

**Time + Effort = Success**

Securing

Outstanding

Achievement

in my GCSE and Vocational

Subjects

**A Guide for Students**

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in English Language**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Read carefully, identifying and interpreting explicit and implicit information and ideas (AO1). * Select and synthesise evidence from different texts and make perceptive suggestions about what it means (AO1). * Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant and accurate subject terminology to support views (AO2). * Compare writers’ ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed across two or more texts (AO3). * Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references (AO4). | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Keep revision notes, well organised, especially lesson handouts and printed material. * Make sure your exercise book is neat and legible enough to revise from * Read a wide range of challenging fiction and non-fiction texts independently. * Complete all homework set and meet all deadlines. * Practise working under timed conditions * Try and decipher the writer’s intentions behind the text. Think about what the writer does to make the reader see a specific message in the text. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Read and understand the text/texts thoroughly before you even attempt to answer any questions. * Remember the answering techniques required for each question making sure you know the difference between language and structure. * Use subject specific vocabulary competently and coherently. * Attend weekly revisions sessions. * Create a revision plan for the months leading up to the exam. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Clear focus and precision throughout. * Originality and flair within creative and transactional writing. * Judicious and consistent use of textual evidence to support statements made. * Clearly crafted non-repetitive answers, * The ability to use a variety of sophisticated vocabulary. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in English Literature**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Read, understand and respond to texts. * Maintain a critical style and develop an informal personal response to the texts (AO1). * Use textual reference judiciously supporting and illustrating interpretations (AO1). * Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate (AO2). * Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written (AO3). * Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect with accurate spelling and punctuation (AO4). | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Keep revision notes, well organised, especially lesson handouts and printed material. * Make sure your exercise book is neat and legible enough to revise from. * Read the set texts again and make character profiles and mind maps linked to themes. * Complete all homework set and meet all deadlines. * Practise working under timed conditions. * Decipher what the writer is doing to make the reader see a particular message in the text. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * With an extract question read the extract thoroughly. Make sure you understand what happens in the text before the extract and after the extract. * With a poetry question from the anthology, make sure you understand the message within the poem. You should be able to recognise themes and make links with similar poems * Comment on the writer’s methods using relevant subject terminology where appropriate. * Read, understand focus on the question before starting to write. * Stay focused on the question. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Clear focus and precision throughout. * Originality and flair. * Create a perceptive and sustained argument * Judicious and consistent use of textual evidence to support statements made. * The ability to use a variety of sophisticated vocabulary. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Maths**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Perform and display accurate answers and processes. * Ability to analyse results critically. * Evaluate arguments and assumptions * Show working out in a clear and logical manner. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Independent learning, completion of all homework. * Identifying topics of concern. * Practice a range of exam questions and exposure to the various styles of questions. * Attend after college revision sessions. * Use the GCSE checklist. * Engagement with worked solutions and mark schemes. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Read questions carefully and highlight key aspects. * Draw diagrams to support a written question where appropriate to support understanding. * Recall and write formulae * Regular exposure to exam questions and engagement with worked solutions and mark scheme * Independent learning at home utilising various platforms. * Check the validity of an answer and where possible check the accuracy. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Know and confidently apply various methods in solving a problem. * Prepared to have a go – be resilient. * Conscientious about their answers – double check the validity of an answer. * Communicate using a clear structure and correct mathematical terminology. * Engage with challenge questions in text books. * Motivated and willing to explore and engage with complex problems. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in**

