

BULLERS WOOD SCHOOL

GCSE INFORMATION BOOKLET

YEAR 11 - 2021

Welcome.....

Welcome to our Year 11 GCSE Information Evening. We hope that this booklet combined with what you hear tonight will help you gain a greater insight and understanding of your daughter's curriculum.

The staff present tonight are happy to help with any queries you may have about your daughter's courses, progress and work.

Core subject specialists for English, Maths, Science, RS, History, Geography and Languages will provide you with information about

the content and structure of the courses that your daughter is following. They will also give some additional advice about how best to support your daughter throughout the next year.

The Year 11 Team will be available at the end of the evening to assist you with any concerns you may have.

Please take this booklet home with you and use it as a reference guide for the curriculum, important

deadlines and key dates for your diary. Inside you will also find the contact details for the Year 11 team. We aim to give you the best advice possible and hope that you find this booklet and evening helpful and supportive.



Future Steps

Bullers Wood is proud of our students' achievements and success in the subjects they have studied at GCSE. This success and the positive relationship our students have with the staff and their peers is reflected in number of students who make the decision to stay to study in Sixth Form.

Bullers Wood Sixth Form retained 142 internal students and welcomed them to our 6th form to study a wide range of subjects. These subjects include new ones such as Economics, Medical Science, Classical Civilisations, Politics, Sociology and Psychology, as well as subjects' students will recognise from their GCSEs. The subjects being studied reflect our broad and balanced curriculum that nurtures and develops the skills needed for higher education and work in the 21st century.

In September 2021 160 Year 13 Students obtained places at university, 30 of whom now attend Russell Group institutions. A wide range of subjects are being studied including Ancient History, Chemistry, Criminology, Law, Medicine, Modern Languages and Veterinary Science. We also have students who have achieved apprenticeships which range from Audit and accounting to Pilot school.

The results and achievements of the students reflect two years' commitment and hard work, with expert guidance from dedicated staff and support from parents and carers. We congratulate the students on their achievements and wish them well for the future.



Dates 2021-22

Autumn Term

Term 1

Monday 6th September

Term begins

**20th September-1st
October**

Year 11 Mock Exams

Half Term 18-29 October

(2 weeks)

Term 2

Monday November 1st

Term Begins

**Thursday 4th November
18:00-20:00**

Year 11 Information evening

**Tuesday 9th November
16:30-19:30**

Year 11 Parents/Carer
evening

**Thursday 18th November
18:00-20:30**

Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 20th December

End of Term

Spring Term

Term 3

Monday 4th January

Term Begins

4th-21st January

Year 11 Mock Exams

**Monday 14th February -
Friday 18th February**

Half Term

Term 4

February 28th-March 4th

Thursday 10th February .

Year 11 Mock Results
Ceremony

Friday 1st April

End of Term

Summer Term

Term 5

Monday 20th April

Term Begins

*Early May bank holiday
Monday 2nd May*

**Monday 30th May-Friday
2nd June**

Half term

Term 6

**Monday 6th June-
Thursday 21st July**



Don't
Forget!

SAM Learning is a great way to revise and keep on top of subject topics. It is a website that holds information from all the GCSE subjects including the core subjects, English, Maths and Science. Within the website students can look at specific topics, revise, practice exam style questions, receive instant feedback and learn new skills.

working on the GCSE subject selections. However, revision of KS3 work may be beneficial for some students to recap on previously learnt topics.

Teachers may also set homework on SAM Learning that links with classwork and improves student understanding of the topics covered in the curriculum.

the Fisher Family Trust, students can improve by 2 GCSE grades by spending 10 hours working on SAM Learning in a year of school. We recommend that at this stage students should visit SAM Learning for 10 minutes each night to refresh classwork and to do revision.

It really is simple to login to SAM Learning: all students need to do is....

- Go to **www.samlearning.com**
- Enter the Centre ID as BR7BW
- Enter their own birthdate followed by initials for the User ID and Password.
e.g. 120404NM

SAM Learning say that, based on statistics issued by

Sign In

Centre ID
BR7BW

User ID

Password

Can't log in? Sign In

Students in Year 11 should be

READY, SET, GO!

Complete activities to progress.

Look out for surprise animations!

Select your buddies

Home Activities My Set Tasks My Progress My Profile

Click on Everything to explore or use these quick links to jump straight to a subject area

Reg Group	Student	
Yr. Year 9		
Subject	All	
Pos	Name	Points
1	SSG	12,603
2	9PK	9,460
3	9BL	8,790
4	9WT	2,427
5	9LV	1,400

This is the SAM Learning homepage

This is the login box that students put their username and password in to log in. There is a link to the site on the VLE.

