

Year 9 KS4 Information Booklet 2011



Dear Parents and Carers

Your child is embarking on the most important years in their secondary school career. As staff, we are ensuring that our provision and programmes will enable all pupils to achieve their full potential. However, we need your help and support to reinforce the necessity for excellent attendance, work at home and to take full advantage of the opportunities available at Woodchurch High School.

You will be aware pupils have taken their options and have started their Key Stage 4 Courses. It is therefore, vital for pupils to be fully focused on their lessons and make the most of their time at Woodchurch, so leave their secondary education fully equipped to embark on further education or a position of work.

We hope that you make full use of the information and advice contained in this booklet and use the evening to discuss progress made so far with your child's form tutor. For further Year 9 updates please check the school website at: www.woodchurchhigh.com and if you are registered for PARENT MAIL, you will receive email updates and important messages.

With regards

Ms R. Phillips
Headteacher



Mrs Loney
Asst. Headteacher for Pastoral Support and Guidance



Mr. Smith
Pupil Progress Leader Year 9



Miss. Tracey
Asst. Pupil progress Leader Year 9



Important forthcoming Dates

Tuesday 3rd January	Year 9 Trial Examinations Begin
Friday 13th January	Year 9 Trial Examinations End
Monday 27th February	Year 9 Full Reports Issued
Tuesday 28th February	9X Parents Evening
Thursday 1st March	9Y Parents Evening
Monday 21st May	Year 9 Progress Reports Issued

The Trial Examinations are extremely important. They give the pupils the opportunity to experience examination conditions in the hall in preparation for their external examinations in the future.

They also give an opportunity for staff and pupils to assess progress that has been made so far.

**Year 9 Subject Information, some important dates
and information on how you can support
your child with their Key Stage Four courses**

Mathematics

What will be covered in the course this year?	Pupils will work on number percentages, fractions, algebra, solving equations, Mathematical expressions and graphs
Important Dates	Unit 2 GCSE Examination in March
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	Every three weeks there are assessment tests
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There will be extra revision classes after school near the GCSE examination in March
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils receive weekly homework on MyMaths which they complete on a computer. It is vital that this is done to support progress.

English

What will be covered in the course this year?	There is a class reading book that the pupils are reading. Other topics include poetry, non fiction work, short story analysis. In the Summer term, year ten work commences on the novel, "Of Mice and Men"
Important Dates	There will be an examination in the Summer term which will be used to set pupils for year ten
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	Every half term there is a controlled assessment to monitor progress
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Every Thursday night there is a homework club that pupils are welcome to attend for support and guidance
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Sets 1-4 receive two homework tasks per week. Sets 5-7 receive one homework task per week. Pupils are encouraged to practice reading and writing at home. Also of use is the "skills-wise" website which has games on punctuation, reading and spelling which are of use to pupils of all ability

GCSE Science:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Sets 1-4 have started their GCSE Courses. They are now taught Physics, Chemistry and Biology separately and follow the new AQA GCSE Scheme of work.
Important Dates	Progress Test during the January Trial Examinations End of Year Examination on 28th June
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment in lessons with regular progress tests. There are two formal tests during the January Trial Examinations and the End of Year Examination
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There will be extra revision classes after school for the Progress Test and the End of Year Examination
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils receive three homework tasks per week and it is vital these are completed to support progress and learning.

BTEC Science:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Sets 5-6 have started a BTEC Skills course where they are learning research, analysis, teamwork and independent learning skills
Important Dates	There is ongoing assessment throughout the year.
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	Pupils' work is assessed regularly.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Pupils can stay after school on any day to do any extra work as arranged with their class teacher
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils should be encouraged to discuss the new skills they are learning and the work they are covering.

Modern Foreign Languages:

What will be covered in the course this year?	There are five topics that are covered this year: 1. Work & Education, 2. Current & Future Jobs, 3. Free Time & The Media, 4. New Technology and 5. Holidays
Important Dates	During February there will be a practical controlled task. In June there will be a formal controlled assessment
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	Pupils receive milestone assessments at the end of each topic
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There will be after school classes for pupils to attend near the controlled assessment dates
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Ask you child to talk to you in the language they are learning and to read to you work they have written. This is vital to build up fluency the chosen language.

