

# YEAR 11 BULLETIN

CARING - DETERMINED - REFLECTIVE

## Year 11 Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 11 Parents' Evening. It was a valuable opportunity for students, families, and teachers to discuss progress so far and to focus on the steps that will ensure a strong and confident finish to the year.

We were delighted with the positive engagement and thoughtful conversations taking place throughout the evening. Your continued support makes a real difference, and it was wonderful to see so many productive discussions as students move toward their final exams.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to offer targeted revision sessions, intervention opportunities, and resources to help students stay on track. Please encourage your child to make use of these and to speak with their teachers if they need any additional support.

If you were unable to attend or would like any further information, please feel free to contact the school, we are always happy to help.

Thank you again for your ongoing partnership.

## What will the science exams be like?

For Edexcel Combined Science GCSE, grades are based on performance in six written exams, covering biology, chemistry, and physics. Each exam is 1 hour and 10 minutes long and tests students' knowledge, understanding, and ability to apply concepts. Practical skills are also assessed within these exams, using questions based on core [practicals](#). The marks from all six exams are combined, and the total is used to determine two overall grades, ranging from 9-9 to a U, reflecting performance across the entire subject.

### How to prepare for GCSE science exams?

Science exam preparation has broadly two steps: learning key knowledge and applying it to past paper questions. Both strategies are covered in our period 1 program. Below are links to videos and resources for science revision.



### Learning the key knowledge: Flashcards

Flashcards are an effective way to learn because they encourage active recall and processing. Unlike passive methods like reading or highlighting, flashcards engage the brain more effectively. Each card should focus on one concept or fact, avoiding overload. After using the cards, review any challenging ones and repeat regularly to reinforce memory. Spacing out flashcard sessions helps improve retention over time.

The following links are to short videos on how to make and use flashcards:

[What makes an effective flashcard](#)

[How to use flashcards](#)

### Application of knowledge: Planned Practice

GCSE [past papers](#) and mark schemes are invaluable for revision. Many questions are repeated in similar forms, so practicing them increases the chance of seeing familiar ones in the exam. Marking your work also helps you understand how examiners expect answers, including specific phrases like “frequency of successful collisions” for explaining changes in rates of reaction. Practicing under timed conditions highlights gaps in knowledge, helping you learn from mistakes and improve.

## Recommended revision resources:

1. Mr Field's [revision presentations](#) on YouTube
2. KayScience [short tutorials](#) on YouTube
3. BBC Bitesize: [Edexcel Combined Science](#)

### What can you do?

- **Help them plan their week:** Encourage your child to create a simple revision timetable, balancing schoolwork, rest, and hobbies. Short, regular sessions are more effective than last-minute cramming.
- **Check in on their revision strategies:** Ask them what they learned in Period 1 sessions and which topics they're currently revising. Encourage the use of flashcards, past papers, and the recommended online resources.
- **Create a calm study space:** A quiet, organised environment can make a big difference to focus and motivation.
- **Promote healthy habits:** Sleep, hydration, and regular breaks all support better memory and wellbeing.
- **Encourage attendance at Period 6 and virtual sessions:** These targeted revision opportunities help consolidate knowledge and build exam confidence.

## Year 11 MOCKS

Year 11 mock exams will take place from **Monday 26th January to Friday 13th February**. These exams are an important opportunity for students to prepare for their final GCSEs and identify areas for improvement. Students are encouraged to use the revision and exam strategies they have been developing in Period 1 sessions to help them perform at their best. Mock timetables will be shared at a later date.

## Sixth Form Open Evening Update

It is great to hear so many of the students discussing the opportunities available at The Malling School. Please take a moment to use the QR code to let us know which courses you are interested in studying, this will help us plan for next year's Sixth Form provision.



## Virtual Science Period 6

We are continuing with our trial of virtual tutoring sessions. Next week we are running the session at a slightly later time. The session will run on Tuesday, 5:00-6:00 pm, via the [2025 – Y11 Team](#), offering a flexible way to learn from home.

To help us make these sessions even better, we're inviting students to complete a short feedback survey. While many are attending regularly, we'd love to know what times work best and understand any barriers that might prevent others from joining.

Please encourage your child to share their thoughts: [Click here to complete the survey](#)

## Year 11 Performing Arts – Important Deadlines

Year 11 students studying Performing Arts are now approaching key deadlines for Component 2, which, alongside Components 1 and 3, determines their final BTEC grade. Please note that no extensions or resubmissions are allowed for this component, so it's vital all work is completed by the dates below:

- **Drama** – Written work due Wednesday 3rd December
- **Dance** – Written work due Friday 5th December
- **Music** – Performance/Production final deadline: Monday 1st December

**Period 6:** The sessions run from 3.30-4.30 pm.

Day	SUBJECT	Location
Monday	Maths (Foundation)	R13
	<b>Topic: Money Calculations</b>	
Tuesday	Science	In person: R7
	<b>Topic: Chemistry – Giant Covalent Structures</b>	Virtual: 17:00-18:00
	Business	P2
Wednesday	English	R11
	<b>Poetry Anthology</b>	
	Computer Science	B4
	French & Spanish	Languages corridor
Thursday	Psychology	TSS
	Drama / Dance / Music	

### What to revise this week?

**Biology:** 5. Health and disease: Non-communicable diseases

- [BBC bitesize: Non-communicable diseases](#)

**Chemistry:** 3. Core practical: making copper sulfate - [BBC bitesize: Making copper sulfate](#)

**Physics:** 6. Radioactivity - [BBC bitesize: Uses & Dangers of Radiation](#)

**English:** Language Papers: question types and strategies.

**Geography:** Weather and climate - Global atmospheric circulation, natural climate change and human activity - Revision guide p. 21-33.

**History:** Trench layout, key battles, terrain, transport and illness in the trenches of WWI - [resource](#)

**Business Studies:** Theme 1.5 Legislation: Unemployment, interest rates, Government taxation & exchange rates - CGP revision guide and Knowledge organiser questions as per homework

**Psychology:** Issues and Debates: The Development of Morality – [Development curriculum booklet p.38-44](#)

**Sociology:** Types of schools - Purple book p.52 and your curriculum book