

# SUMMER PREPARATION

## FOR STARTING A LEVEL COURSES IN SEPTEMBER 2015

### Art

Dear student,

Here are some helpful starting points for your Art AS level course. We want to make a great start to the first project and keep the drawing going over the summer. In order to make the best start to your course here is a **short task** for you to complete before you start the course.

#### **The first theme we will work with is The Elements: Environment**

Wherever you go over the summer, take an A4 sketchpad with you and try and do as much drawing on location as you can.

On location could mean East Court grounds, Ashdown Forest, the coast, urban areas, views from windows of trains and through the door of your tent. Think about the weather and make a few notes around the edge of your page about the location and conditions on that day.

Use whichever materials you are happy with, but try out a variety, rather than always working in pencil. You could even experiment with drawing on colour paper. Work right up to the edges of the page; try working fast and more slowly.

Charcoal, pastel, inks, oil pastel, biro, watercolours, collage all work well.

We are interested in your drawings from the direct experience of being in the place, and do not want to see drawings from phones or photos.

#### **Bring your five best drawings with you for discussion during the first lesson in school.**

In addition, try to go to as many exhibitions as you can, picking up leaflets and postcards as well as making drawings. More information at the Time Out page below:

<http://www.timeout.com/london/art/top-10-art-exhibitions-in-London>

Have a creative summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Ms H Buckley and Mr P Andrews  
AS Fine Art

[hbuckley@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:hbuckley@wsgfl.org.uk)   [pandrews@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:pandrews@wsgfl.org.uk)

### Biology

#### **Exam board OCR**

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-biology-a-h020-h420-from-2015/>

#### **Task 1 Introduction to maths for biologists**

Students should complete the introduction to maths at A level biology, on the attached pdf document. Graph paper has been scanned in at the back of the document to help with the construction of graphs.

#### **Task 2 The finer details of A level biology**

Using the Cornell note taking system, and the Cellsalve website, make some organised notes on both animal and plant cell ultra structure.

<http://coe.jmu.edu/learningtoolbox/cornellnotes.html>

The Cornell Note taking system. Note taking ability will be discussed and feedback given during the introduction lessons at the start of the course.

<http://www.cellsalve.com/>

This website contains information about cell ultra structure.

This work will be expected by their biology teacher and is to be handed in during their first lesson.

Mrs Stewart  
Leader of Biology

[kstewart2@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:kstewart2@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Business Studies

Read up on all Business stories in the news and keep up to date with all issues affecting the economy over the summer. Certainly look at the business and economy sections of the BBC news website to familiarise yourself with current events.

For Business Studies, a useful guides to buy for AS level would be:

Marketing and People – Theme 1  
Managing Business Activities – Theme 2  
Available from [www.anforme.com](http://www.anforme.com) 01661 844000

Useful websites are:  
[www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net), [www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk](http://www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk)

Mrs Fleming  
Curriculum Leader of Business, Law and Economics  
[jfleming@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:jfleming@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Law

Read up on all legal stories in the news and keep up to date with all issues affecting our legal system over the summer. If you have chance, visit a local Magistrates court.

For Law, a useful guide to buy for AS level would be:  
WJEC AS Law Study and Revision Guide **ISBN: 978-1-908682-36-9**  
Davies, Phillips, Walters  
Available from [www.illuminatepublishing.com](http://www.illuminatepublishing.com)

Useful websites are:  
[www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net), [http://www.sixthformlaw.info/02\\_cases/index.htm](http://www.sixthformlaw.info/02_cases/index.htm)

Mrs Fleming  
Curriculum Leader of Business, Law and Economics  
[jfleming@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:jfleming@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Chemistry

Chemistry is a little difficult to set work as you won't have any textbooks yet but it would be great if you could reinforce your learning from GCSE by going through the following powerpoints on Moodle (AS Chemistry)

1. Atomic Structure
2. Electron Arrangement
3. Formulae and Equations
4. Ionic Compounds
5. Ions and Ionic Bonding
6. Covalent Bonding
7. Quantitative Chemistry

Phew! Sounds a lot but they really will give you a head start when you return in September.