GCSE Health & Social Care

What will be covered in the course this year?	Effective Relationships, The Effect of Life Events, Life Stages and Factors Affecting Growth & Development
Important Dates	19th June, Unit 1 Examination
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment and regular tests to assess progress. The next one is on 25th November
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There is extra support available after school and revision classes are available also.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Make sure pupils revise for their tests and complete homework that is set weekly. Family members can also be a useful resource for homework tasks about Growth & Development.

BTEC Health & Social Care

What will be covered in the course this year?	Communication within Health & Social Care, Individual Rights and Human Lifespan and Development
Important Dates	There is ongoing assessment throughout the year
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	Pupils have individual tracking sheets and can see what they need to complete to move from a PASS to a MERIT and then to a DISTINCTION.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There is extra support available for pupils on request
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Homework is set weekly and completion is vital to support progress.

GCSE Media:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Music Video Analysis, Film Analysis, Storyboard production .
Important Dates	January 31st Music Video Assignment Deadline June 30th Film Assignment Deadline
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment, and the two assignments will be used to assess progress
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There are extra classes every Wednesday evening after school
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	It is vital that the two assignment deadlines are met.

Art Graphics

What will be covered in the course this year?	Music and CD design, Photography and image editing
Important Dates	There is a mock examination in January
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment in lessons.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Every Monday and Friday after school
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Look at their child's sketchbook and encourage them with the work that they are doing.

BTEC Art:

What will be covered in the course this year?	The school environment, layered drawings, analysis of the work of four different professional artists.
Important Dates	The first unit will be moderated in the week before February half term
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment in lessons.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Pupils are welcome to come after school when arranged with their class teacher.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Look at their child's sketchbook and encourage them with the work that they are doing.

BTEC Music

What will be covered in the course this year?	Working in the music industry, DJ Technology & Performance, Ensemble Musicianship and Solo Performance
Important Dates	9th December the first assignment is due
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There are seven individual assignments to assess progress throughout the year
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There is extra support available every lunchtime
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	It is important that all seven assignments are completed and handed in on time

GCSE Music:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Performance and composition
Important Dates	The first unit will be moderated in the week before February half term
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment in lessons.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Pupils are welcome to come after school when arranged with their class teacher.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Look at their child's sketchbook and encourage them with the work that they are doing.

GCSE Drama:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Devised work, acting techniques, acting skills, devised dramas, epic theatre, Greek myths.
Important Dates	There will be a trial examination in January and an End of Year Formal Assessment.
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	The trial examination and End of Year Formal Assessment will be used to assess progress.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There is extra support available every lunchtime
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils receive homework once per week. You could also help pupils learn lines.

GCSE Religious Studies

What will be covered in the course this year?	Topics include Our World, Looking For Meaning, Relationships in the World and Fairness
Important Dates	There is an examination at the end of the course.
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There are milestone assessments at the end of each unit.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There are extra classes every Thursday after school until 4pm
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Ensure weekly homeworks are complete. Encourage pupils to revise for milestone assessments and visit the school's VLE page with your child and look at the RS Area.

GCSE History:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Topics covered are Depression, War and Recovery in England and Wales.
Important Dates	The will be a Unit Examination in June for selected pupils.
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There are end of unit milestone tests to assess progress
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There will be revision classes after school in preparation for the June examination
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils receive homework once per week. It is vital it is completed to support progress

GCSE Geography:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Topics covered are The Restless Earth, Rivers & Flood and Coasts
Important Dates	The will be a Unit Examination in June for selected pupils.
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There are milestone assessments at the end of each unit.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There will be revision classes after school in preparation for the June examination
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils receive homework once per week. It is vital it is completed to support progress. There is a revision guide available which could be purchased to aid pupils with their work and revision.

BTEC Work Skills:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Units covered are Managing Your Money, Self-Assessment, Career Progression, Team Work, Learning From Experience People, Building Working Relationships with Other People
Important Dates	There are assignments due at the end of each half term
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	Pupils complete a portfolio of evidence based on their assignments which is marked by the class teacher and externally moderated.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There is extra support available for pupils on request.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Encourage the pupils to visit the school's VLE. There is support for the entire course on there

GCSE Physical Education:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Topics covered Fitness, Basketball, Trampolining, Athletics, Rounders and Swimming. PE Theory covers Body Systems, Drug Use, Training Methods and Sport Participation
Important Dates	There is a written examination in the week commencing 12th December
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There are two formal assessments in PE Theory. Pupils have ten weeks on each practical sport and are assessed at the end of each period.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Monday/Thursday: Girl's Netball Tuesday: Boys & Girl's Basketball Wednesday: Volleyball & Handball Thursday nights in ICT 5 there is PE Theory Support
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Parents are always needed to provide lifts in cars to aid pupils competing in away fixtures.

