



Balcarras

From strength to strength

**Year 11 GCSE
Information Evening**

September 19th 2018

This evening...

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Introduction | Dominic Burke |
| • New GCSEs | Gary Towers |
| • The Data | Gary Towers |
| • Mentoring | Elizabeth Cullis |
| • How you can help | Gary Towers |
| • Close | Dominic Burke |

GCSE Results

83%

5 Grade 9-4 with English and
Maths

Progress 8 (2017)

0.60



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Gary Towers
New GCSEs

New Courses

- All GCSEs are being replaced by more demanding versions.
- More emphasis on content.
- More emphasis on examinations taken in the summer of Year 11.
- Less emphasis on coursework/controlled assessments.

Which type of GCSE is my child taking?

New Style (9-1)

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science
- Geography
- History
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Art
- Music
- PE
- Computer Science
- French
- Spanish
- Food
- Russian
- Business studies
- Product Design
- Textiles

Others:

- Digital Applications
- Drama
- Health and Social Care

What about grades 9-1?

- The new GCSEs use the 9-1 grading system.
- 9 is the highest grade and 1 is the lowest.
- For the first year of the new courses grade 4 is matched to a C. So the same proportion of students that gained a C grade in Business Studies in 2017 will gain a 4 in 2018.
- For the first year of the new courses grade 7 is matched to an A. So the same proportion of students that gained an A grade in Business Studies in 2017 will gain a 7 in 2018.

Benchmark

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	
3	C
2	
1	
U	U

- In order to raise standards the grade 5 will be the new benchmark.



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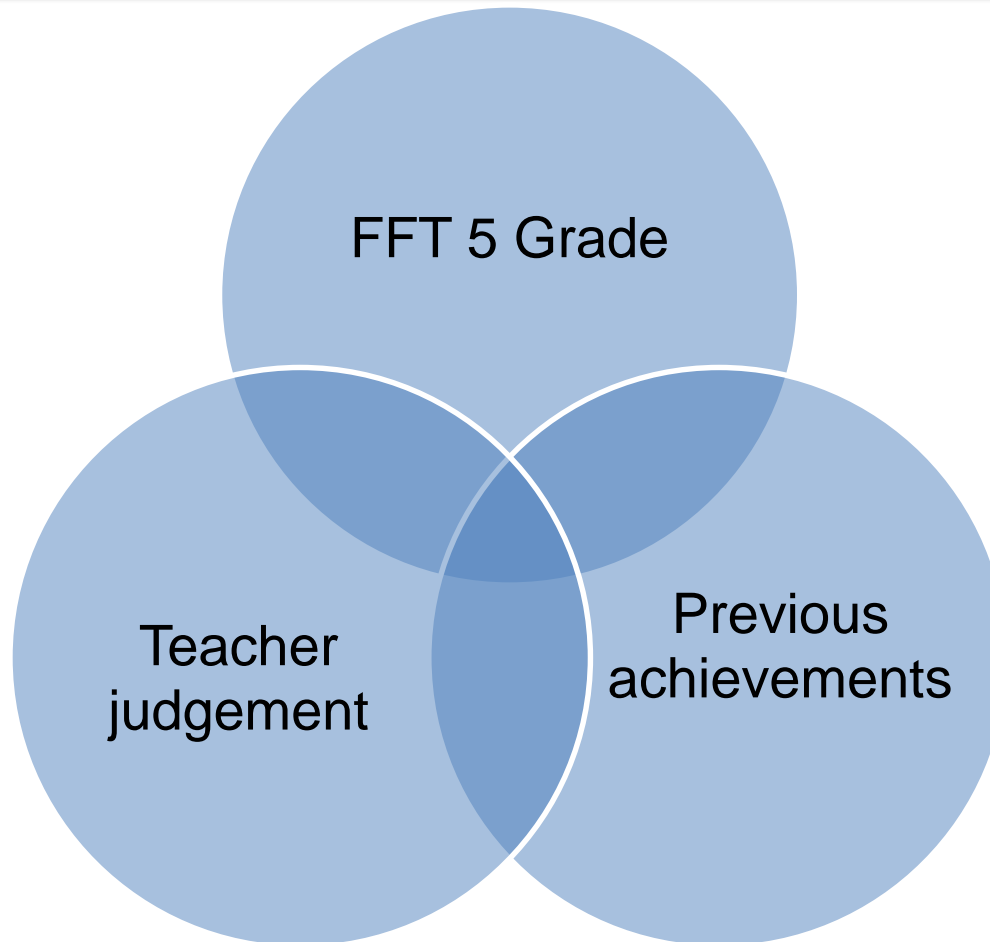
Gary Towers