Enjoy the rest of your long hot summer and I'm looking forward to meeting you for the next chapter in your life!

Mrs Webb  
Leader of Chemistry  
[cwebb@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:cwebb@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Computing

This course requires students to develop an understanding of 'computational' concepts ranging from practical activities to theory based tasks.

Students may want to undertake some practice learning how to write code using the following websites:

<http://www.w3schools.com/>  
<http://www.codecademy.com/>  
<http://www.learnpython.org/>

It is advisable that they begin learning to write some high level language in either Python or Visual Basic programming languages.

No prior knowledge is necessary but it is always good to learn some basics before you start the course. There will be a significant amount of writing code for this course, so the more practice carried out the better.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Mr Lea  
Curriculum Leader of ICT & Computing  
[jlea@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:jlea@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Drama and Theatre Studies

We are really pleased that you have decided to take Drama and Theatre Studies at AS level and know that you will enjoy this fantastic course.

As a Drama student, you will be introduced to the work of a range of theatre practitioners and collaborate to create a performance using their techniques. You will also study a set play and write about your own interpretation of this play from the point of view of director, designer and actor, as well as critically review live performances that you will see and study through the course.

Students will need a personal copy of their set text which they will annotate during lessons and take into the exam in May. They will need to purchase the book for their own personal use and must ensure that they get the edition specified:

Antigone by Sophocles (**NHB Drama Classics**) - ISBN 9-781854-592002

Currently £4.99 new on Amazon. (Please feel free to contact me if you need support with funding this)

### Preparation tasks for Summer 2015:

1. Research the plays *Oedipus Rex* and *Oedipus at Colonus* (the prequels to Antigone). Prepare a presentation for the first week in September on the following aspects of the plays: plot, characters, themes, the issue of free will vs. destiny.
2. Read the play of Antigone including the introduction.
3. Watch as much live or recorded theatre as possible and try to look with a critical eye at how the productions have been put together.

Mrs A Beasley  
Curriculum Leader of Drama  
abeasley@wsgfl.org.uk

## BTEC National Performing Arts

We are really pleased that you have decided to take Performing Arts in the Sixth form and know that you will enjoy this fantastic course.

As a Performing Arts student, you will take part in two full scale performances each year and will be expected to produce accompanying logbook written work for each assignment you complete. You will need to be committed and put in additional time outside of lessons for rehearsals. You will explore a range of theatre practitioners and perform work in the style of one of these practitioners as part of your first assignment.

### Preparation tasks for Summer 2015:

1. Research two theatrical styles of your choice from this list: Physical Theatre, Epic Theatre, Documentary/Verbatim Theatre or Absurdism. Prepare a fact sheet (one A3 or two side of A4) on each style which includes the following information: a description of the style, intentions for the audience, key features of this style, techniques used, actor/audience relationship, example of directors or companies who work in this style, examples of plays or productions in this style. You will hand these factsheets to your teacher in your first lesson.
2. Watch as much live or recorded theatre as possible and try to look with a critical eye at how the productions have been put together as well as the different styles of acting used.

Mrs A Beasley  
Curriculum Leader of Drama and Dance  
abeasley@wsgfl.org.uk

## Economics

Read up on all business stories in the news and keep up to date with all issues affecting the economy over the summer. Certainly look at the business and economy sections of the BBC news website to familiarise yourself with current events.

- look at Geoff Riley's reading list on Tutor2u, pick one book and read in depth
- Start watching Newsnight/ listening to Today programme R4
- Collect 5 news stories over the summer and be ready to talk about them
- If you had the chance to take charge of the Greek economy what would you do and why?

**My personal recommendation for summer reading would be "The Balti Bailout" by Hugh Pym**

Think about this: If you had the chance to take charge of the Greek economy what would you do and why?

