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Bridgewater High School

NAME: _____

FORM: 9____

Your Essential Guide to Exams in Year 9

Week Beginning 23rd April 2018

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Welcome to your Bridgewater Year 9 Exams Experience (BEE^9)

We understand that most people do not really like having to sit exams, but they are an important part of the education system.

BEE^9 aims to prepare you as well as possible for the important exams you will sit when you are older. We want you to know how to revise effectively and how to manage your anxieties. Yes, it is important to do as well as possible in all of your exams, but first and foremost, BEE^9 is about managing the process of sitting exams and reflecting on your marks.

Within this booklet, you will find general revision tips, subject-specific exam preparation pointers as well as space for you to reflect on your performance. When your exams are over and your teachers have marked them, you will find space to write down your marks as well as What Went Well (WWW) in each exam as well as targets for improvement or Even Better If (EBI). Time will be built into lessons for you to complete these sections and to reflect on your over-all experience of the exams.

On the back of this booklet is a blank timetable for you to write down when you will sit each exam. Your teachers will tell you when these will be.

As GCSEs approach, you may start to feel nervous and wonder what on earth you are letting yourself in for in the coming years. This Exams Experience is the ideal training ground to get a grip of your study skills and exam techniques.

You could say the most important skill needed for success at GCSE is 'doing a selfie' or in other words, being able to start work on your own and get control over how often you pick up your study notes to revise. Being able to independently learn and look through your books is a good habit to start now in Year 9. It will help make GCSE study a breeze because it is already part of your weekly routine.

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Exam Room Rules

You will probably sit your exams in your usual classroom but you must remember that this is a formal (serious) occasion and your teacher may have a different seating plan for the exam. Some of you may sit your exam in an Access Room if, for example, you are entitled to additional time or the help of a reader. The access rooms for the week will be as follows:

Mon : 93	Tuesday : 76	Wed : 79	Thu : 95	Fri : 86

Wherever you sit your exam, remember the following important rules:

1. Make sure you have a pen that works (as well as a spare in case your pen runs out!)
2. Enter the classroom in silence and sit where you are told
3. Remain silent before, during and after the examination until your teacher has collected in your exam paper and told you that you can talk.
4. Make sure you write your name on any pieces of paper that you use
5. Do not attempt to communicate with anybody else during the exam, including lip-reading and any other signs.
6. Mobile phones should be switched off and must remain in your bag or pocket, completely out of sight.

Some Tips for Successful Revision

1. Start revising early i.e. weeks, not hours before the exam. Make a timetable to plan your revision and stick to it.

2. Mind maps are a visual way of showing your ideas. The best mind maps make use of pictures, colours, key words and different styles of lines to show the connections between points. Mind maps start from a central theme (this might be your topic title or question) and then expand as you start to explore your key points.

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3. Start early at weekends i.e. 9am. That way, you'll get your day's work done in the morning and have the afternoon or evening to relax.

4. Stick revision notes all around your house. That means that you'll see important facts and quotes when you're brushing your teeth or opening the fridge door! In your exam, you will think "Aha, volcanoes, they were stuck to bathroom mirror!"

5. Don't just read your notes. You have to WRITE THINGS DOWN! Get used to summarising or reducing a full page of notes into a post-card sized couple of bullet-points.

6. Find the right environment to revise. NOT in front of the TV and NOT listening to the radio or surfing the internet. Music can sometimes be OK, but you need to find the right kind. It's got to be something that's just there in the background that you're not thinking about at all. Music without singing is better as you won't be tempted to join in.

Over the next pages few pages you will find information about what is on your exams in each subject, as well as some more revision tips.

English Preparation

- **What is the test about?** 'An Inspector Calls' or 'Blood Brothers' – whichever is their set text studied in the Autumn and Spring Term
- **What do pupils use to revise?** Pupils need to revise the plot and characters. They need to learn quotations
- **What format of questioning is used?** They will be given a GCSE style question on their set text. They will need to analyse a character from the play. They will be provided with an extract from the play which they will need to refer to but must also comment on the play as a whole.