The Data

What we use

- Key Stage 2 in reading and maths.
- FFT 5
- Our knowledge of your child.

Target Setting



Progress and Targets

- The progress of a student is based on the GCSE grades they achieve compared to other students with the same Key Stage 2 score.
- FFT5 sets targets based on Key Stage 2 score.
- FFT5 sets targets that would place a school and its students in the top 5% nationally for progress.

Target Setting Process

- FFT5 targets are provided to members of teaching staff.
- Teaching staff use their knowledge of the pupil and previous assessments they have taken in the school to come to the final target.

An Example

- Claire – Maths
- FFT Target is 6+
- Claire's maths teacher thinks that based on her assessments in lessons she can do better than this.

Target Grade 7

Information from Reports

Subject	GCSE Target	Interim 1		Interim 2			Interim 3		
		Effort	Concern	Effort	Progress	Concern	Effort	Progress	Concern
English Mrs L. McGee	8/9	1*		1*	7		1*	8	
Mathematics Mr S. Critchley	8/9	1*		1	7		1	7	
Science Core Mr S. Brotherton	8/9	1*		1*	7		1*	7	
Food Mrs G. Cozens	8/9	1*		1*	7		1*	8	
Geography Miss A. Niblett	8/9	1*		1*	7		1*	7	
History Miss E. Gill	8/9	1*		1*	8		1*	8	
PE (Core) Mrs S. Thompson-Clemow		1*		1*	At Exptd Lv		1*	At Exptd Lv	
PE (GCSE) Mr M. Harvey	8/9	1		1*	7		1*	7	
Russian Mr T. Daniels	A*	1*		1*	B		1*	A	

What if my child's targets are too high?

- We disagree!
- Students should work hard anyway
- They have nothing to lose!
- Believe in themselves!

What if my child's targets are too low?

- Prove us wrong
- Focus on progress grades
- Ask a teacher to raise the target



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Elizabeth Cullis

Mentoring and Revision

Mentoring

- Mentoring helps pupils reach their potential through looking at progress, setting targets and giving advice and support
- Each pupil has been assigned a member of staff as a mentor. This is dedicated one to one time.
- Pupils will have a meeting 3 times in the year. Before October half term, by the end of January and by Easter. This ties in with the availability of progress data.



- Mentors will discuss how subjects are going, look at the target grades and see if the progress grade is in-line/below/above the target
- Meetings are also an opportunity for pupils to share concerns about their progress and seek advice
- Mentors will also give Post 16/careers/revision advice if needed. From the meeting agreed targets will be set with the pupil to match their needs



9 May 2013 Last updated at 12:41



One in three students wears 'lucky exam underwear'

By Judith Burns

BBC News education reporter

One in three students admits to wearing "good luck underwear" to try to boost exam chances, a poll suggests.

As well as lucky pants, some also use lucky pens, wear lucky jewellery or take charms into exams, the survey for a stationery company reports.

Almost a quarter (23%) of the 15 to 23-year-olds polled say they only start revision the day before the exam.

Revision expert Patrick Wilson warned that charms and rituals were no substitute for proper revision.

Some 60% of 2,000 students questioned by OnePoll for penmakers Bic said they changed their diet before exams because they believe some foods can boost their brain power and memory.

More than half take up eating oily fish (53%) and 46% eat more fruit and vegetables.

'Quick flick' revision



Lucky charms and rituals are no substitute for well planned revision, students are warned

Related Stories

[Exam stress and how to beat it](#)

[Meet the 'tutor kings and queens'](#)

[▶ Professor gives pupils study tips](#)

How to
revise...
What can
you do to
help?