*A useful guide to buy for UNIT 1 would be:*

[Edexcel AS Economics Student Unit Guide: Unit 1 Competitive Markets: How They Work and Why They Fail](#)

**Mark Gavin**

**ISBN: 9780340947456**

Useful websites are:

tutor2u.net, [www.bized.co.uk](http://www.bized.co.uk)

Mrs J Fleming

Curriculum Leader of Business Studies, Economics and Law

[jfleming@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:jfleming@wsgfl.org.uk)

## English Language

Dear student

I am writing to give you some important information concerning your English Language AS level course. Having chosen to study Language at A level I know that you have a love of language and are looking forward to exploring new ideas and theories of language in the new academic year. In order to make the most of your course there is some **reading** that will help you and a **short task** (sheet attached) for you to complete before you start the course.

**Compulsory text - you will need to have your own copy of the text book for the course:**

*OCR A level English Language: Student Book ISBN 978-0-19-835277-8*

This book will be available to buy from school – not published until September 2015.

**Recommended reads:**

This first book is *highly recommended* as it will support your grammar knowledge which is a key component in doing well at AS and A level:

David Crystal, *Discover Grammar* (**ISBN-10:** 0582294355, **ISBN-13:** 978-0582294356)

This second text will give you an excellent overview of the 'story' of English Language:

David Crystal, *How Language Works: How Babies Babble, Words Change Meaning and Languages Live or Die* (**ISBN-10:** 0141015527, **ISBN-13:** 978-0141015521)

We would hope that you purchase at least one of the above texts. Those who want to secure the highest grades will do so, we know!

I hope that you have a great summer and the English Department at Sackville looks forward to welcoming you to the stimulating and enjoyable A level Language course in September.

Happy reading.

# English Language AS Level – Pre course task

## Introduction

Studying the English Language at AS level is very different from its study at GCSE. There are some similarities, but you will find many completely new approaches and ideas. This work on collecting texts is meant to show you how diverse the study of language is.

## Task 1 – **Choose a speech**

(Perhaps a political speech or one made to commemorate a particular occasion.)

Find out and make a note of the following: the intended audience, the purpose of the speech, and the context. How does the speaker show their power through their words? Annotate the speech for: the persuasive/rhetorical techniques used and try to write up about 500 words on: the above annotations and comment on how effective you think it is and why.

Task 2 - **Make yourself a "Language Scrapbook."** Choose yourself a broad subject e.g. Food, University Life, Music .... Find 10- 15 different texts which are connected with your topic. Annotate the texts for how they use language in similar different ways; think about audience, purpose, genre, layout, contexts, grammar, lexis (vocabulary).....the list goes on! Be ready to share your collections.

Oh, and when you have finished these tasks, take the rest of the day off!

Mrs Stuart  
Curriculum Leader of English  
[rstuart@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:rstuart@wsgfl.org.uk)

## English Literature

Dear student

I am writing to give you some important information concerning your English Literature AS level course. Having chosen to study Literature at A level I know that you have a love of literature and are looking forward to exploring new authors, ideas and techniques in the new academic year. In order to make the most of your course there is some reading that will help you. Here is a list of recommended novels that will give you a firm foundation in literature. Choose whichever you please but reading 1984 is a requirement. You could also explore the poetry of writers in the list that follows

George Orwell, 1984 (set text) (Penguin Modern Classics)  
Angela Carter, The Bloody Chamber (any edition)  
Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice (any edition)  
Aldous Huxley, Brave New World (any edition)  
Khaled Hosseini, The Kite Runner (any edition)  
Ian McKewan, Enduring Love (any edition)  
Sebastian Faulks, Birdsong (any edition)  
Charles Dickens, Great Expectations (any edition)  
Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire (set text) (Penguin Modern Classics)

You will be studying some texts from a collection of authors including George Orwell, Margaret Atwood, Tennessee Williams, Christina Rossetti, Monica Ali, Andrea Levy, Cormac McCarthy, Carol Ann Duffy, Sylvia Plath, Oscar Wilde, Henrik Ibsen, John Webster, William Shakespeare (Hamlet or Measure for Measure); a long list of authors! You study Shakespeare in both year 12 and 13 and there will be a Stratford trip in Y12 (November) which is an overnight excursion. Approximate cost is £120 including overnight accommodation, trips to Shakespeare sites and a theatre performance at the Royal Shakespeare Company – so start saving now! It's a great event every year.

