



#Team Moorside KS4 Subjects Parent Update Term 1

We are pleased to share with you our latest Year 11 update. The aim of this newsletter is to provide an overview of the progress our Year 11 students have made so far and outline our plans for the coming weeks. As we approach a crucial phase in their journey, we want to ensure you have a clear picture of where students are currently working, how we are supporting them in school, and where our focus will be as we move towards the new year.

Mock Results Day – Monday 1st December

Year 11 students will receive their mock exam results during a special Mock Results Day assembly on Monday 1st December. Rather than simply being handed their results, students will experience what the real GCSE results day feels like, opening an envelope and seeing all their grades in one place. This event marks the starting point for the next approach to the summer examinations. Our goal now is to build on the successes achieved so far and ensure every student reaches their full potential.

We understand that this day may bring a mix of excitement and nervous energy, but there is no need for concern. Students will receive advice, support, and guidance before and after opening their envelopes. In the following weeks, the Senior Leadership Team and subject teachers will work closely with students to reflect on their results and share bespoke intervention packages to provide targeted support.

Why Mock Exams Matter

Mock examinations are a vital part of preparation. They allow students to practise revision strategies, identify areas for improvement, and develop confidence ahead of the real exams. The analysis of these papers will inform targeted intervention and revision between now and the next set of mock exams in January. For both students and teachers, these results provide clarity about the next steps forward and an opportunity to celebrate progress towards achieving and exceeding targets. Following the mock exam results, parents/carers will receive their child's Progress Report. Using this information together with their mock results, students should be devising their own revision programmes for the rest of the year. Parents/carers will have the opportunity to discuss any concerns from the progress report or mock exams during the Year 11 parent/carer evening on Wednesday 8th January. Bookings for the evening will open shortly.

'Tis the Season to Study

During the assembly on Monday, we will also launch our Christmas study initiative: **'Tis the Season to Study.'** Each student will receive an intervention card and be encouraged to complete **12 study sessions before the Christmas holiday.** These sessions will strengthen subject knowledge, improve retrieval skills, and build confidence ahead of the next mock cycle. Consistent attendance and engagement in these sessions will play a significant role in boosting outcomes across all subjects.

Thank You for Your Support

Your involvement at home, through encouragement, routine, and conversation, plays a powerful part in every student's success. Working together, we can ensure our Year 11s feel prepared, motivated, and confident in the lead-up to their examinations. We look forward to welcoming you into school for **Parents' Evening on Wednesday 8th January**, where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress, next steps, and any additional support that may be beneficial. Please click [here](#) to watch our new Y11 Vlog.

Kind Regards

Miss A Edge

Key Stage 4 Progress Leader



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Mathematics

Personalised QLA and Sparx Fix Up Programme:

Following the recent mock exams, all students will receive a personalised Question Level Analysis (QLA). This will show their performance across each topic using a simple colour system: green for topics where full marks were achieved, amber for partial success, and red for topics where no marks were scored. Sparx codes are included alongside each topic to support independent revision at home.

We strongly encourage students to use their time effectively by focusing their revision on the amber and red topics, as this is where they can make the greatest progress.

In addition, Sparx offers a Fix-Up Programme, personalised for every student. This feature allows students to practise the topics identified as amber or red in their QLA, ensuring they have clear guidance on what to work on next.

What we are studying this half-term:

Each Year 11 class is following a structured scheme of work to ensure thorough preparation for the upcoming exams. Higher Tier students will be studying vectors and vector proofs, advanced algebraic proof and equations for direct and inverse proportion. Foundation Tier students will be focusing on graphs, ratio and proportion and shapes.

Calculator:

We strongly recommend that every student has their own scientific calculator for Maths. Two out of the three GCSE exam papers require a calculator, and regular practice with the same device is essential for building confidence, improving accuracy, and increasing speed when solving problems. Having their own calculator also means students can become familiar with the functions they will need, ensuring they are fully prepared to use it effectively in the exam. We recommend the Casio ClassWiz FX-83GTX.

