

Dalriada School

Year 12 Parents
Information Evening for
Internal Applicants to
Dalriada

POST GCSE OPTIONS

28th February 2023



Panel

**Mr. T. Skelton,
Headmaster**

**Mr. J. Devlin,
Head of Year 12**

**Mrs. C. Kelly,
Head of Careers**

**Mrs. A Williamson,
Head of 6th Form**

Are 'A' levels the right choice?

Why am I interested in studying A levels?

Would I benefit from A levels?

Do I really understand what is involved in A level study?

Do my teachers think I should proceed in this subject?

Do I know which AS/A2 levels I could study?

Entry criteria for Sixth Form

Pupils must demonstrate that they have the potential to succeed in their chosen courses

Their academic potential is assessed by their GCSE results

We also consider school reports and their record of behaviour/attendance

Minimum requirement normally is five subjects – at least three A*-B and two Cs.

Pupils should have at least a grade C in English and Maths

Research

1. Most schools reserve 4 AS subjects for a minority of students applying for specific courses. They certainly do not ask all Year 13 entries to start on 4 AS subjects.
2. The vast majority of Universities no longer require a 4th AS subject when deciding if a student is suitable for a course.
3. 3 Good A-Levels supported by a good application are now the best indicator of a student's suitability for an undergraduate course.
4. On average those students, who this year have dropped to 3 AS subjects have spent over 115 hours in a class that they will not get credit for.