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Maths Preparation Tips

- **What is the test about?** Demonstrating a fluency in numeracy and an ability to apply mathematical techniques to problem solving.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** They will be given a revision list and revision material to practice for skills based questions via SMHW.
- **What format of questioning is used?** There will be two exam papers: Paper 1: Numeracy; Paper 2: Problem solving

Science Preparation Tips

- **What is the test about?** The test will cover the KS3 content studied in years 7, 8 and 9. The content is broken into smaller modules that cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A full list of the modules and the topics covered in them will be provided in a bullet-pointed summary. The test will also incorporate questions involving scientific investigations from planning experiments, identifying variables, plotting and interpretation of results to evaluating data.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** Pupils need to use the bullet-pointed summary for each year group and the summary sheets for each module to guide their revision, along with their exercise book notes. Detailed checklists for each module will also be provided. Pupils should use the skills worksheets to revise each part of scientific investigations from planning to evaluation. All resources will be provided on Show My Homework. Additionally a small number of KS3 Science revision guides will be available in the library, in addition to those used in the classroom.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Pupils will be given descriptions of experiments or scenarios and asked for mainly short phrase answers worth 1-3 marks each, with a small number of longer questions for 4-6 marks. The test will be approximately 50 minutes long.

Art Preparation Tips

- **What is the test about?** The careful execution of artist research about the Street Artist Banksy and how the formal elements of art are used when presenting art work.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** They will need to research Banksy and the issues that his work is based on. Tasks will be set via SMHW covering all necessary material in the run up to the exam. If a pupil is absent from school and misses an Art lesson it is IMPORTANT to check SMHW.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Pupils will be given a set of instructions that they must follow carefully in order to satisfy the assessment criteria. They will need to put researched information into their own words, describe what the artist's work is about, how it is made, how it makes them feel etc, and express and justify an opinion.
- **What about the practical demonstration?** They will have to creatively present their artist research through writing, drawing and using colour to

demonstrate their understanding of how to make effective use of space and the other formal elements of art used in the presentation of art work.

- **What equipment should pupils bring with them for the exam?** For the smooth running of the exam it is IMPORTANT that pupils come prepared with their own equipment: A pencil, pen, ruler, sharpener, rubber.

Dance Preparation Tips

- **What is the test about?** Demonstrating an understanding of Dance terminology and the principles of Dance.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** They will be given a revision sheet via SMHW with all necessary material. Paper copies can be available also where needed.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Spellings & definitions of some words, answers based on choreography, plus extended questions.
- **What about the extended writing section?** This will be the pupils' own opinions of what choreographic skills are required to ensure an effective Dance. They will also be asked for their own interpretations of dance actions and choreographic tools to communicate a dance theme/ idea with reasoning as well as consider what makes a good choreography.

Drama Preparation Tips

- **What is the test about?** Learning Drama terminology and Genres.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** They will be given a revision sheet via SMHW with all necessary material. Paper copies can be available also where needed.
- **What format of questioning is used?** A PowerPoint presentation.
- Simple answers based on questions about the units covered.
- **What about the extended writing section?** This will be based on peer marking to develop their understanding of answers and showing the ability to correct their peers.

Design and Technology Tips

- **What is the test about?** Drawing accurately and skilfully. Answering questions about tools, equipment and materials they have used this year.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** They will be given a revision sheet via SMHW with all necessary material. Paper copies can be available also where needed.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Multiple choice, picture identification, longer written answers and statement matching.

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Food Technology tips

- **What is the test about?** Understanding personal and kitchen hygiene rules and raising agents in cooking and the effects they have on products.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** They will be given a revision sheet via SMHW with all necessary material. Paper copies can be available also where needed.
- **What format of questioning is used?** The majority of the questions will be multiple choice with three comprehensive questions at the end.
- **What about the extended writing section?** This will be the pupils' own summary of the year including which areas they have enjoyed the most and how food technology could be developed in the future.

French / German Tips (Sets 1, 2 and 3)

- **What is the test about?** GCSE Reading paper
- **What do pupils use to revise?** Pupils will need to use their exercise book to revise the work done through year 9 so far. Additionally, due to the nature of the exam, pupils will attempt questions on familiar as well as unfamiliar topics.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Questions will be multiple choice, single word or short phrase answers, or answers in English.