Education Apps

Apps are an amazing way to revise. They are downloadable to many devices and this in turn makes them portable; making revision easy, practical and accessible. Students are encouraged to find apps that will suit them and their revision targets.

The screenshot shows an Android app store interface with a search bar and filters for 'Android Apps', 'All prices', and 'All ratings'. A sidebar on the left lists categories: 'My apps', 'Shop', 'Games', 'Family', 'Parent guide', and 'Editors' Choice'. The main display is a grid of 24 app cards, each with an icon, title, developer, and star rating. Some cards also show a price. An arrow points from the text below to the 'Learn Spanish with MosaLingua' app card.

App Name	Developer	Rating	Price
GCSE History Revision Buddies	Revision Buddies	★★★★☆	Free
GCSE Geography Revision Buddies	Revision Buddies	★★★★☆	Free
Gojimo- GCSE, A Le	EducationApps Ltd	★★★★★	Free
GCSE PE Flashcards 4 Learning	Physical Education	★★★★★	Free
GCSE French Revision Buddies	Revision Buddies	★★★★★	Free
Memrise Learn Lan	Memrise	★★★★★	Free
GCSE Physics Revision Buddies	Revision Buddies	★★★★☆	Free
GCSE English: Revis	LearnersCloud.com	★★★★★	Free
GCSE Chemistry:Re	LearnersCloud.com	★★★★★	Free
MathsWatch GCSE	MathsWatch Ltd	★★★★★	Free
10 grade Biology No	Thomas Townsend	★★★★★	Free
GCSE Maths Revision Buddies	Revision Buddies	★★★★★	Free
GCSE Chemistry Questions	LearnersCloud.com	★★★★☆	Free
GCSE Chemistry Revision Buddies	Revision Buddies	★★★★★	Free
GCSE Biology Revision Buddies	Revision Buddies	★★★★☆	Free
Test & Learn Lite—CGP	CGP	★★★★★	Free
GCSE Maths Compl	Haslam and Hall Publis	★★★★★	£1.99
Test & Learn — GCSE	CGP	★★★★★	£1.49
Learn Spanish with MosaLingua	MosaLingua Orea	★★★★★	£3.99
Test & Learn — GCSE	CGP	★★★★★	£1.49
Test & Learn — GCSE	CGP	★★★★★	£1.49
GCSE Physics Revis	LearnersCloud.com	★★★★★	Free
Test & Learn—GCSE	CGP	★★★★★	£1.49
GCSE Maths Number	Webrich Software	★★★★★	Free

Some Apps have a small charge but are worth paying for the content and convenience.

E-Safety

The purpose of this page is to raise awareness and understanding of E-Safety issues amongst students and ensure parents/carers have the relevant information available so they can support their child. It is important that students understand how to keep themselves safe online and that parents discuss this issue regularly with their children. Good practices include, keeping your username and password safe and not sharing with others. Never give out personal information like your name, age, address and school. Stay in control of your online reputation. You must tell a trusted adult if someone or something has made you uncomfortable or worried whilst on the Internet.



The NCA's CEOP Command is here to help children and young people. They are here to help, if you are a young person and you or your friend have been forced or tricked into doing something online, or in the real world. They also have advice and links to support for other online problems young people might face, such as cyberbullying and hacking. Visit their Safety Centre for advice and to report directly to CEOP, by clicking on the Click CEOP button.

Useful Guides for Parents

- Google Safety Centre
- Yahoo Safety Centre
- Think U Know
- Safer Internet
- Get Safe Online
- Digital Parenting Magazine
- Vodafone How To Guides
- Parental Controls
- Parent Zone
- Childnet
- Kidsmart
- Digizen
- A parent's guide to Facebook/Instagram



External VLE Access

Students can access the VLE from home. This means they can look at all the different subject resources available to them. All students need to do is go to www.bwsgirls.org

Click on the VLE link.

Enter **bws-ed** followed by their 4-digit login number.

Enter the password used to login at school with.

Students should look at the department areas of the subjects they study to get extra information, revision resources and power points from lessons.



What can I do?

Make sure your daughter knows how to login and get access to the VLE. Look at the department areas together to see what resources are available.

Link the resources to the topics covered in lessons.



Revision Books

As well as the books on sale tonight, some subjects will also offer students the chance to buy revision guides and practice books. We will write to parents individually at the time that resources are available.

We recommend that each student buys the revision guides that we select as they will be relevant to the course and useful for GCSE revision.

In addition, equipment such as calculators can also be purchased from the Maths office.



What Can I Do?

Further on in this booklet there are pages that give you advice about a particular subject area. These pages hold the best advice to help you to understand and support your daughter through Year 11.

