



# **Kirkbie Kendal School**

## **An Introduction to Key Stage 4**

## **Contents**

- Introduction
- Timeline of Key Stage 4
- Changing GCSEs
- How to support your child in their study
- Target Setting
- Preparation for Exams and Revision
- Online Resources

## **An Introduction to Key Stage 4**

Year 10 and Year 11 make up Key Stage 4. These two years will form the most important two years of your child's education and will bring new demands upon them. We know that when parents/carers and school are working together, we will get the best results for your child. This booklet will answer some of the questions you may have about Key Stage 4 and will hopefully suggest ways in which you can help your child to do well. If after reading this you still have queries please contact your son/daughter's form tutor who will be able to answer any questions you may have or guide you to the appropriate person to talk to.

## Key Stage 4 Timeline

Year 10										
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Students</b>	Targets discussed with students.	Key Stage 4 information booklet sent home.								Year 10 Exams
<b>Reporting</b>			Interim Grade Sheet	Parents Evening		Interim Grade Sheet		Full Report		Y10 Exam Results

Year 11										
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Students</b>			Year 11 Mocks English Maths & Science		Year 11 Mocks		Exam Preparation	Exam Preparation	GCSE EXAMS	GCSE EXAMS
<b>Reporting</b>		Interim Grade Sheet	Sixth Form Open Evening	Mock Exam Results			Full Report	Interim Grade Sheet		

## Changing GCSEs

- New GCSEs will be graded 1 – 9 rather than A\* -G.

Ofqual

New GCSE grading structure

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

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

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

## **Target Setting**

All students will be set a target grade for each of their GCSEs. These targets will be found on target stickers in books and folders and on reports.

Targets are set using data on your son/daughter's performance and by comparing this data to the performance of similar students across Britain. The targets will therefore give an indication of how your child should perform in each GCSE if he/she makes progress in line with the top 25% of students with the same performance data. This target is not a cap on your child's performance and many of our students will exceed this target. We would encourage students to discuss targets with their teachers and ask for an increase if they feel it is too low.

Teachers will compare your child's performance against this target over the key stage and will give feedback based on this.

## **How to support your child in Key Stage 4**

Key Stage 4 will make new demands upon students. They will be expected to:

- Take more responsibility for their own learning
- Make sure they check their understanding with their teacher
- Make sure they ask when they do not understand a point
- Be organised with their work, including homework

Your support is crucial throughout your child's education. There are many things that you can do which will make a real difference to the final results:

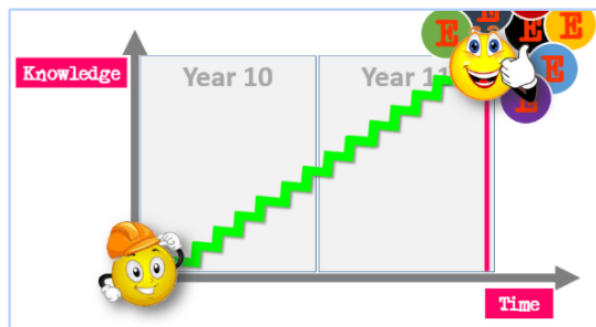
- Help your son / daughter view KS4 and GCSE preparation as a long haul, a marathon rather than a final sprint before the exams. Specific homework will be set in each subject, and revision before assessments is critical, but also help them get into the habit of reviewing their classwork and their notes each day, even where homework isn't set. For example, checking exercises are finished, or that key formulas or quotes are clear and easy to read.
- Make sure they attend school. Taking holidays during Key Stage 4 will have an impact on results. Every lesson is important. Most topic areas will be covered once and it makes it harder for students to keep up if they miss lessons. Every month during Key Stage 4 there are end of unit assessments. Missing these will have a major impact on results.
- Give them somewhere quiet to work but remove temptation – if they are using the internet can this be done where you can see so they are not tempted to surf or chat? Do they really need their games console and mobile phone only inches from their grasp? Can the mobile phone go in another room?

- Show an interest in the subjects being studied and try and talk about the work covered in school. Difficult at times with some teenagers but well worth the effort.
- Agree rules for when homework will be completed and check Edulink to find out what homework has been set. There is never 'no homework'. Reviewing work done during recent lessons is excellent use of time.
- Keep in close contact with school. If there are concerns with any issues letting school know as soon as possible will help to get the problem sorted out quickly.
- Preparation for all End of Unit Assessments and Year 10 and Year 11 Mocks will make learning material for the real GCSE much easier. Successful students prepare well for all the exam seasons – internal and external.

Old School: 'Last minute panic'



Everyday reviewing: 'Little and Often'



## Preparation for Exams

As Parents you could help with Revision:

- The best preparation for the final exams is good preparation for all the end of unit assessments and mock exams throughout Year 10 and Year 11.
- Supervise them. Your son/daughter needs to have planned their revision in advance – a simple calendar format will be sufficient, with the day, date and revision topics written in. Display their Revision Plan prominently at home where everyone can see it.
- Encourage them. Show an interest in what your son/daughter is actually revising and shower them with praise and encouragement for a) doing revision b) revising actively and creatively.
- Challenge them. Test them by doing things like asking them over breakfast to tell you ten things about the topic they revised last night.

- Look for 'Active' revision. There are many techniques for revision and using a range of active techniques will achieve the best results. Stick Post-its up around the house of keywords (e.g. on the back of the toilet door!); to make mind maps and colour code; practise exam questions. Ask to see some of the things they have done for their revision. They are all the kind of activities done in normal lessons that help them learn and excellent ways of revising.
- Provide them with a space to revise. Some wall space for post its, revision timetables and other information will help them. Post it notes, highlighters, coloured cards and other items will also be useful in helping them 'get creative' and stay interested in their revision.
- Listen to them. Let them tell you all about a topic. Ask them to explain the differences between a good exam answer and a bad one for each of their subjects. Listen to their moans and groans.
- Know their exam timetable. A countdown to the next exam or something displayed on the fridge to help keep in touch with what's coming up when.
- Feed and Water them. Your son/daughter's brain needs to be kept hydrated – water not fizzy pop – and nourished. On the morning of the exams it is imperative they eat a good breakfast to keep them nourished all morning. Students can take clear water bottles into the exams.
- Send them to bed. Very few people can revise effectively in the middle of the night – biologically the brain is at its lowest ebb from about midnight to 4am. Don't let them persuade you that they are a 'night owl'.

## **Online Resources and Revision Guides**

There are many fantastic resources available online especially for revision. There are links to these resources through our website – see the link below. Subject teachers will provide website lists and may supply revision guides or direct students to appropriate purchases.

<http://www.kirkbiekendal.cumbria.sch.uk/study-guidance/167.html>

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