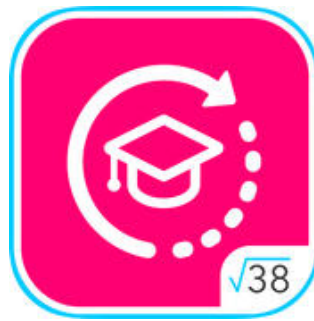
PARENTS - WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Reward effort rather than results:
You could consider offering rewards for revising/working hard, rather than adding pressure by rewarding certain grades.

Get involved:
Offer to test your child on what they've revised each day (or ask them to teach you - a great way of consolidating learning).
Encourage them to put up revision posters, diagrams, post it notes around the house.

Be a supporter, not a nag!
Praise them when they are working hard and if they have fallen off track with their revision, then offer your support to help them get back

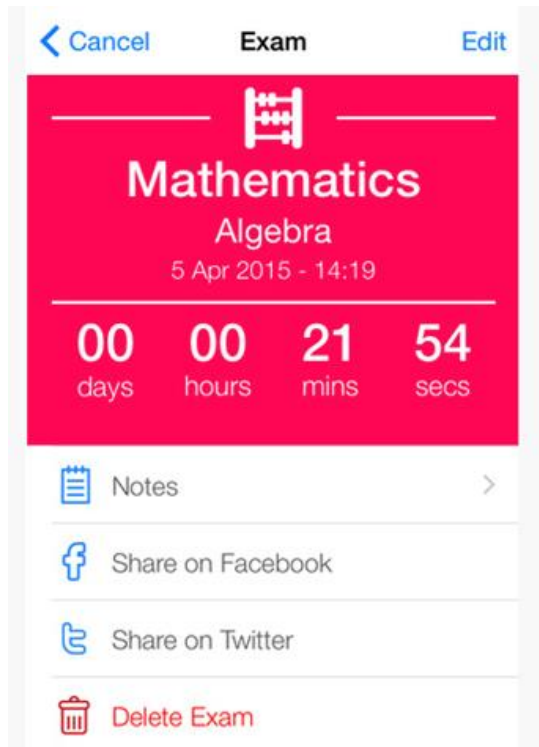
Do whatever you can to help - whether that means offering cups of tea whilst they revise, or sending them to bed when they look tired!



Exam Countdown (iOS, Free):

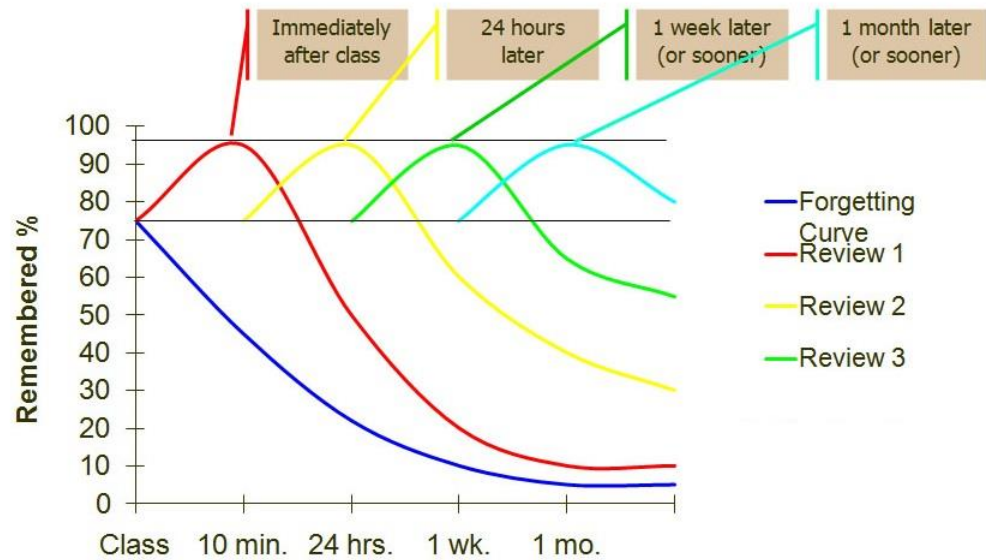
Exam Countdown enables students to schedule their exams. You can use the app to store all

your key exam and test dates in one place and can even colour code them as well. Once you've done this, you'll get a countdown note beside each exam. A future update should have a notification function, but this is not currently available.