I hope that you have a great summer and the English Department at Sackville looks forward to welcoming you to the stimulating and enjoyable A level Literature course in September.  
Happy reading!

Mrs Stuart  
Curriculum Leader of English  
[rstuart@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:rstuart@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Film Studies

Dear film students,

Over the summer holidays, we would like you to watch some films. I don't mean all the summer blockbusters - although by all means do that too - I mean OLD films. Have you seen 'Jaws', or '2001: A Space Odyssey' or 'Psycho'? No? Then there's three already to watch. Have you read any books on film? No? How about 'Adventures in the Screen Trade' by William Goldman? Or try reading some magazines: Empire, Total Film or Film Review to see how people write about film.

The best film student will be the one who is genuinely interested in the subject from a practical point of view as well as an academic and historical one.

Enjoy your summer...enjoy your films.

Mr Scarfe

Curriculum Leader of Film & Media [gscarfe@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:gscarfe@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Geography

Write 300 words to answer each of these questions (do some research, use examples and justify your answer):

1. What is the most effective way of protecting the coast from flooding and erosion?
2. What is the biggest problem caused by an ageing population?

Mr Robinson

Curriculum Leader of Geography and Travel and Tourism

[nrobinson23@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:nrobinson23@wsgfl.org.uk)

## History

A level history course consists of two units in Year 12. The two units will involve studying:

Britain transformed, 1918-1997

The USA, 1955-1992: conformity and challenge

To help prepare you for the course some background reading and research will be of great use.

We would also like you to research and write no more than 250 words on each of the following:

How was the NHS created and what was its impact?

What was the impact of Margaret Thatcher's governments on Britain?

What were the main changes in the presidencies of a) Kennedy and b) Johnson?

Please bring your research to your first lesson in September

Look out for documentaries on these topics and any relevant films

Mrs Dunnell

Curriculum Leader of History

[jdunnell@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:jdunnell@wsgfl.org.uk)

## BTEC Hospitality

Task: Investigate 3 types of hospitality service in your area.

1 hotel; 1 restaurant; 1 club.

Find out about the services they offer – residential; food; bar; sport;

I want a description in your own words, prices, menus and any other information you can find.

Bring to your first session with Mrs Grey.

Mrs Grey

Leader of Food Technology/hospitality

[jgrey@wsqfl.org.uk](mailto:jgrey@wsqfl.org.uk)

## Maths

The maths department is committed that you make good progress throughout you're A level or AS course.

The biggest hindrance to the transition from GCSE is usually lack of confidence with number and algebra. An induction day was held on **Wednesday 24th June** and you would have been given a booklet, as well as tasks on 'Mymaths' to be completed over the summer holidays. The aim of the booklet is to provide you with the groundwork on which you can build your skills before you embark on the course.

It is vitaly important that you spend some time working through the questions in this booklet over the summer - you will need to have a good knowledge of these topics before you commence your course in September. You should have met all the topics before at GCSE. You do not necessarily have to do every question, but enough to ensure you understand the topic thoroughly.

We will test you at the start of September to check how well you understand these topics, so it is important that you have looked at all the booklet before then. If you do not pass this test you will be demonstrating that you are not suitable for the course.

We hope that you will use the summer holiday work to give you a good start to your AS work and that it will help you enjoy and benefit from the course more.

If you did not attend the induction day on **Wednesday 24th June** then please come in to collect the work from Mr Rahim ASAP. There will be an induction test in September which will determine whether you will continue with the course.'

Mr Rahim

Curriculum Leader of Mathematics

[srahim3@wsqfl.org.uk](mailto:srahim3@wsqfl.org.uk)



## Media studies

Dear students,

Over the summer holidays, we would like you to watch the following 3 clips on youtube:

BASIC CAMERA SHOTS: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fe2PqbUk0bU>  
CAMERA MOVEMENTS: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z68dMBAAn-k>  
BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIDOibIXFPw>

For students who studied media studies at GCSE level, these videos will be a revision tool. For students who are new to the subject, you should make brief notes while watching these clips and bring them with you to your first media studies lesson.