BTEC Physical Education:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Practical Sport Skills, Badminton theory and skills.
Important Dates	The is ongoing assessment in lessons
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	The is ongoing assessment in lessons
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There is extra support available for pupils on request.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Parents are always needed to provide lifts in cars to aid pupils competing in away fixtures.

GCSE Information Technology:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Topics covered are Emerging Technologies, Technology in Education, The World or Work, Social Implications of IT and IT in the Entertainment World
Important Dates	There is a coursework deadline on 12th December and a final assessment in June 2012
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is 60% coursework and 40% examination
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There will be extra classes available from the first week in December.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Check weekly homework assignments are completed and purchase a revision guide through school which costs three pounds

GCSE Business Studies:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Topics covered are Business Ownership, Marketing, Human Resources, Business Environment and Production Finance
Important Dates	There is an internal examination in April
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	75% final examination, 25% coursework
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There are extra classes every Thursday after school
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Encourage children to read newspapers and current affairs periodicals. Revision guides are available for three pounds through school.

GCSE Textiles:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Unit One topics covered Alice in Wonderland Design and Development, Felting Project based on the work of the artist Claire Tough.
Important Dates	There is an internal examination in January on Natural Surfaces & Sea Life
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There are twenty marks available on the four strands of Textiles: design, research, development and the final project.
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	There is extra support available every night after school.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Take pupils to Art Exhibitions if possible to widen experiences, and attend an upcoming skills-based class for parents

GCSE Music:

What will be covered in the course this year?	The course in Year 9 is 40% Performance, 40% Composition and 20% Listening. Areas of study covered are Timbre, Texture, Duration, Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics
Important Dates	Personal Composition is due in June 2012 There will be an external listening examination in June 2012.
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment using the GCSE criteria
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	To support their work and peripatetic lessons, pupils are free to book the rehearsal rooms at anytime to support their work.
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils should be encouraged to practice their chosen instrument as much as possible and benefit greatly from listening to music outside their normal chosen area, such as classical music

GCSE Engineering:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Work covered is Product Analysis, Production Planning, Hand & Machine Tools, Drawing Techniques, Material Analysis, Health & Safety in the workshop, CAD/CAM and improving evaluation skills
Important Dates	Trial Examination in January Trial Examination in June
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	The assessment will be based on the two trial examinations and work completed in class
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Pupils are welcome to come after school Monday to Thursday to do extra work
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	There is an AQA Support Book available through school

GCSE Catering:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Developing practical skills to a level for controlled tasks, with a focus on dairy foods. Nutrition, storage, preparation and presentation of different foods.
Important Dates	In the final half term there will be a controlled task where pupils will plan, prepare and evaluate a meal
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment that will be supplemented by the final controlled task
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	These are available from Monday to Thursday one request from pupils
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils should practice their cookery skills as much as possible at home. The BBC Good Food website is an excellent resource for recipes

BTEC Hospitality:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Investigating the Hospitality Industry, World Foods and the preparation of meals for different occasions
Important Dates	There are no significant dates this academic year
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There are three units which form the basis of pupil assessment this year
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	Pupils are welcome to come after school Monday to Thursday to do extra work
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils should practice their hospitality skills as much as possible at home. The BBC Good Food website is an excellent resource for recipes

GCSE Fine Art:

What will be covered in the course this year?	Topics are Central American Art, Printing, Ceramics and Illustration Skills
Important Dates	There is a mock examination during the Year 9 exams in January
How will the pupils be assessed this year?	There is ongoing assessment that will be supplemented by mock examination
Are there any extra classes to support learning?	These are available from Monday to Thursday on request from pupils
How can parents/carers support their child's progress?	Pupils take their sketch books home to work on them. Ask the children what they are working on and encourage them to add more detail to their work

Top Tips for Revision & Progress

Hard work is vital for success!



In January there will be two sessions for Year 9 Pupils to teach them how to revise independently. They will be given tips on how to arrange their time, speed read, produce mind maps and how to use flash cards to help them learn.



However, this programme, while giving pupils additional information and skills, needs to be reinforced with intensive and proactive revision at home. Please support your child by creating an environment suitable for work and study.