How effective are different strategies?

- **Summarising** - writing summaries of texts - **LOW**
- **Highlighting/underlining** - **LOW**
- **Keyword mnemonics** - choosing a word to associate with information - **LOW**
- **Imagery** - forming mental pictures while reading or listening - **LOW**
- **Re-reading** – **LOW**
- **Elaborative interrogation** - being able to explain a point or fact - **MODERATE**
- **Self-explanation** - how a problem was solved – **MODERATE**
- **Interleaved practice** - switching between different kinds of problems - **MODERATE**
- **Practice testing** - Self-testing to check knowledge - especially using flash cards - **HIGH**
- **Distributed practice** - spreading out study over time - **HIGH**



and



Really good websites, Apps and resources...

www.getrevising.co.uk

Popplet – app for spider diagrams

Revise better – organised by subject area

Grafio – App for infographics

Audioboo – App for creating and storing audio files

Trading cards - for making top trumps

Everynote – synchronise revision notes between devices

Studyblue and Quizlet– create and share electronic flashcards

Memrise – learning vocab

Twitter – loads of revision resources

Gojimo – free content on subjects and quizzes

iMindmap and bubbl.uk - mindmaps

[The TES](#)Paper and online articles on memory

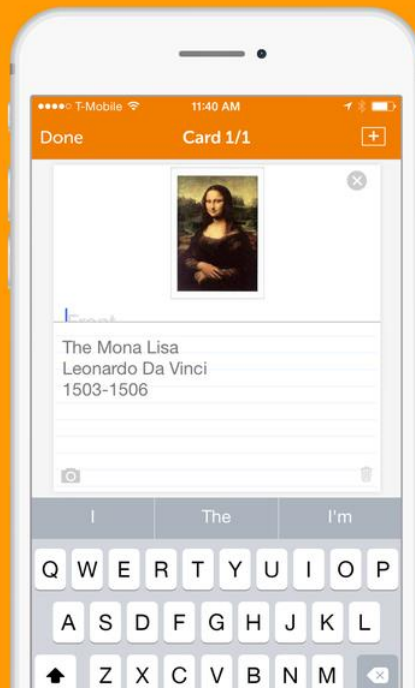


Flashcards+ (iOS, Free / Android, Free):

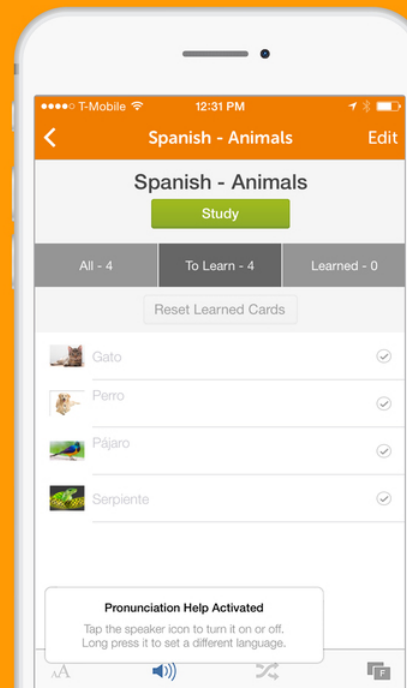
Memorize like a pro with Flashcards+ by Chegg, the fast, fun, free flashcard maker

designed to help students learn things more quickly and ace their exams. This is the ultimate online flashcard & notecard tool for students and is rated as the number 1 flashcard app on iTunes.