Questions to ask/ practice at home:

The best way for parents to get involved at home is to ask low stakes quiz questions. You can do this by using flash cards, ask the question or prompt on the first side of the card and let the student answer on the reverse. Collins have released free GCSE flash cards for all subjects, these can be accessed in the following link: [Flashcards](#)

Links to Revision guides/ websites/ online learning platforms:

- [Maths Genie](#)
- [Corbett Maths Papers](#)
- [1st Class Maths](#)
- [On Maths Past Papers](#)
- [Crash Maths Past Papers](#)



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English

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 students are focusing on consolidating key skills across both **English Literature** and **English Language** in preparation for their mock exams.

In **English Literature**, we have been studying:

- **An Inspector Calls (AIC)**: refining essay writing with a focus on character, theme, and the writer's message.
- **Macbeth**: practising extract analysis and full essay writing, ensuring students can confidently discuss language, structure, and context.
- **Poetry Anthology**: reviewing key poems and practising comparative essay writing, focusing on thematic links and poetic techniques.

Students have been revising **key characters, plot, themes, and quotations** to strengthen knowledge and build confidence ahead of assessments.

To support structured essay writing, we are using the **"Thesis, Track, Evaluate"** model, which helps students to:

- Begin each paragraph with a clear **thesis** (identify three bit ideas using thesis stem: writer's name + evaluative word + big idea + link to question).
- **Track** the development of that idea through evidence and analysis (5 significant moments).
- **Evaluate** the writer's methods and link back to the question and theme.

In **English Language Component 2**, we have been focusing on **fiction reading** and **transactional writing**. Students have been developing their ability to analyse how writers create effects through language and structure, and to produce their own non-fiction pieces such as letters, speeches, and articles that inform, persuade, and engage an audience.

Questions to ask / Practice at home:

- Encourage your child to **revise key quotations, big ideas, characters, and themes** from *An Inspector Calls*, *Macbeth*, and the Poetry Anthology.
- Ask them to explain their ideas using the Thesis, Track, Evaluate model to strengthen essay structure and argument.
- Support English Language practice by discussing current events or social issues, helping your child to express opinions clearly and persuasively for transactional writing tasks.
- Remind your child to read regularly, both fiction and non-fiction, to build vocabulary, empathy, and awareness of different viewpoints.



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MFL

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to keep you informed about the continuation of our mock examinations in Spanish. Your child will have now completed the speaking element of the exam however, as I'm sure you are aware, there are also listening, reading and writing papers still to complete. Our pupils will be completing these papers in their Spanish lessons of the week beginning 1st December. This will help us to more accurately gauge your child's progress in the course and to determine what areas we will need to focus on going forward.

To prepare for these assessments, we are asking pupils to use their knowledge organisers to revise the vocabulary from all topics we have covered thus far. Please also encourage them to make use of the resources suggested below, as well as the social media accounts we shared with them in lesson to aid their revision.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any concerns or questions.

What we are studying this half-term:

This half term we have learnt how to talk about healthy eating and what our plans are for the future. Students have been practicing key exam skills such as reading aloud, listening, reading, writing and translation. We are now beginning our penultimate module, life at school, and students will now learn how to talk about what they study, extra-curricular activities and how they would change their school.

Suggested Revision Activities:

Revise speaking questions – use flashcards to test yourself or ask a family member to test you. We have shared suggested social media accounts with useful revision tips. Quizlet to revise vocabulary.

Links to Revision guides / Websites / Online learning platforms:

- Amazon – GCSE Revision Guide
- Quizlet.com
- BBC Bitesize – GCSE Spanish
- <https://www.youtube.com/@AStarSpanish>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@MyGCSESpanishTutor-UK>



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Design & Technology

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. The purpose of this update is to inform you of important information and top tips to support your child in their Design & Technology qualification. GCSE D&T is made up of the following components:

Component	Format	Value	Dates
Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century	2 Hour Written Exam	50% of overall grade	Wednesday 10th June 2026
Component 2: Design and make task	Non-Exam Assessment – Approximately 35 Hours in class	50% of overall grade	Deadline: February Half Term

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any further support.

Mrs A Sargent
Head of Design & Technology

What we are studying this half-term:

This half term pupils have been working on their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) this is worth 50% of their overall grade. The NEA is broken down into the 5 sections shown below. In the first term we are working on sections A, B and C where pupils will investigate their design context and carry out relevant research to help them come up with an idea for a product. They will then produce design ideas and develop their ideas through sketching, modelling, testing and user feedback until they have a final design.