Useful Websites for subject revision & support

Maths – www.mymaths.co.uk

www.mathswatch.co.uk

Both of these websites are accessible through the school VLE.

English – www.englishbiz.co.uk

www.skillswise.co.uk

www.gcsebitesize.co.uk – for both English Language and English Literature

Science – www.educationusingpowerpoint.com

Catering / Food – www.food.gov.uk

www.nutrition.org.uk

www.eatwell.gov.uk

www.bbcgoodfood.com

Languages – www.elgancho.es

www.bbc.co.uk

Linguascope (GCSE section)

Mary Glasgow magazine site

History –

Depression, War and Recovery

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/britain/>

Health and Medicine through time

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/shp/>

<http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/revision/medicine.shtml>

<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife.aspx>

Textiles –

No particular website specified but pupils should use search engines such as Google to find topic specific work.

PE -

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/pe/Pages/default.aspx>

The above link takes you to the GCSE PE specification where there is the full syllabus with interactive exam questions.

Music –

www.sfskids.org

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/music/

www.grooveshark.com –

This is to be used for listening to and identifying different genres of music.

www.mtrs.co.uk - *Pupil area*

www.musictheory.net

ICT-

www.gr82bgeeky.co.uk

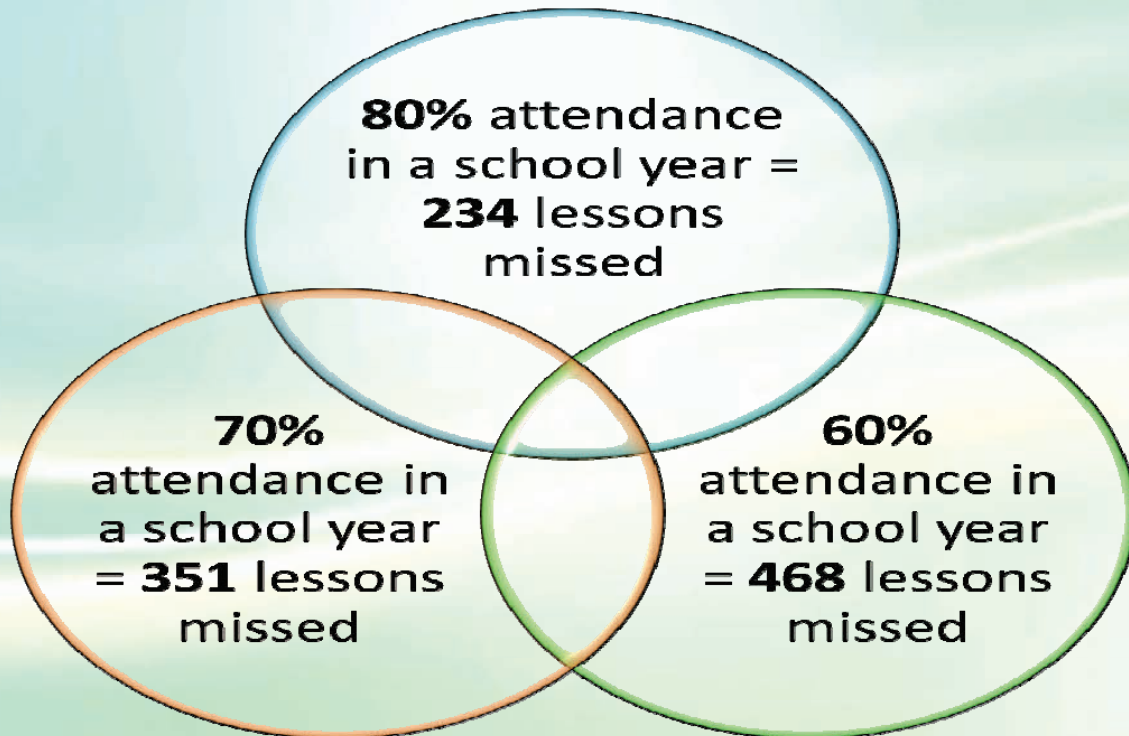
www.bbc.co.uk/gcsebitesize

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



AT

WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL



Don't miss out on your GCSE grades!



Every Lesson Counts



In this crucial year of your child's education, and for their benefit, we would respectfully ask that you avoid family holidays taken in term time. These requests cannot be authorised by the School.

We would like to advise parents and carers that GCSE Exams do not officially finish until the last week of June 2012. If you have booked a holiday before this time please telephone school immediately for further advice.