{total power output}}$	
UNIT 2	energy transferred = power × time	$E = P\,t$
	charge flow = current × time	$Q = I\,t$
	potential difference = current × resistance	$V = I\,R$
	power = potential difference × current	$P = V\,I$
	power = current ^{2} × resistance	$P = I^2\,R$
	energy transferred = charge flow × potential difference	$E = Q\,V$
UNIT 3	density = $\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$	$\rho = \frac{m}{v}$

WERNETH SCHOOL
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Homework

- Pupils will receive at least one piece of homework per week
- The homework will be set in class and placed on show my homework
- All homework for GCSE students is revision based
- Teachers will make contact with you in cases of poor homework completion.

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

WERNETH SCHOOL
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SHOW MY HOMEWORK