We understand that education from a parent's point of view can be confusing and frustrating so we have thought about some useful hints and tips for parents that might make Year 11 easier for you.

Keep a list of Key Dates handy

Write on a calendar at home any dates that effect your daughter. In this booklet we have supplied you with basic key dates for Year 11; write these down at home and display them in an area you can both see. Check this regularly to see what is coming up next.

Supply a quiet study area for your daughter

Having somewhere quiet to study makes a huge difference to concentration levels and improves standards of homework and grades.

Communicate regularly about school

It can be difficult to fit in a discussion about school at the end of the day, but try to talk about what's going on during your daughter's school day.

Embrace Modern Technology

Technology is fast paced these days and it can be hard to keep up. Try to make sure that, when homework is done on a laptop, that it is homework being completed and not two hours on Instagram or You Tube. Parental controls can be put in place by your internet service provider at your request. This can ensure that social networking can be stopped during crucial homework or study time at home. However, tablets and smartphones can be used to access useful Apps that may help with revision or study.

Communicate with us

Please communicate with us at school if you have any questions or issues that you would like to raise with us: use the contact list on the back of this booklet. This will put you in touch with any of the KS4 team who are directly in communication with students and other staff so we can help you as best we can.

Keep calm

Even at times of great stress, if you remain calm, your daughter will too. Try not to get angry as this can raise stress levels and make the situation more volatile. Staying calm can keep you in control of the situation and help you come to a reasonable solution more quickly and easily.

Be supportive

Help your daughter with small tasks so she can cope with bigger tasks or large pieces of work. For example, if she is preparing for a Controlled Assessment, make sure she has the right equipment for when she gets to school, supply regular snack breaks and help with small chunks of revision.



New GCSE Grading Structure

Year 11 are studying towards the new specification GCSEs in all subjects, with results awarded in August 2021.

GCSEs are graded 1 to 9, with 9 being the top grade.

The Department for Education recognises grade 4 and above as a 'standard pass' in all subjects. A grade 4 or above marks a similar achievement to the old grade C or above. It is a credible achievement for a young person that should be valued as a passport to future study and employment. A grade 4 is the minimum level that students need to reach in English and maths to be able to continue to post-16 education. At Bullers Wood we require students to attain a minimum of Grade 5 (a strong pass) in maths and English in order to undertake most A Level courses.



Helpful Hints

Eating Well

A balanced diet is vital for good health and will help you to feel well during school and exam time.

- Students - try to stay away from junk food in the lead up to your exams, this gives any toxins from junk food a chance to disappear, leaving you with a clear head.
- Parents - ensure healthy snacks and meals are prepared where possible. Use less healthy snacks as an occasional reward.

Sleep helps exam performance

Good sleep improves thinking and concentration, two vital components for exam time and school time in general.

- Students - you need between 8 and 10 hours sleep each night. This will help you to be refreshed and ready to learn in the morning.
- Parents - ensure a good nighttime routine is in place. Discourage last minute cramming or completing homework late into the night. Encourage calm: maybe a warm bath or hot drink before bedtime.

Exercise

Exercise will boost energy

levels, help to clear the mind and reduce stress. Even a short walk each day helps to calm nerves, bring down anxiety and boost energy.

- Students - do a small amount of exercise each day, it could be that you walk to school rather than get a lift or the bus.
- Parents - encourage a small amount of exercise, maybe suggest they walk the dog tonight, instead of you?

Useful Websites

- Exam stress

mind.org.uk/mentalhealth
childline.org.uk
headspace.com
thestudentroom.co.uk
thecalmzone.net

- Healthy eating during exams

parentsforhealth.org
bbc.co.uk/food/articles/food_exam_performance

- Useful links

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/tips-on-surviving-exams/>

<http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/SchoolCollege/Pages/exam-stress.aspx>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/exams-and-revision/1>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Stay-Calm-During-a-Test>



For your notes...



Thank you...

We would like to thank you for attending this evening. Please contact us if you have any further questions. Staff will be available at the end of this evening to answer any questions you have. Please use the notes section to jot down any points raised tonight or your thoughts as we proceed through this evening.

Useful Contacts

School phone number: 0208 467 2280

Email: year11@bwsgirls.org

Mrs Anderson, Deputy Headteacher

kanderson@bwsgirls.org

Mrs Scott, Head of Year 11

cscott@bwsgirls.org

Ms Santa Barbara, Raising Standards Leader

csantabarbara@bwsgirls.org

Mrs Kincaid, Raising Achievement Support Coordinator

dkincaid@bwsgirls.org

For your notes...