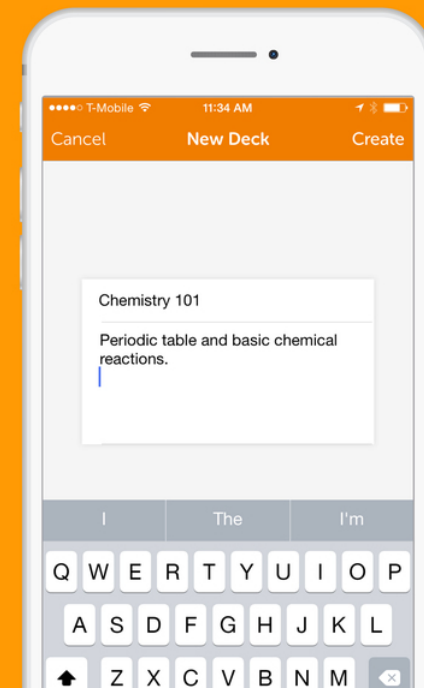
Add images to your flashcards to help with memorization



Learn languages with audio pronunciation support

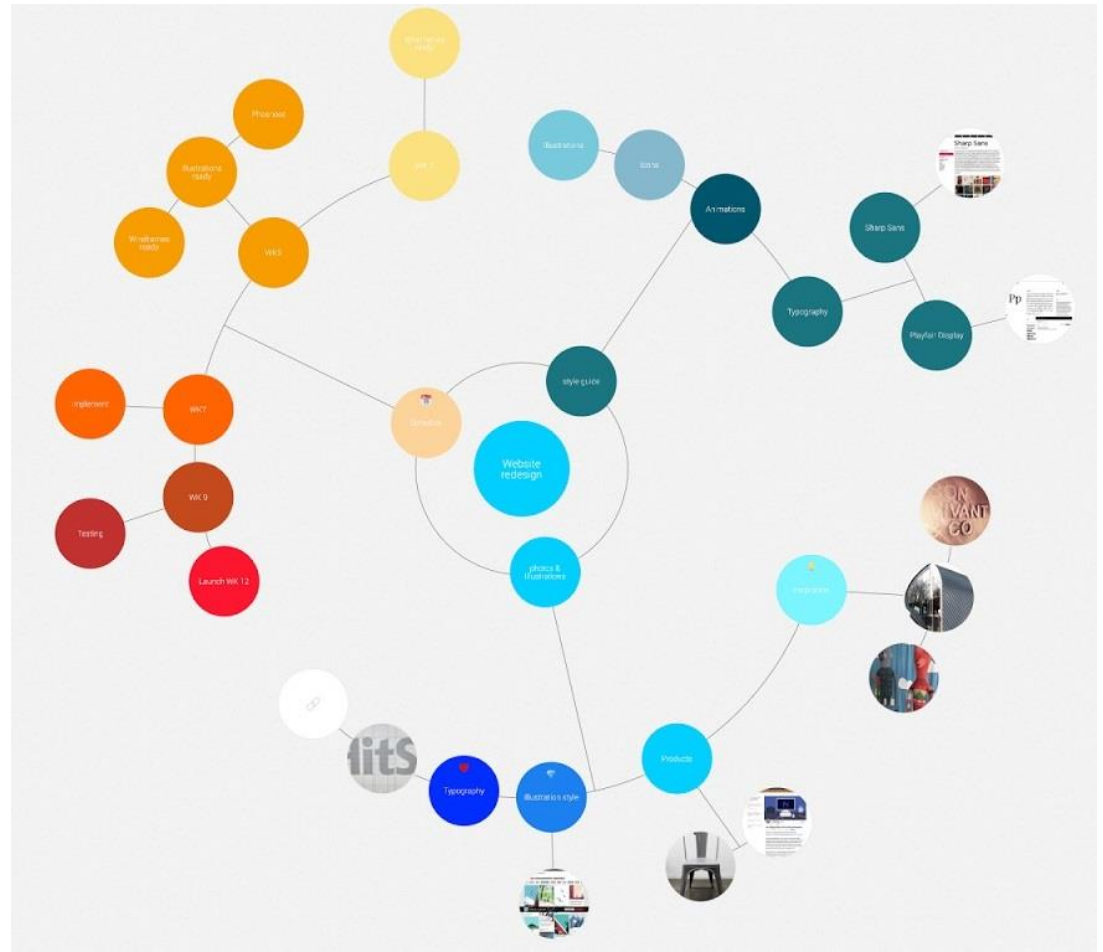


Create a custom deck for a tough class or upcoming test



Mindly is an app that helps encourage structured and joined up thinking and organise your existing beautiful mind maps to aid subject.

thoughts by creating beautiful mind maps to aid revision in any subject.