Assessment Criteria	Marks
A - Identifying and investigating design possibilities.	10
B - Developing a design brief and specification	10
C - Generating and developing design ideas	30
D - Manufacturing a prototype	30
E - Analysing and evaluating design decisions and prototypes	20
Total	100

Pupils completed a mock exam in Design & Technology on Thursday 6th November. Pupils are completing retrieval practice activities at the start of each lesson to help them prepare for further mocks and one lesson per fortnight has been allocated to exam revision.

Catch up and Intervention:

Pupils will be working on their NEA in class, but they are also allowed to work on it at home. Pupils work is saved on Teams so they can access it from anywhere. Extra sessions are available in school every Wednesday 3-4pm.

Links to Revision guides / Websites / Online learning platforms:

[BBC Bitesize Design & Technology – Eduqas](#)

[Eduqas Revision Resources – Design & Technology](#)



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History

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. The History assessment took place on the 4th November and the students completed Paper 3 (Weimar and Nazi Germany). To prepare for this exam, students revised the following areas:

- The Weimar Constitution – strengths and weaknesses
- Political challenges – Spartacist Revolt + Kapp Putsch
- Economic challenges – Occupation of the Ruhr, hyperinflation
- Hitler's rise to power & growth of the Nazi Party
- Early Nazi Party – Hitler's Road to chancellorship
- Establishment of a dictatorship – Reichstag Fire & Night of the Long Knives
- Nazi methods of control – propaganda, police state, Gestapo

What we are studying this term:

Last half term we have finished off our Paper 3 study and have now completed 80% of the GCSE History Course. Students have investigated how life changed for regular people under the Nazi Party and how the persecution of minority groups worsened through time. Students have now completed both Paper 1 and Paper 3 – meaning they can complete full past papers on both of these topics outside the lesson for revision. After sitting the November mocks, students will move on to their study of Superpower Relations and the Cold War – this is a very engaging module that students find both fascinating and challenging. In this topic we will delve into the nuclear deterrent, the ideological divide between capitalism and communism and key world events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, WW2, the establishment of the Berlin Wall and much more.

Suggested Revision Activities:

We are now at the stage of the academic year where students have covered almost all of the GCSE content. It is time to put these skills into practice, the best way to do this is with practice exam papers. If you are worried about content – pick three small areas of the course to revise, make notes with a textbook or your exercise book, learn them, ask someone to test you. Chunk revision into small manageable sections – we cover over 1000 years of History at GCSE Level – you will not be able to revise this all at once!

Links to Revision guides / Websites / Online learning platforms:

- BBC Bitesize - GCSE History Workbooks
- Revision World - GCSE History Revision
- Amazon Link - Paper 3 Workbook
- Revision Video Playlist - Paper 3



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Music

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. The purpose of this update is to inform you of important information, deadlines and top tips whilst your child completes Component 2 of their BTEC Music Practice course. Here is a reminder of the course overall and where your child is currently up to:

- Component 1 (30%) – Internally assessed coursework. This was completed in Year 10, and grades were announced on Results Day. Some pupils are resitting this component to try and improve their grade.
- Component 2 (30%) – Internally assessed coursework. This is currently being completed in lesson time. The last lesson pupils were given to work on this was Thursday 13th November.
- Component 3 (40%) – Externally assessed practical-based exam (23 hours long). This exam requires pupils to respond to a brief and put together all the knowledge and skills learnt throughout the course. Pupils are required to change a selected song into another genre through either a performance or production pathway.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further support.

Miss K Hill – Head of Music

What we are studying this term:

We have now completed our Component 2 coursework during lesson time. The exam board recommends that pupils spend a minimum of 15 hours on this piece, however, I planned to give pupils 23 hours to ensure enough detail and effort is put into their coursework. The last lesson pupils were given to work on this was Thursday 13th November. We are now focusing on the Component 3 practical exam and how to complete each section of it.

Suggested Revision Activities:

- Look over and revise the content in their Year 10 and 11 exercise books, as well as Knowledge Organiser sheets to assist them with Component 2.
- Be regularly rehearsing in their own time to help with their skills development for Component 2.
- Be researching and listening to a wide variety of genres to help them with their Component 3 practical exam.

