

# YEAR 11 BULLETIN

CARING - DETERMINED - REFLECTIVE



## How to Prepare for GCSE Speaking Exams

The speaking exams this year are taking place from the **6<sup>th</sup> of May** and will run over a course of approximately two weeks.

### What is needed in a speaking exam?

The speaking exam is split into three sections:

- 1) **Role-play:** students receive a card in their preparation time with a role-play scenario which they can prepare. The ? symbol indicates that they will need to ask the teacher a question. The ! symbol indicates that the teacher will ask them something that is not printed on the card. Students should **not** extend their answers for these questions.
- 2) **Photo card:** students receive a card in their preparation time with a photo and three questions underneath. They should prepare answers to these three questions. With three clauses per question. The first question will always be: *What is in the photo?* The teacher will then ask two further surprise questions, based around the same theme.
- 3) **General conversation:** This section covers two themes, one of which the student chooses, and the other is randomly allocated. Students have a booklet of questions to prepare, and these can be practiced at home as much as possible to give them the best chance of scoring highly.

- [French booklet](#)
- [Spanish booklet – Higher](#)
- [Spanish booklet – Foundation](#)

### Preparing responses to conversation questions

In class, students will have received a homework booklet of practice role-plays and photocards, plus a list of conversation questions. Each answer, for the photo card and general conversation, should contain a minimum of three clauses, there should be plenty of opinions and answers should cover different time frames (past/ present/ future).

### Practicing for the exam

You can ensure that your child has prepared answers to these questions (this will be covered in lessons after Easter) and you can listen to them practice at home. Even if you don't speak French or Spanish, the questions are printed in English and you can have a go! AI tools or Google also have 'read-aloud' features so they could practise with these as well. You cannot practice too much! Confidence is absolutely key. It is worth noting that revision for the speaking exam is also fantastic preparation for the writing paper, so it's worth getting this bit right.

If you have any doubts, please contact **Mrs Bivega** (Head of MFL) or your child's languages teacher.

#### What can you do?

- **Use the Practice Booklets** – Encourage your child to practice answering their speaking exam questions regularly. Even if you don't speak French or Spanish, you can still help! The booklets contain English translations of the questions. Read the questions to your child and listen to their answers.
- **Encourage Full Answers** – Ensure your child includes at least three clauses in each response, expresses opinions, and uses past, present, and future tenses.
- **Build Confidence Through Repetition** – The more they practice, the more comfortable they will feel. Regular speaking practice will help them perform well in both the speaking and writing exams.

## Year 11 Information Evening – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

There is a change to the Y11 information evening scheduled in the calendar for 27<sup>th</sup> March (5-6 pm). The evening will now be for scheduled meetings for **invited students only**. If you have not received an invite to attend but would like to request a meeting for a later date, please use the following [form](#).

## Year 11 Prom

Final details are being confirmed!

A friendly reminder that all final payments are due by **Friday, March 28, 2025**

## Period 6

The current period 6 timetable is below. We've had a great turnout to our after-school intervention and encourage as many of you to come along. The sessions run from 3.30-4.30 pm.

Day	SUBJECT	Location
Monday	Maths (by invite only)	Maths corridor
	Business Studies (exam paper practice)	R19
Tuesday	Science (Higher & Foundation sessions)	R7 & R8
	Psychology	M5
	Sociology	B5
	Computer Science	B3
	Business Studies (exam paper practice)	R19
Wednesday	English	R11
	History	B10
Thursday	Maths	Maths corridor
	Geography	B corridor

### What to revise this week?

Each week the Bulletin will suggest some topics for revision to try and take the stress out of deciding what to revise.

**Biology:** 6. Plant structures and function - [BBC bitesize: Plant structures & functions](#)

**Chemistry:** 3. Acids and alkalis & Salts - [BBC Bitesize: Acids & Alkalis and Salts](#)

**Physics:** 8. Forces & their effects - [BBC bitesize: Forces & Their Effects](#)

**Geography:** Development - India (CASE STUDY) changing population, geopolitics and technology, impact of rapid development - Rev guide: p77-79

**History:** Increased settlement of the American West including the Homestead Act, the Timber Culture Act and Gold Rush - [resource](#)

**Business Studies:** Theme 2.5 Organisational structures, ways of working and communication - CGP revision guide and Knowledge organiser questions as per homework

**Psychology:** Psychological Problems: Depression - Characteristics, symptoms, incidence and effects of individuals and society – [Psychological Problems CB P3-7](#)

**Sociology:** Factors affecting life chances - Purple book p.98 and curriculum book