



Pre-Advanced maths and English Department.

Parents' and Carers' guide
to maths and English Courses.

**Riverside
College**

Widnes & Runcorn

www.riverside.ac.uk

Maths and English are subjects that are just as important as your son/daughter's vocational course, as they can lead to many a beneficial outcome: **employment, apprenticeships, university, internal progression, even just a confidence boost!**

The maths and English team work hard to reinforce this positive message with students throughout the year, and so it is important that this continues beyond their time spent in college.

- For maths and English, there are two types of course offered at the college: **GCSE and Functional Skills**
- If any student-new or returning-does not have a C or 4 in GCSE English Language, they are required to study maths/English in either of these forms until the end of the academic year as a condition of the funding of their main vocational course
- The maths/English qualification that a student studies depends on their highest grade achievement in the subject

The Pre-Advanced maths and English department ethos:

The team provide expert support and guidance in order to develop your son/daughter's maths and English skills further through high quality teaching and learning.

- If your son/daughter is studying GCSE, they will be sitting a 2-year qualification in 10 months. This means that the next 10 months will require **hard work** and **dedication** from the start. The following pages give details of resources your son/daughter can use to make the most of this time
- Students will no longer be awarded A*-G but instead will be awarded according to the new 9-1 grading system, with 9 being the highest grade
- Students must achieve a **grade 4 or higher** to pass. This is the equivalent to the 'old' grade C



GCSEs

GCSE English



- There are **no controlled assessments**. Students will sit two exam papers, with dates set by the exam board. The provisional dates for the exams are below. Please be aware that these could change slightly between now and October. Can you please ensure that holidays are **NOT** booked for these dates as your son/daughter has no chance of passing unless they sit both exams
 - Students will take a separate speaking and listening assessment during the year, and will be awarded Pass, Merit or Distinction. This does not count towards the 9-1 grade for the exams taken in June
 - The reading sections of the exams will be based on fiction (e.g. extracts from novels or short stories) and non-fiction (e.g. articles) from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries across the two papers
 - Students will cover each paper question by question in the form of units. They will then sit a mini assessment for each unit/question so that they can see which skills they need to work on
- Paper 1:** Tuesday 5th June 2018 at 9.00am
Paper 2: Friday 8th June 2018 at 9.00am
- Each exam paper is **1 hour 45 mins long**
 - There are no tiered papers. Students can therefore potentially achieve any grade between 9 and 1

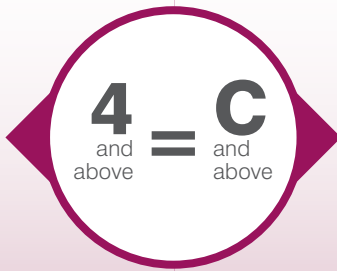
GCSE maths



- Students will sit **three** exam papers, with dates set by the exam board. The provisional dates for the exams are below. Please be aware that these could change slightly between now and October. Can you please ensure that holidays are **NOT** booked for these dates as your son/daughter has no chance of passing unless they sit all three exams
 - Each exam paper is **1 hour 30 mins long**
 - Your son/daughter will be sitting the foundation paper this year in college. Students can therefore potentially achieve any grade between 5 and 1
 - Students will cover each paper question by question in the form of units. They will then sit a mini assessment for each unit/question so that they can see which skills they need to work on
- Paper 1:** Thursday 24th May 2018 at 9.00am
Paper 2: Thursday 7th June 2018 at 9.00am
Paper 3: Thursday 12th June 2018 at 9am



New GCSE grading structure

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above• Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above• The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G										
A*		A	B	C		D	E	F	G	U
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										

Your son/daughter will have to work hard to be successful on their GCSE maths/English course this year. We would expect your son/daughter to maintain at least 95% attendance and complete **a minimum of 1 hour work outside the classroom per week**. This could be homework or directed study provided by their tutor or practice/revision using the various resources available online (recommended websites listed below).

Your son/daughter may also be invited to attend revision or booster classes as the main exams draw near. This is all vital to ensuring that students have covered, practised and revised everything necessary to maximise their potential and achieve the best possible results.

Recommended books for GCSE English:

- **SNAP REVISION READING AQA** Revision Reading AQA GCSE English Language. Paperback. **£2**
- **OXFORD REVISE AQA GCSE English Language:** Targeting Grade 5. Paperback. **£5.99**
- **REVISE AQA GCSE (9-1) English Language Revision Cards:** With Free Online Revision Guide (GCSE English Language 2015) Cards. **£8.99**
- **REVISE AQA GCSE English Language Revision Workbook:** For the 9-1 Exams (REVISE AQA GCSE English 2015) Paperback - 20 Apr 2016. **£5.97**
- **New GCSE English Language AQA Study & Exam Practice:** Grades 5-1 Paperback - 17 Dec 2015. **£6.50**

Recommended books for GCSE maths:

- **REVISE Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics** Foundation Revision Cards (ISBN 9781292173238) **£8.99**
- **SNAP REVISION ALGEBRA EDEXCEL** (ISBN 9780008218065) **£2**
- **SNAP REVISION GEOMETRY AND MEASURE EDEXCEL** (ISBN 9780008242350) **£2**
- **GCSE Maths Pocket Posters Revision Guide** (ISBN 9781906248345) **£3.49**

Academic year 2017-2018 at a glance:

GCSE English Language and maths

	GCSE English Language	GCSE maths
Teaching term 1 w/c 4th September - w/c 16th October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction & diagnostics • Introduction to 19th Century life • Unit 1 - Identifying Information • Unit 2 - Through The Looking Glass • Unit 3 - Reading Between The Lines • Unit 4 - The Laws Of Language - Part 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INDUCTION TALK • Introduction to Maths • Making Sense of Maths • Making Sense of Algebra • Mastering Algebra Assessment
Half term break	Monday 23rd October - Friday 28th October 2017	Monday 23rd October – Friday 28th October 2017
Teaching term 2 w/c 30th October - w/c 18th December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to ones • Speaking and listening assessment • Unit 5 - The Laws Of Language Part 2 • Unit 6 - Comparing Attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stats & Data Handling • Stats & Data Handling Assessment
Christmas break	Wednesday 20th December 2017 - Thursday 4th January 2018	Wednesday 20th December 2017- Thursday 4th January 2018
Teaching term 3 w/c 1st January - w/c 12th February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 7 - Unleashing Your Creativity • Unit 8 - Simplifying Structure • Unit 9 - Building A Solid Argument • Mock Paper 1 Section B w/c 15th January 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratio & proportion • Ratio & proportion Assessment
Half term break	Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2018	Monday 12th February- Friday 16th February 2018
Teaching term 4 w/c 19th February - w/c 19th March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 9 continued • Unit 10 - Points Of View And Perspective • Mock Paper 1 Section A w/c 26th February • Full Mock Paper 2 w/c 26th March 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometry • Full Mock Paper w/c 26th March
Easter break	Monday 2nd April - Friday 13th April 2018	Monday 2nd April –Friday 13th April 2018
Teaching term 5 w/c 16th April - 21st May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exam preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exam preparation
Half term break	Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018	Monday 28th May-Friday 1st June
EXAM WEEK	PAPER 1: TUESDAY 5TH JUNE 2018 - 9AM PAPER 2: FRIDAY 8TH JUNE 2018 - 9AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 Thursday 24th May 2018 at 9.00am • Paper 2 Thursday 7th June 2018 at 9.00am • Paper 3 Thursday 12th June 2018 at 9am

Functional Skills: English and maths

- Four different levels: entry level 1, entry level 2, entry level 3, level 1 (the highest)
- The exam board is Edexcel/Pearson
- **ENGLISH:** Students sit 3 exams: reading exam, writing exam and speaking and listening assessment. **They must pass all three to gain a certificate** and therefore progress to the next level the following year
- **MATHS:** students sit 1 exam
- Exams are taken throughout the year and dates are set by the tutor
- Provides an excellent foundation for GCSE; once a student has achieved level 1, they move on to GCSE the following year

Recommended websites:

- www.bbcskillswise.co.uk
- www.doddle.co.uk
- www.mathswatch.co.uk

Recommended English Websites:

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>
- www.englishbiz.co.uk
- www.learnthings.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revision
- www.universalteacher.org
- www.doddle.co.uk

Recommended maths websites:


- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revision
- www.doddle.co.uk
- www.mathswatch.co.uk
- www.corbettmath.com
- www.hegartymaths.com



Academic year 2017-2018 at a glance:

Functional Skills English and maths

	Functional Skills English	Functional Skills Maths
Teaching term 1 4th September - 16th October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction & diagnostics • Introduction to reading and writing skills needed for exam papers • Purpose of a text • SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) refresher • Mock reading exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Whole Numbers and negative numbers in context • Add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers • Fractions, decimals and percentages • Ratio • Use simple formulae expressed in words
Half term break	Monday 23rd October - Friday 28th October 2017	
Teaching term 2 w/c 30th October - 18th December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading exams w/c 6th November 2017 • Writing skills • SPaG refresher • Speaking and listening assessments w/c 4th December-w/c11th December 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solve problems requiring calculation with common measures, • Convert units of measure in the same system • Work out areas and perimeters in practical situations • Construct geometric diagrams, models and shapes
Christmas break	Wednesday 20th December 2017 - Thursday 4th January 2018	
Teaching term 3 w/c 1st January - 12th February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing skills and formats • Mock writing exam #1 w/c 29th January 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract and interpret information from tables, diagrams, charts and graphs • Collect and record discrete data and organise and represent information in different ways • Find mean and range • Use data to assess the likelihood of an outcome. • Journey Planning and time
Half term break	Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2018	
Teaching term 4 w/c 19th February - 19th March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing skills and format continued • Mock writing exam #2 w/c 5th March 2018 • Writing exams w/c 19th March 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequences, Schedules and time tables. • F.S. Maths revision • Mock exam paper L1 and Entry Level • Online L1 and Entry Level Exam
Easter break	Monday 2nd April - Friday 13th April 2018	
Teaching term 5 16th April - 21st May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability skills • Reading/writing exam resits (if necessary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F.S. Maths revision • Exam resits (if necessary)
Half term break	Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018	
Teaching term 6 w/c 4th June - 9th July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability skills • Reading/writing exam resits (if necessary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F.S. Maths revision • Exam resits (if necessary)



If you have any questions about anything in this leaflet or would like to discuss your son/daughter's progress, you can contact the Pre Advanced English team on: 0151 257 2800 extn 1393 (Riverside) - 0151 424 1515 (Cronton) or using the relevant email address:

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