Questions to ask / Practice at home:

“Where are you up to with your Component 2 coursework?”

“How much have you got left to complete?”

“Do you need to attend any intervention sessions to catch-up?”

Checking in with your child about where they are up to will help them to stay on track and focused. If you would like more information about Component 2, please feel free to email me and I can send across some resources to help aid these conversations.



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Drama

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 made a strong start back this year and have been working hard on their GCSE Drama course. Please see below for an update on the course.

Component 1 – Written exam

1. Section A – Theatre roles and responsibilities
2. Section B – Study of a set text – Blood Brothers
3. Section C – Live Theatre Review – Things I know to be True

May 2026. Students have now been taught all the content for this exam. They will be completing a full Component 1 mock in November and will continue to retrieve and revise this content ready for their exam in May.

Component 2 – NEA Devised performance

Students completed the devised performance in June 2025. Thank you for all the friends and family who came to watch! Students have now also mostly completed the 'Devising Log' which forms a large part of this component. Interventions will be taking place to support with the devising log in the coming terms.

Component 3 – Texts in Practice

For this component students perform two extracts from the same play. This will range from monologues to group pieces. The students have been provided with their scripts to learn their lines, and we have begun rehearsals. The exam will take place in February 2026 and there will be a performance evening which all family and friends will be invited to.

What we are studying this half-term:

This half term we have been focusing on Component 1. We began by looking at Section C -Live Theatre Review. Students watched a Digital Recording of 'Things I know to the True' by Andrew Bovell. We then analysed certain sections of the performance in more detail. Students looked at exam technique and command words, focusing on describing, analysing and evaluating the live theatre. Recently, we have moved back to Section B – Study of a set text and begun revising Blood Brothers.

Suggested Revision Activities:

All students have been given a CGP Blood Brothers revision guide. Within this, they will find revision reading and exam questions to support with Section B of Component 1. They also have an individual copy of the play which they will shortly be bringing home. They can re-read this at their leisure and use it to support with answering exam questions.

To help with Section C, students can practice exam questions where they describe, analyse and evaluate moments from 'Things I know to be True.'

Students have been provided with their scripts for Component 3, Texts in Practice. They will need to learn their lines as soon as possible to support their rehearsal within lessons.

Links to Revision guides / Websites / Online learning platforms:

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/drama/dmpbb41-gcse-drama-play-guide-blood-brothers>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/drama/dmr42-gcse-drama-revision-guide>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zrnjwty>

<https://www.gcsepod.com/>



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Computer Science

Dear Parents/Carers,

Students have now sat their first full mocks in computer science, and while there are clear areas we can improve students should be proud of themselves for their effort and achievement.

Moving forward we aim to continue to develop our programming skills, both on the computer and on paper. To better support your child, they should consider using SoloLearn, a programming app for Android and Apple which gives them quick digestible challenges each day. Daily programming practice will allow students to fly.

Please remind your child that intervention is available every Week B Wednesday with Mr Rooke and Friday with Mr Joynson.

Kind regards,

Mr Rooke – Head of Computing.

What we are studying this half-term & next:

Students will continue to revise both paper 1 and paper 2 topics. For paper 1 we are moving back to revise Networks and Network security, for paper 2 we will continue to revise best programming practice and load and saving files.

Suggested Revision Activities:

Ada Computer Science – Website and homework platform

Solo Learn - App

Questions to ask / Practice at home:

Write an algorithm to play this game. The rules are repeated from the start of the question here:

- The player is asked 3 additional questions
- Each question asks the player to add together two random whole numbers between 1 and 10 inclusive
- If the player gets the correct answer, 1 is added to their score
- At the end of the game their score is displayed

Links to Revision guides / Websites / Online learning platforms:

[Time2code.today](https://time2code.today)

[101Computing.net](https://101computing.net)

CSNewbs.com



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A Message to Our Year 11 Students

Every effort you make now matters. These next few weeks are an opportunity to show what you are capable of and to take control of your future. Stay

focused, keep pushing forward, and remember—hard work always pays off.
Believe in yourself, use the support available, and make every day count,
make every second count. You've got this!