Enjoy your summer

Mr Scarfe  
Curriculum Leader of Media Studies  
[gscarfe@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:gscarfe@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Modern Foreign Languages- Spanish

You will need to be learning vocabulary and completing reading and listening practice 'little and often' over the summer in order to help bridge the enormous gap between GCSE and A Level in Spanish. It is as important to keep your Spanish up over the summer for those who completed Spanish GCSE in year 11 as for those who did the fast track GCSE in year 9.

Here are some recommended methods for practising your Spanish independently:

- Revise vocabulary using the CGP vocabulary builder for GCSE Spanish (I have a few spares for students who do not already have them)
- Find news articles from around the world including videos on [www.bbc.com/mundo.com](http://www.bbc.com/mundo.com) These articles may be challenging, but should be understandable if you persevere.
- Use the online dictionary [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) to help understand Spanish texts.
- Watch the videos and complete gapfill exercises on a variety of GCSE topics from the Ashcombe school website [www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/07-langcoll/MFL-resources/spanish/sp-video-index.shtml](http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/07-langcoll/MFL-resources/spanish/sp-video-index.shtml)
- Use [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). There are thousands of really useful Spanish videos you can trawl through.
- Watch a Spanish film, or TV programme. Watching TV programmes in Spanish with Spanish subtitles is a really good way to learn. Try the extra series, available on youtube, which is designed for learners of Spanish, so language is very simple.
- Go to Spain!

You should record all the vocabulary you have learnt from these sources in a notebook. In September I will want to know what you have done over the summer to prepare for your Spanish course, so keep a record of what you have done to share with the class.

Information about work experience placements in Spain in February 2016 will be available before the end of the summer term.

Miss Lloyd

Leader of Spanish

[jlloyd22@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:jlloyd22@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Music

You will need to think about what you will perform on the course. Speak to your instrumental teacher about a programme that you could be working towards for March next year. It needs to be around a grade IV/V standard and the programme should be around 8 minutes. It should not be beyond your current technique so it is worth avoiding very tricky pieces. It is presumed that you are currently having lessons with an instrumental teacher, if not you will need to find a teacher as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty please do email myself. For those having lessons with the West Sussex music service there is funding available.

The will be studying the following set works:

*Vivaldi - Bassoon Concerto in E minor*  
*Haydn - Drum Roll symphony* *Beethoven*  
*Violin Concerto in D major- Armstrong*  
*Hotter Than That- Ellington*  
*- Boplicity- Davis*

Make sure you have these recordings and get to know them really well. Put them on your phone or other recording device.

For composing you will create an arrangement of a chosen song. For the first lesson please bring with you a chosen song for arranging with a score or chord chart and also an idea of what instruments you will want to play.

Finally it is well worth investing in this study guide:  
OCR AS Music Study Guide - 4th Edition.

This is the correct edition and will be your bible for the course.

Good luck and happy listening

Mr Nicholson  
Curriculum Leader of Music  
[nnicholson@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:nnicholson@wsgfl.org.uk)

## Music Technology

Please choose a song that you would like to Record, be realistic in this choice as you will not be able to record heavy and thrash metal. Adult Orientated Rock (AOR) works well to record and to avoid recording drums in your first year is advisable.

Please bring with you a CD or MP3 of the song to your first lesson along with a plan of how you are to record this to include players and the Instruments/ vocalists required.

Please ensure that you are able to read both Bass and Treble clefs to at least a basic level and use the internet to help you to research. Here is a link to a site which can assist.

<http://www.teoria.com/exercises/read.htm>

You will also need some basic keyboard skills. Whilst not compulsory I would strongly recommend that you either obtain piano/ keyboard lessons privately or you can have lessons here at school with the West Sussex Music Service. You will need to search the internet for "West Sussex Music Service group lessons" or you can see me for an application form.

Finally you will be using headphones a great deal whilst on this course. Again, whilst not compulsory, many students find it advantageous if they bring their own. A good set of headphones will last you a long time and be a useful asset. Some good makes are AKG D100 beyedynamic or Audio Technical M40s.