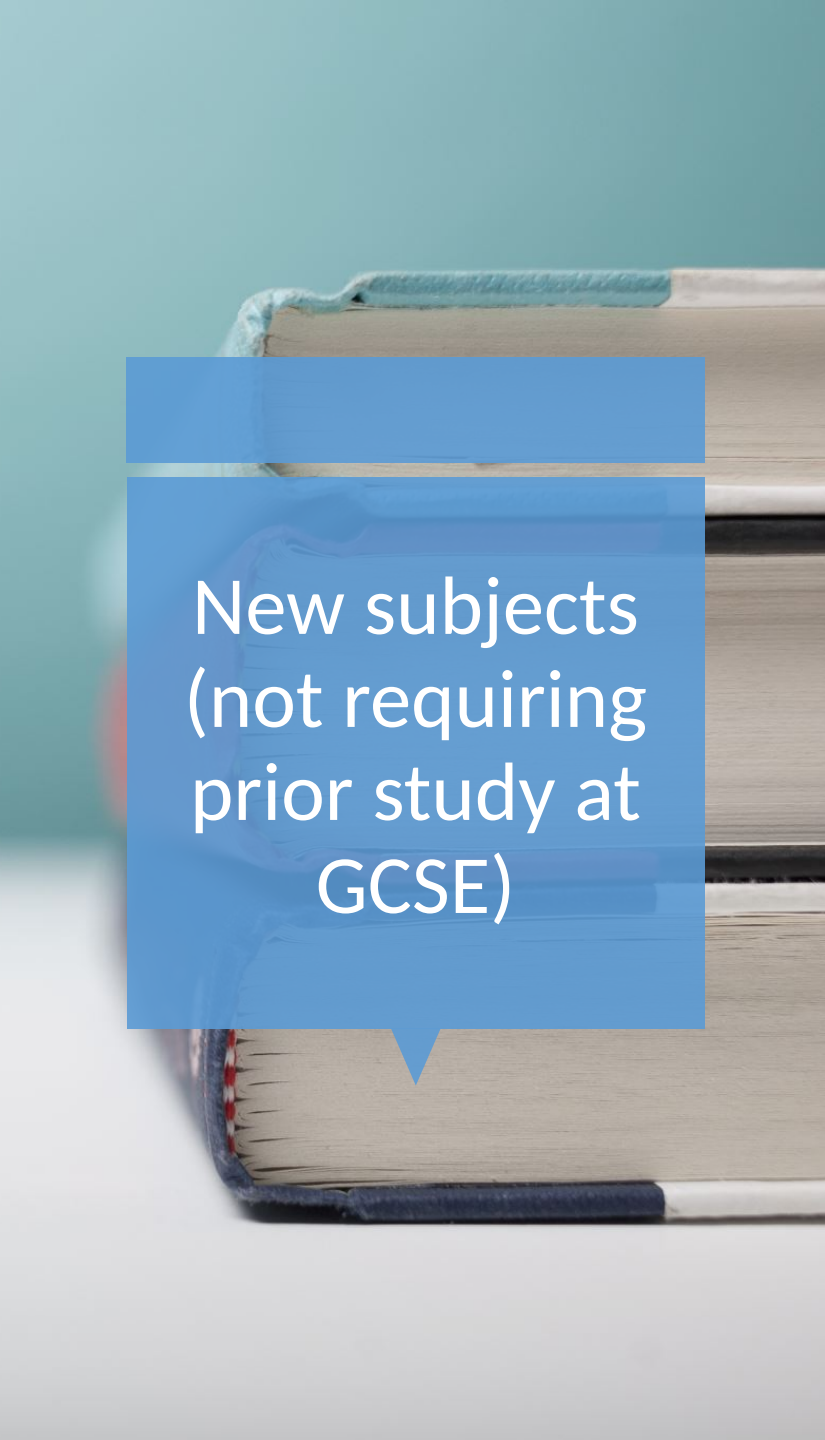


Way forward....

1. We would expect students to select 3 AS subjects.
2. If they feel the need to select 4 subjects their application will be considered by a newly formed 6th Form Entry Panel.
3. Build in the usual flexibility to change in the Autumn Term.
4. If we can achieve it, increase the amount of curricular time to each A-Level subject.

Subjects offered at Dalriada School

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computing
- Design & Technology
- Engineering Btec
- English Literature
- Further Mathematics
- Health and Social Care
- Moving Image Arts
- Music
- Physics
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Home Economics
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Performing Arts
- Sport Btec

A stack of several books is shown against a teal background. A blue speech bubble with a white border is overlaid on the books, containing white text. The text reads: "New subjects (not requiring prior study at GCSE)".

New subjects
(not requiring
prior study at
GCSE)

- **Computing**
 - a challenging subject, will require a very good grade at GCSE Full Course ICT
 - a good mathematical background is also required
- **Classical Civilisation**
 - no specific GCSE required, however History & English Literature provide a good background
- **Business Studies**
- **Moving Image**
- **Btec Sport**



Careers Education

Careers Education Year 10

- **LESSON 1 – INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS EDUCATION**
- **LESSON 2 – THIS IS ME TODAY**
- **LESSON 3 – LOOKING AHEAD**
- **LESSON 4 – UNDERSTANDING WORK**
- **LESSON 5 – JOB FAMILIES & EMPLOYABILITY**
- **LESSON 6 – CAREER EXPLORATION**
- **LESSON 7 – FACT FINDING**
- **LESSON 8 – DECISION-MAKING & INFLUENCES**
- **LESSON 9 – CHOOSING GCSE SUBJECTS**
- **LESSON 10 – CHOOSING GCSE SUBJECTS CONTD.**

Careers Education Year 11

- **Introduction to Careers Education and Personal Career Planning**
- **This is Me Now – Skills Assessment**
- **Employability Skills**
- **Target Setting**
- **Subjects & Qualifications**
- **The Job Market & Labour Market Information**
- **STEM Careers**
- **Working Environments**
- **Post 16 Opportunities**

- **Careers Research**
- **Marketing Yourself**
- **Recruitment and Selection**
- **Health and Safety in the workplace**
- **Trade Unions**
- **Global Opportunities**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Personal Career Planning**
- **Personal Statement**

Year 11 Presentations

Royal Navy

Medicine (past pupils Dr J. Sterne & Dr S. Collins)

Languages (Dr C. Moran, QUB)

Electrical Engineering (past pupils working for Sensata)

Chemistry-related careers (Almac)

Law (past pupils D. Stinson & S. Robinson)

Sport (J. Wilson, Ulster University)

History (K. Hughes, Ulster University)

Journalism (L. O'Neill, Ulster University)

Business careers (Christie's Direct)

CAFRE (L. Simpson)

Careers Education Year 12

- Introduction to Year 12 Careers Education and recap on Personal Career Planning
- Entrance to Sixth Form in Dalriada
- Choosing A level subjects
- Further Education / Apprenticeships
- Going to University – how to apply
- Higher Level Apprenticeships
- Researching universities
- Researching a chosen career path
- How to write a Personal Statement
- Preparing for Careers Interviews
- How to write a Curriculum Vitae
- Preparing for the Interview Process
- Gap Year
- Progress File updates
- Personal Career Planning

Year 12 Presentations

Experience of
work (Sentinus)

Armed Forces
careers

PwC

Engineering (NIE)