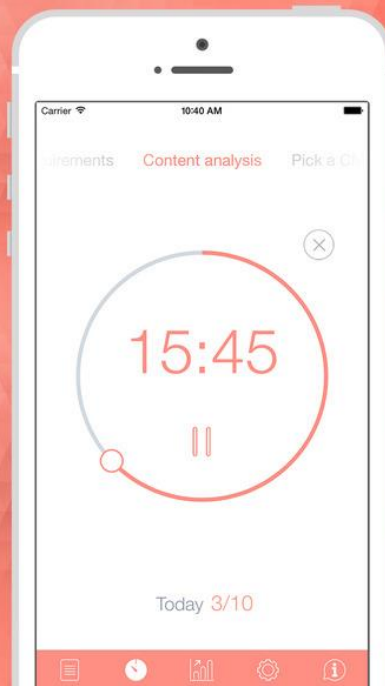




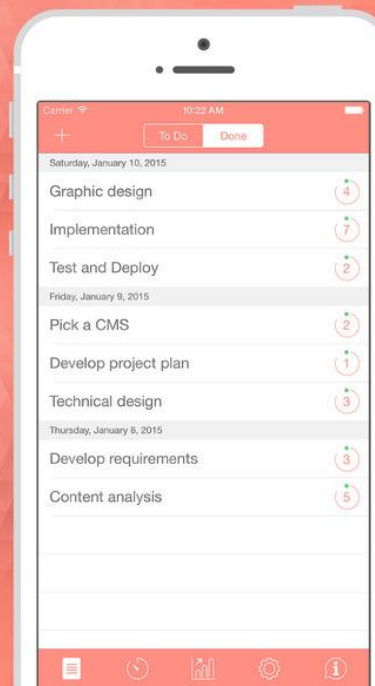
Get Focused (iOS, Free):

The Be Focused lets you get things done by breaking up individual tasks among discrete intervals, separated by short breaks. It's a surprisingly effective way to retain motivation and focus. Create tasks, configure breaks and track your progress throughout the day, week or custom period.

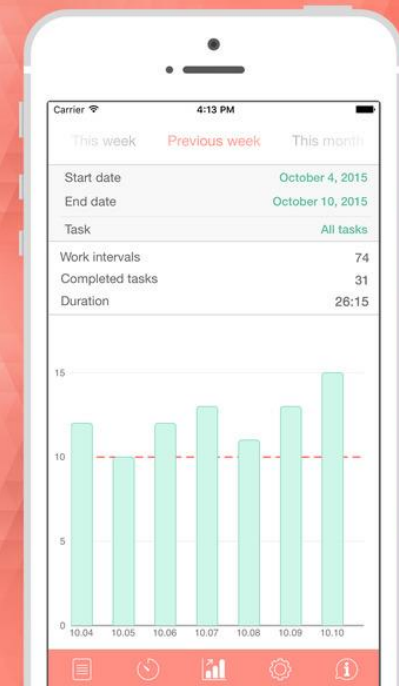
Stay Focused



Manage Tasks



Track Progress





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Gary Towers
How can you help?

How can you help?

- Make sure they are completing homework each night or continuing coursework, not leaving things to the last minute!
- Ask questions on how work is going, get them to show you some of their work
- Look at when the coursework deadlines are and help them manage their time
- Check/sign planners/check the VLE.

Important Dates

- First Progress Grade 12th October
- Exams - Trial Exams Commence 29th October
- Report - Issued 17th December
- Parents' Evening – 24th January
- Progress Grades – 8th February
- Mock Results Day TBC
- Predicted Grades – 29th March
- GCSEs – May / June Results Day is 22nd August

Contact us

- Any subject concerns contact Heads of departments/Heads of House.

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jmh@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

And Finally

- Attendance
- Sleep
- Diet
- Balance between work and play