Mr Nicholson  
Curriculum Leader of Music  
[nnicholson@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:nnicholson@wsgfl.org.uk)

# Philosophy and Ethics

Dear Parent/Carer

Philosophy and Ethics students will be required to read critically to develop thinking skills and we will be asking students to annotate their books so that they can make the most of this resource and achieve the best they can in this subject. Course books will be provided, however, should you wish to purchase your own copies the set course books are listed below.

OCR AS Philosophy and Ethics Student Book - ISBN 978-0435303624  
OCR Religious Ethics for AS and A2 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) – ISBN 978-0415468251  
OCR Philosophy of Religion for AS and A2 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) – ISBN 978-0415468244

The books listed above are available online at Amazon at a cost of £14-15 each or can be ordered from a local bookshop. Amazon also offers second hand options which are slightly cheaper. Links to the Amazon pages for these books can be found on Moodle under **Beliefs and Values Year 12; preparing to study the Philosophy and Ethics modules**. On the same **Moodle page** students will find recommended films to watch and websites to visit, these act as a helpful introduction to some of the topics which will be studied in the Philosophy and Ethics course.

Yours sincerely

Miss Yendell and Mr Challis  
Joint Curriculum Leaders of Beliefs and Values  
[dyendell@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:dyendell@wsgfl.org.uk)      [schallis@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:schallis@wsgfl.org.uk)

# Photography

Dear student,

In order to make the best start to your course here is a **short task** for you to complete.

Take 36 colour photos using film or digital, outside in good natural light conditions using the best available camera. Experiment with unusual angles, shapes, form, light, composition, shadow, line and perspective, basing your choice of subject around the theme of:

**Light Shadow      Urban      Landscape**

Get your 36 images printed (approx. size 6"x4") ready to bring with you to your first lesson in September. A good place to get photos printed is Boots, or you could use Photobox online for digital images.

We would encourage you to look at the work of photographers who you think reflect these themes in their work. Use this inspiration to help you compose your own shots. The best way to see photographs is always to go to an exhibition. Time Out link below:

<http://www.timeout.com/london/art/top-10-photography-exhibitions-in-london>

To start your course in September, you will need access to a working 35mm Digital SLR (Single Lens Reflex) camera. It is also desirable to have a film SLR camera, though we do loan these out to students. If you are making purchases we would strongly recommend Canon EOS as a reliable brand.

Have a creative summer. We look forward to discussing what you have produced in the first lesson back in September.

Ms H Buckley and Mrs T Anthony  
AS Photography Tutors

[hbuckley@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:hbuckley@wsgfl.org.uk)    [\\_tanthony@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:_tanthony@wsgfl.org.uk)

# Physical Education

AS PE is concerned with participation and then leads into elite level sport at A2. Ensure you **watch important sporting events** or at least the highlights (Commonwealth Games, World Cup Football, Wimbledon) and begin to think about elite performers and the preparation that goes in to such events.

Have there been any major incidence such as **drug scandals, political issues**.

Start to research the **history of your chosen sport, physiological statistics** and information **for an elite athlete** in your chosen sport.

We follow the AQA syllabus and use the Heinemann AQA AS PE textbook ISBN 978-0-435-49948

Mr Currie

Mrs Richard

Joint Curriculum Leaders of P.E

[acurrie@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:acurrie@wsgfl.org.uk)

[lrichards1@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:lrichards1@wsgfl.org.uk)

# Politics

We are pleased that you have decided to study Government & Politics and hope that you will enjoy this fantastic course.

**Start watching the news and making use of news websites.** The best website to use is [www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/politics). Useful programmes include the Today Show (Radio 4), Newsnight, Question Time and the Andrew Marr Show, all of which are available on iplayer. When you listen to, or read, a story, try to think why people might have different opinions about that issue. Consider what you think about the issue too, and if a political party's view is expressed, decide whether you agree with it or not. The Labour Party is in the process of choosing a new leader after Ed Milliband stepped down, having lost the general election. Try to keep an eye on this process, which will be well covered on the BBC site and in the press.