Higher Level
Apprenticeships

A level choices

Labour Market
Information
(Ulster University)

NRC courses –
post 16, post 18

Ulster University

Because of Covid, not all presentations took place 2020-2022 but we are back at a full complement as of 2022-2023

Preparation for Decision-Making

Careers Education lessons Years 10, 11, 12

Year 12 interviews with Vicky McCook from Careers Office

Year 12 Careers Week (information from staff)

Careers Presentation on A level choices and alternatives

Year 12 Careers Fair – Ulster University – Fri. 10th March 2023

Year 12 Parents Information evening tonight

Year 12 Individual Guidance Interviews – Tues. 7th March 2023

Year 12 Interview, Recruitment & Selection Workshop day – March 2023 (TBC)

Making Decisions

- Individual Careers Interviews – Tuesday 7th March 2023
- Indicate preferred pathway for next year
- Grade / subject requirement – GCSE achievement is very important
- Career Progression
- Consider:
 - The subjects you are interested in
 - Your abilities, aptitudes & skills
 - How open you want to keep your career options
 - Which A level / Btec subjects are open to you



Where will my qualifications take me?

Whether you select A levels or a Btec next year, following GCSEs, there is a wide range of qualifications available.

Some have specific requirements, some do not – some examples on the following slides – lists not exhaustive

A wooden desk with a red leather folder and a blue pencil. The desk is made of light-colored wood with vertical grain. A red leather folder is partially visible on the left side. A blue pencil is lying on the desk near the center.

Semi-vocational Degrees

- Accountancy – English & a B in GCSE Maths; no specific A levels although Maths useful – also Business Studies.
- Actuarial Science – English & a B in GCSE Maths; A level Maths required.
- Architecture – Art GCSE preferred; Art and either Maths or Physics A level preferred.
- Law – no specific subjects but humanities-based subjects recommended.



Vocational Degrees

Allied Health careers – one or two sciences required – check individual courses.

Dentistry/Medicine/Veterinary Science – 3 sciences at GCSE; A level Chemistry plus at least one other from Biology, Maths or Physics (usually Biology).

Nursing/Midwifery – Biology or Chemistry preferred at A level but not a requirement.

Pharmacy – Chemistry plus at least one other from Biology, Physics or Maths.

Social work – no specific subjects but relevant experience required.

Non Subject-specific Degrees

- Archaeology
- Business
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics
- Environmental Planning
- Film Studies
- Finance
- History
- International Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Sociology
- Theology

Subject-specific Degrees

Biochemistry – Biology & Chemistry at A level

Biological/Biomedical Science – Biology & Chemistry at A level

Computer Science – Maths or Computing at A level (sometimes Physics)

Engineering – Maths and normally either Physics or Technology A level

Food Quality, Safety & Nutrition – Biology or Chemistry A level (preferably both)