French / German Tips (Sets 4, 5 and 6)

- **What is the test about?** A reading test about what pupils have covered in Year 9, but needs general vocabulary knowledge going back to Year 7.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** Pupils will need to use their exercise book to revise the work covered through year 9 so far. To reflect the cumulative nature of language learning, some work from Year 7 and 8 will also be touched upon. There is also a revision sheet for the modules covered available via Show My Homework.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Questions will be multiple choice, single word or short phrase answers, or answers in English.

Geography Tips

- **What is the test about?** The exam covers the three completed topics that we have studied so far in Year 9 – tourism, volcanoes and earthquakes. There is also a section on OS map skills.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** Pupils have their exercise books and can also review lessons on the school VLE.
- **What format of questioning is used?** The first section of the exam will consist of 40 multi-choice questions, followed by the extended writing section (see below).
- **What about the extended writing section?** Pupils will be required to answer a 10 mark question based on a resource (i.e. map, graph, diagram) provided on the exam paper. They will have a choice of a physical geography question or a human geography question.

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History Tips

- **What is the test about?** The aim of the exam is to help students to improve their understanding of how to revise effectively. Section A of the test will consist of a section of multiple choice questions on the following topics; Women's Suffrage, Hitler and Nazi Germany, Churchill and WWII and JFK. Section B of the test will be extended writing on Winston Churchill.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** The exam will be on the work they have done throughout the year. Students can revise from their exercise books.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Section A is multiple choice. Section B is extended writing.
- **What about the extended writing section?** Students will have to give a balanced response to a question about Winston Churchill.

ICT Tips

- **What is the test about?** To demonstrate an understanding of E Safety, Spreadsheets, Databases, HTML, Hardware, Software, Desk Top Publishing, Computer Programming & Games Design software applications.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** Pupils will be given a homework sheet via SMHW with all necessary revision material they will need for the exam. Paper copies will also be available upon request.
- **What format of questioning is used?** Simple multi-choice & short sentence type answers.

Music Tips

- **What is the test about?** Each exam will focus on all topics covered up to the point of the test.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** Revision materials will be provided on SMHW.
- **What format of questioning is used?** There will be a mixture of multiple choice questions and open-ended questions.
- **What about the extended writing section?** There will be a contrast and compare question between two different pieces of music. You will have the option to bullet point or answer in full sentences.

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Religious Studies Tips

- **What is the test about?** This test is about retention and recall of information.
- **What do pupils use to revise?** This test will be on work they have covered so far throughout the year, but focusing on the enquiry 'Is this life all there is?' - pupils therefore need to revise from their exercise books.
- **What format of questioning is used?** The question format will be multiple choice/short answer.

Over the next pages few pages, you will find space to record what mark you received for each exam as well as your WWW (What Went Well) comment and your EBI (Even Better If) target. It is your responsibility to complete this section. Your teachers will make time in lessons for you to do this. When you have written in all your marks, your WWW and your EBI, you must ask your parent or carer to sign below and note down any comments about how you did in your Bridgewater Year 9 Exams Experience. Your form tutor will then sign this.

Signature of Parent/Carer _____

Comments:

Signature of Form Tutor _____

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English mark :
WWW
EBI

Maths mark :
WWW
EBI

Science mark :
WWW
EBI

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Art mark :
WWW
EBI

Dance mark :
WWW
EBI

Drama mark :
WWW
EBI

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Design and Technology mark :
WWW
EBI

Food Technology mark :
WWW
EBI

French / German mark :
WWW
EBI

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Geography mark :
WWW
EBI

History mark :
WWW
EBI

ICT mark :
WWW
EBI

#Showcase #Stickability #Selfie #Self-Esteem #Standards

Music mark :
WWW
EBI

Religious Studies mark :
WWW
EBI

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Exam Reflection

Here you can write down what you personally were pleased about in your exams and anything you felt disappointed with. This might not be the same as WWW and EBI. You might reflect on how much revision you did for particular aspects of the exam and how hard you worked during the exam itself. You might explain whether a particular result came as a surprise to you (a nice surprise hopefully, but this might not always be the case. Think about what you gained from the experience. Did all your revision pay off or did you realise that you needed to start revising a bit earlier? Did you show any 'Stickability'? Were there any times that a task was difficult, but you stuck at it? What have you learned about how to use your time, both during revision time and in the exam itself? What would you do differently next time?

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