**Have a look at the websites of the two main political parties in the UK** – The Conservative and Labour parties. Try to find out what they think about: i) the economy, ii) crime, iii) benefit payments, iv) immigration, and v) the European Union. You could also investigate the Liberal Democrats, UKIP, Greens, SNP and Plaid Cymru.

**Find your MP's website** by using <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/> Spend some time reading about the work they do. What does their job involve? What news stories or case studies can you see? What does this tell you about this MP?

**Browse the UK Parliament website** – [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) to get an idea of the way Parliament works and how it conducts its business.

**The textbook for the course** is currently being re-written to include the 2015 election results, so you will be given details in September, should you wish to buy your own.

Mr A Morris and Mr S Challis

Teachers of Politics

[Amorris34@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:Amorris34@wsgfl.org.uk)

[schallis@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:schallis@wsgfl.org.uk)

# Physics

Having spent (hopefully) many weeks of boredom revising for your GCSE's the best thing you can do to prepare for AS Physics is to reignite your enthusiasm for the subject. So rather than any hard work over the summer, below are some recommended books you could read and some YouTube films to watch.

Possible books to read (pick and choose – some are trickier than others!!):

Short History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson (if you haven't read this you really should, give some great background info including interesting info about some of the physicists who came up with a lot of the theories and laws you will be taught at A-Level – be warned though, it does go very "biology" in the second half)

Big Bang - The most important scientific discovery of all time and why you need to know about it - Simon Singh

How to Dunk a Doughnut - the Science of everyday life - Len Fisher

The Making of the Atomic Bomb -- Richard Rhodes

The Elegant Universe – Brian Greene

Here are some youtube videos to watch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f9wcSLs8ZQ> – Brian Cox "A Night with the Stars" BBC Lecture

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enSXh4YY9Ws&feature=related> – Brian Cox University of Manchester Star Lecture

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raKN0RddL3A&feature=related> – BBC Horizon program on the search for the Higgs Boson at CERN

Youtube is also full of clips from Brian Cox wonders of the universe series which are quite nice.

Finally if you have access to the DVD of the Danny Boyle film "Sunshine" there is a commentary option where Brian Cox explains the physics shown throughout the film (and where they bent the laws of physics for dramatic effect) which is interesting

Mr Wilcox  
Leader of Physics  
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## Product Design – 3D

The theme is based around designing and making a prop for Harry Potter.

Research task.

1. Watch a Harry Potter film.
2. Identify the different props used in the film.
3. Create a slide on Powerpoint about the film - explain what the film is about and include pictures from the film to help explain the story line.

Useful websites:

[www.technologystudent.com](http://www.technologystudent.com)

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A Design and Technology Site

This site provides a wealth of technology information sheets for pupils and teachers

[Read more...](#)

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Mr Treen  
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# Psychology

## Summer 2015 Psychology Preparation

We are very pleased that you are considering taking Psychology. There are a number of different ways to prepare for the course.

If you are really keen to get ahead purchase the text book 'AQA Psychology for A Level Year 1 and AS' by Cara Flanagan, Dave Berry, Matt Jarvis and Rob Liddle. ISBN: 9781908682406.

You could search YouTube to look up social psychology experiments. Look for 'behaviourist psychology experiments' and 'cognitive psychology experiments'. This will give you an idea of some of the areas that are covered in the course.

Find out about, and make notes on, long and short term memory. Look up some of the explanations for why we forget.

Research arachnophobia, describing some of its possible causes and treatments.

Find out about Harlow (1958) and his work with monkeys – there are some good clips on YouTube.

Look forward to seeing you in September.

Ms Bach and Mrs Bush

Curriculum Leader of Psychology [cbach@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:cbach@wsgfl.org.uk)

# Sociology

A level Sociology begins with the unit on families in September and continues with education in the spring term. If you come to A17 I shall happily guide you to some reading. Reading a quality newspaper (e.g. I at 30p) and spotting current issues to do with families and education would speed your learning in September. Enjoy people watching during your holiday and we can use your insights in lessons.

Mrs McFarlane

Curriculum Leader of Sociology

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