Genetics – Biology and Chemistry A level

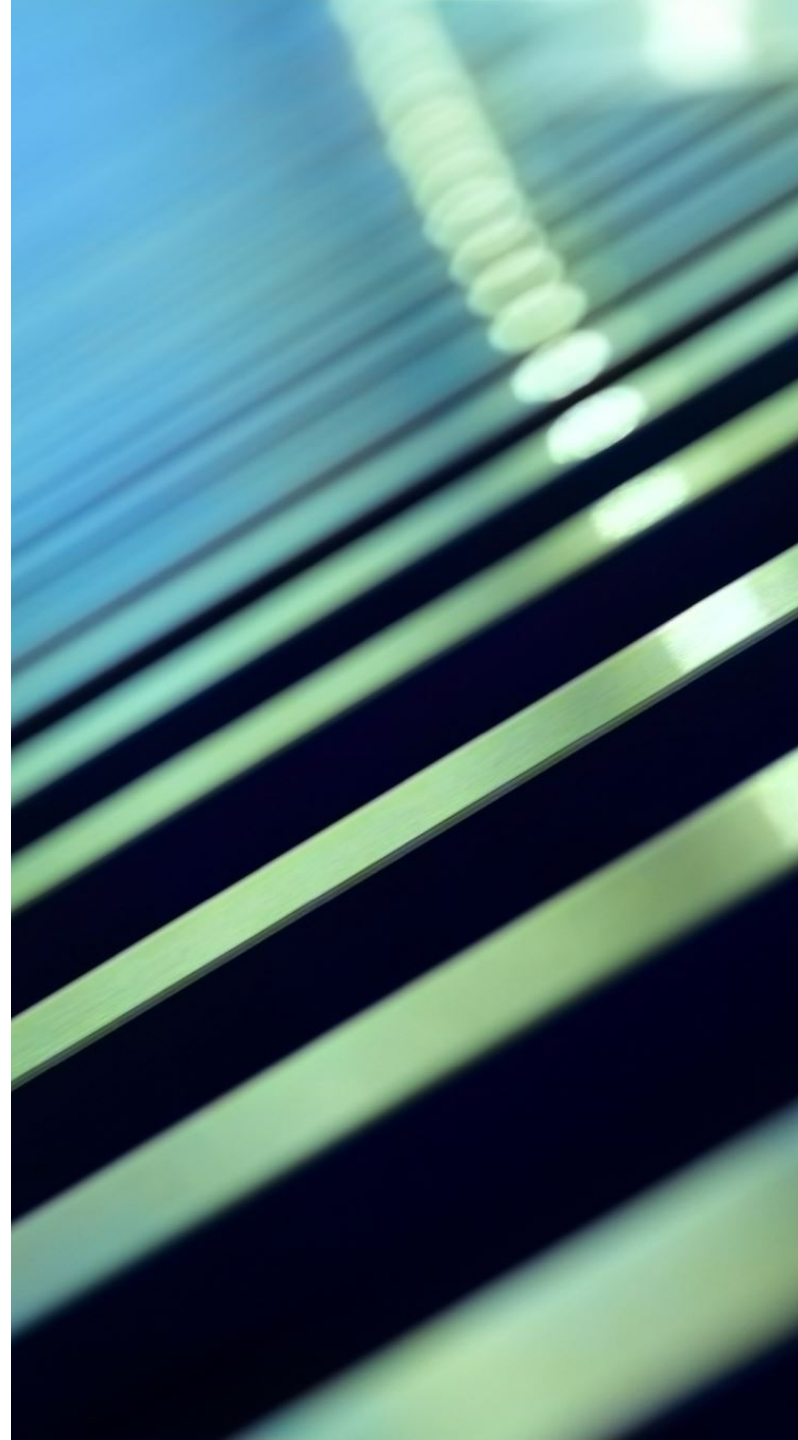
Marine Biology – Biology and preferably Chemistry A level

Medicinal Chemistry – Chemistry A level

Physics – Physics and Maths A level

Product Design – Normally Maths and one of Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Technology A level

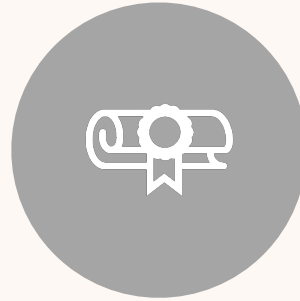
Zoology – Biology and preferably Chemistry A level



Higher Level Apprenticeship



FOLLOWING A LEVELS (OR EQUIVALENT)
– USUALLY NOT VERY SPECIFIC
REQUIREMENTS BUT THE INTERVIEW IS
IMPORTANT.



OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN
QUALITY TRAINING AND A RECOGNISED
HIGHER QUALIFICATION WHILE IN PAID
EMPLOYMENT.



HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS (HLAS)
CURRENTLY OFFER YOU
QUALIFICATIONS FROM LEVEL 4 TO
LEVEL 6 (HONOURS DEGREE). THE
MAJORITY ARE AT LEVEL 5
(FOUNDATION DEGREE).

HLA

The length of a Higher Level Apprenticeship will vary depending on the programme you choose, but will be a minimum of two years.



Apply through companies who advertise HLAs they have available (well advertised, publicised through school where possible) – training provided usually one day per week.

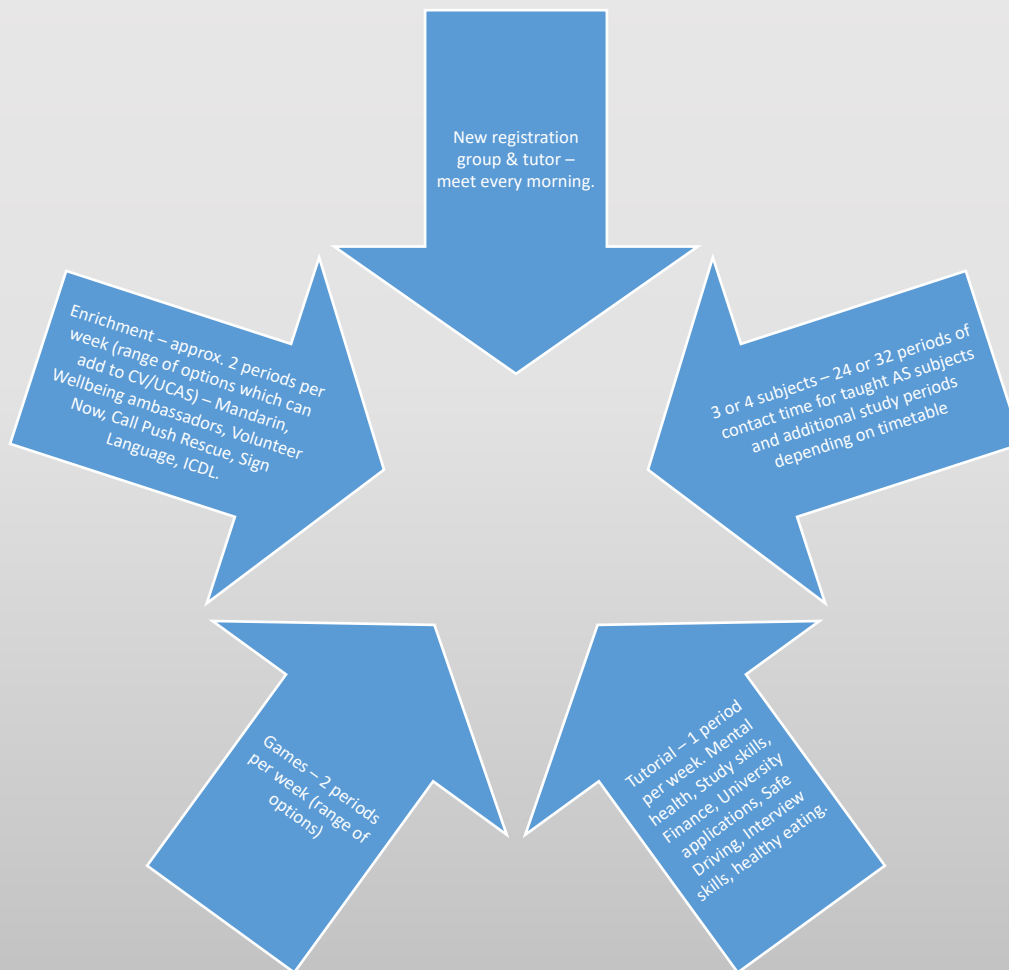



See <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships>

Careers Guidance in the Sixth Form

- Careers Library
- Individual Careers Interviews
- Support throughout the university application process (UCAS/CAO/Oxbridge)
- Careers lessons through Tutorial programme
- Work Experience in Year 13
- Talks / presentations on a range of careers
- Mock Interview Evening & Interview workshops
- Careers Officers from Careers Service Ballymoney (Dept. for the Economy) available

What is Sixth Form like?





What is Sixth Form like?

- Independent study in school – supervised study rooms, Sixth Form subject specific areas, library, Careers library
- Independent study at home – must be committed (20 extra hours)
- Extracurricular activities
- Duties & helping with school activities



Regular Review


- Class teachers will use a tracking system to ensure there is regular review in all subjects. This is reviewed by Head of Year.
- October – first review of all subjects. Contact with home if need be.
- Parents' Meeting - to meet all class teachers.
- January – internal exams – results reviewed and contact with home.
- Reports – to review all subjects
- February half term – review for pupils who underachieved in January examinations.
- Easter – final review across all subjects. Contact with home.

What is Sixth Form like?

School leaders...



“The work of the Sixth Form leaders will allow them to learn how to effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility to prepare them for life beyond school.”



“Being a good role model is an important part of being a Sixth Form pupil. Our pupils are given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and embody our school and Sixth Form values. Alongside their academic studies, students can become involved in activities which help to develop their creativity, communication and teamwork skills, as well as helping to embed resilience, excellence and independence.”



- Leadership opportunities...

- Peer Mentors

- Sports' Captains

- Science Leaders

- Wellbeing Ambassadors

- Library Leaders

- Charity Leaders

- Rotary Leaders

- Year 8 Leaders

- English/Maths Mentors

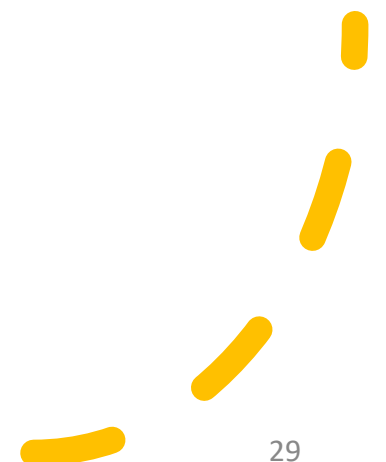
- Student Council Leaders

- CU Leaders

- Pupil supervision leaders

- Business Leaders

- Art Club Leaders



Privileges

- Sixth Form do have a number of privileges – but with this comes greater responsibility
 - Uniform
 - Attendance
 - Punctuality
 - Behaviour
 - An example for the younger pupils
- Car parking
- Off site at lunch
- Sign out system



Who is there to help me?

- Form teacher - every pupil is assigned a new Form Class
- Mrs Williamson - Head of Year
- Mrs Bolster Supervisor (B rooms)
- Mrs Kearney Supervisor (Gillan Centre)
- Ms Crawford (Pastoral VP)
- School Counsellor
- Wellbeing ambassadors
- Each other



Resources

Gillan Centre and B
rooms

Subject specific
areas for Sixth
Form independent
study

Private Study area
with staff
supervision

ICT resources

Social Area for use
at lunch

Careers area

Library

Gillan Centre





B Rooms

Educational Maintenance Allowance

EMA – means tested against household income

Could receive up to £30 per week & £100 bonus twice a year

Forms given out in May of Year 12 – your responsibility to complete ASAP

Will receive letter confirming EMA & amount – must be brought into school

What needs to be done between now and the GCSEs



Review of Mock exams, compare with targets set earlier in the year and evidence from tracking using Assessment Manager



Have they discussed their target for each subject with you?



Controlled Assessments – how have they done so far, what is left to do?



A plan for the road ahead, 9 weeks to study leave, (Tuesday 9th May) 7 weeks of school.

GCSEs HAVE STARTED

2022-03-06	GCSE Art Exam Sessions Session 1 of 3 (move all classes and cover staff)
2023-03-08	GCSE Physics Practical Exam Paper 3A (Set up + Prep)
2023-03-09	GCSE Physics Practical Exam Paper 3A 2hr Exam x 6 (in 2 rooms)
2023-03-10	Yr. 12 Area Careers Convention @UUC
2022-03-14	GCSE Art Exam Sessions Session 2 of 3 (move all classes and cover staff)
2022-03-23	GCSE Art Exam Sessions Session 3 of 3 (move all classes and cover staff)
2023-03-23	Twilight Training Evenings in school for DoE
2022-03-29	Yr 12 PD: Just One Life BLC School's event: Outside demo and JAH Court trial (New date)
2023-03-30	GCSE PE Moderation Visit
2023-03-30	AS Physics Mock Practical Unit 3A (Class 13B)
2023-04-19	GCSE ENG LIT: Theatre Visit to An Inspector Calls: (Set Text) Gaiety Theatre Dublin Cost:£30
21-23 Apr 23	DoE Day hike for training in Mourne Silver
2023-04-24	GCSE Chemistry Unit 3 Practical Exam (RLM 12E) (Change of Date)
2023-04-24	GCSE Chemistry Unit 3 Practical Exam (HMI 12B) (Change of Date)
2023-04-25	GCSE Chemistry Unit 3 Practical Exam (HMI 12C) (Change of Date)
2023-04-25	GCSE Chemistry Unit 3 Practical Exam (JEE 12D) (Change of Date)



What needs to be done between now and the GCSEs

- Parents can feel at a loss in this period up to exams. Be aware your active involvement can make an enormous difference.
- One of the biggest challenges is communicating the importance of these exams.
- At times it may be necessary to put a hold on short term fun in the interest of long term benefit.
- Need to curtail certain activities like part time work and love life!

What pupils need to consider

Pupils should never say 'I have no work to do'.

They should be completing an average of 2.5 hours per night.

The key to exam success: 1. Learn content. 2. Revision. 3. Exam technique

Pupils should know the exam, how long, number of papers, value of each.

Deadlines.

What pupils need to consider

At home, make sure pupils have a place to work, agree 'check ins' with your children to discuss where they are with their work.



Know their learning style.



Which revision strategy works best for them?



Learn from past experience.



Take advice.

In Conclusion

Strike a balance.

Aim High.

Be aware of the support available.

No substitute for hard work.

Good luck!