**Combined Sci GCSE’s, Biology GCSE, Chemistry GCSE, Physics GCSE**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Engaged and focused on the subject matter in every lesson * Extremely attentive listening skills * Ability to maintain concentration for long periods * An inner drive and a determination to succeed * Can apply learned knowledge to new and unusual situations * Willingness to struggle with difficult questions * Persistence * Ability to link common concepts across the STEM subjects. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Completing all homework diligently * Obtain and use revision guide in lessons * Obtain and use Exam practice workbook to prepare for end of topic tests * Review and learn by rote the Physics equations * Login to kerboodle and personalise your own copy of the online textbook with extra detail * Ore-read the online textbook, the lessons follow the book precisely * Find the best revision style for yourself * Login and regularly use GCSE Pod * Login and use Seneca learning * Add post it notes to your revision book * Attend all revision sessions offered. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Revise thoroughly * Start months in advance * Once answered, **re-read** the question to check the whole question has been covered in the answer * Review the AQA specification checklist * Use ambitious language in answers * Flood the answers with information * Link your long answers with the phrase “this means that…” | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Obtain and use the grade 8/9 exam practice workbook * Self-mark and correct answers in the 8/9 exam practice workbook * Uses PLCs to plan next steps in revision * Diligently improve mock examination papers after being marked and returned * Diligently improve homework after it has been marked and returned * Excellent Maths skills. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Geography**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Develop your subject knowledge by reading around the topics. * Using the key Geographical terminology within exam answers. * Using specific detail in example/case study questions, e.g. data, dates, places etc. * Develop a high level of map and graph skills, using a variety of graphs * Ability to apply what you’ve learnt to different Geographical scenarios. * Good basic maths skills that you can apply in different contexts | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Go back to Y9 and Y10 topics and make revision notes, timelines, flash cards, glossaries, and revision wheels for the different topics * Attend revision sessions and ask questions. * Practise at home, working to time; how much can you do in the time available? * Read and listen to the news stories that relate to the topics covered * Be self-critical – check back through your work and ask yourself how it could be improved further. * Use the mark scheme to identify additional content that you could have included in your answer. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Ensure that you follow a clear structure for the 6/9 mark questions, using paragraphs where appropriate * BUG each question in the exam in order to understand what the question is actually asking. * During a long mark question refer back to the question throughout your answer in order to access Level 3 * Download a copy of specification/checklist and tick progress during the course. * Use the figures provided in the exam to support your answers * Identify areas of weaknesses from previous assessments in order to target revision | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Grade 8 students regularly practise writing answers to examination questions. * Grade 8 students learn their material thoroughly and apply it confidently and securely. * Grade 8 students apply their knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar contexts that may arise in examinations. * Grade 8 students can teach other students the key concepts and processes learnt in class * The difference between a grade 7 and a grade 8 can be just one mark. * You need to minimise careless errors and ensure that you have a good understanding of all the content. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in History**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Make links across different time periods **and** over different units * Be clear on how you approach each question ‘stem’ * Develop subject knowledge by reading and watching videos around the topics * Practice extended answers and making judgements. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Stick to a revision timetable * Revise the topics you find hardest the most * Attend revision sessions * Answer practice questions * Find the revision style/technique that works for you e.g. mind maps, learning grids, flash cards etc. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Ensure you have a comprehensive revision program in place * Read the question carefully and understand about what the examiner is looking for * Remember the pattern for answering questions PEE Paragraphs / 4 marks = 1 paragraph, 16 marks = 4 paragraphs * Be time aware | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Grade 8 students regularly answer practice questions * Grade 8 students have a secure understanding of the content * Grade 8 students present their judgements in a clear manner. Don’t contradict yourself * Grade 8 students have impressive listening skills * Grade 8 students demonstrate flair and originality in long answer questions. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Computer Science**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Able to develop an EFFICIENT algorithm to solve a given problem – efficiency of a solution will earn more marks. * Excellent problem solving and mathematical abilities. * Fully plans and designs programs before writing the code. * Writes well-structured code that will be easy for others to maintain and understand (thoroughly – commented code using subroutines). * Tests algorithms and programs thoroughly, not just as an afterthought. * Excellent knowledge of the theory topics. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Regularly revise key words and terminology. * Make a glossary of terms for any new terminology that is introduced. * Work through the examination-style questions and extension activities in the course textbook. * Make use of **Office365** to revise from the Content Library to revise. * Make use of **teach.ict.com** to revise from the Content Library to revise. * Make use of **GCSEPod** to revise from the Content Library to revise. * Keep up to date with new developments in technology and computer science by reading specialist magazines or websites. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Look carefully at the wording of the question to make sure everything you write fits the question being asked. * Make sure you thoroughly proof read your answers. * Thoroughly check your practical work before submitting, make sure that you have done **everything** that has been asked. * Work through as many theory past papers as possible and thoroughly check against the mark schemes. * Practise as many practical paper as possible and mark them thoroughly against the mark schemes. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Students practise their programming skills in their own time, sometimes by learning a second programming language. * Students have learned their material thoroughly and then applied it. * An in-depth knowledge of the WHOLE curriculum. * Students should be able to confidently demonstrate their knowledge of Computing and its wider implications. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in ICT**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Able to confidently use the relevant software applications, including Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Database, Multimedia and Web Design software. * Has an excellent knowledge of the theory side of the course. * When attempting to solve problems, explore different sources, i.e. the application online help and any relevant websites.   Able to reflect and learn from mistakes made, particularly on the practical side of the course. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Regularly revise key words and terminology. * Make a glossary of terms for any new terminology that you come across. * Ensure that your course notes are fully filled in with key terms highlighted. * Make use of Office365 to revise from the Content Library. * Make use of GCSEPod to revise from the Content Library. * After completing each new topic, condense the class notes into some excellent revision notes. * Keep up to date with new developments in ICT by reading specialist magazines or websites. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Look carefully at the wording of the question to make sure everything you write fits the question being asked. * Make sure you thoroughly proof read your answers. * Thoroughly check your practical work before submitting, make sure that you have done **everything** that has been asked. * Work through as many theory past papers as possible and thoroughly check against the mark schemes. * Practise as many practical papers as possible and mark them thoroughly against the mark schemes. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * A grade 8 student will be inquisitive and independently work out how to solve a problem when working on the practical side of the course. * Ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the theory aspects of the course. * Ensure that they add any missed points to past paper questions when going through mark schemes. * Students should be able to confidently demonstrate their knowledge of ICT and its wider implications. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in MFL**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | Students must be able to –  **Listening:**   * understand spoken language from a range of sources including authentic material; * draw inference from what is heard; * recognise attitudes and identify moods, feelings and emotions; * summarise and explain what is heard in writing; * cope with normal speed of spoken language.   **Speaking:**   * communicate on a variety of topics both factual and imaginative; * give, justify and seek opinions; * deal confidently with unpredictable unfamiliar elements of a conversation; * use a wide variety of vocabulary and linguistic structure accurately to express ideas across a range of tenses; * react naturally in a longer conversation; * speak fluently with accurate pronunciation and intonation.   **Reading:**   * understand a wide range of text types including literacy texts, factual, official and informal texts; * cope with unfamiliar topics and more complex language; * recognise attitudes, emotions and inference; * summarise, report and explain in the written form; * translate short texts from the target language into English which includes some unfamiliar language with a high degree of accuracy; | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Listening to French/German or Spanish radio * Reading authentic articles out of French/German or Spanish magazines (available in MFL classrooms) * Complete extended writing tasks as an extra piece of homework * Prepare and learn outstanding replies to all questions in your GCSE Conversation Booklet * Attend after school Friday MFL revision (commencing in September 2018) * Attend one to one speaking practice available during both first and second PD/break times. |
|  | **Writing:**   * write fluently and largely from memory on a range of familiar, factual and imaginative topics; * produce a fully relevant, detailed response and covey a lot of information; * develop ideas and narrate events, linking the piece as a whole; * write coherently and accurately; * communicate clearly with no ambiguity; * give, justify and seek opinions and ideas routinely; * translate texts into the target language which contain unfamiliar language conveying all messages with a high level of accuracy. |  |  |
|  | **Grammar:** -   * use confidently and consistently accurately a variety of clause types, vocabulary, idioms and structures, including verb structures and tenses; * use ambitious language with a high level of accuracy; * handle more complex sentences with confidence; * use appropriate style and register. |  |  |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source image | * Make frequent use of the GCSE MFL revision pods * Revise small chunks frequently (perhaps 15 minutes each evening throughout the academic year – not just in the run up to the exams) * Make full use of your GCSE French/German or Spanish revision guide. * Purchase an AQA GCSE Exam Practice workbook for French/German or Spanish (available from the MFL Office for £2.50) and make regular use of it. * Attend frequent one to one speaking practice with your MFL teacher in order to develop your confidence in preparation for the speaking exam (at least once a week) | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image | A grade 8 will be awarded to students who:  **Consistently** display the skills and competencies required by Grade 7/8 students in this subject. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Business Studies**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Understanding all aspects of business terminology and to be able to express your answers using high levels of written communication. * Develop your business knowledge by reading around the topics. * Practise the extended writing questions on both papers, ensure you explain, analyse and evaluate your paragraphs. Grade 8 students should be able to prioritise their arguments. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Go back to topics covered in year 9 and 10 and make revision notes using flash cards or mind maps. * Make a glossary of terms for any new terminology that you came across. * Attend revision sessions and ask questions. * Ensure all course notes are fully completed with key terms highlighted in the ‘literacy’ section in your student exercise books. * Use resources on office 365 to revise. * Use BBC Business webpage to keep up to date with Business news stories across the globe. * Practise at home using Business workbooks. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Ensure you have prepared in detail for both Them 1 and Theme 2 exams; your subject knowledge is secure and accurate. * Read the wording of the question and carefully to make everything you write fits the questions being asked. * Proof read all questions – time permitting. * Move quickly through the 3 mark questions in order to spend sufficient time on the 9 and 12 mark questions. * Practise on as many theory pas papers as possible and thoroughly check against the mark schemes. * Know the suggested amount of time to spend on each question in both examinations. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Grade 8 students regularly practise writing answers to examination questions. You may use the Business workbooks to do this. * Literacy skills are exemplary and consistent. * All theory content is thoroughly understood and applied confidently and securely. * All case study questions are analysed and evaluated rigorously, confidently and critically. * Key terminology is used consistently and confidently when answering a case study question. * To demonstrate flair and originality in their writing when answering the higher tariff questions. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Vocational Sport**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Comprehensively state / explain and analyse all aspects of coursework and examinations. * Apply their knowledge to relevant sporting examples * Learn the level of detail needed for distinction / criteria | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Attend all lessons * Attend all Friday revision sessions after school 3.10pm – 4.10pm * Apply maximum effort to all tasks and complete all questions thoroughly * Ensure all coursework is up to date * Apply exam knowledge to real life, training and diet plan. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Underline or highlight key information form the case study * Practise and past papers and questions against the clock with no questions (as close to exam conditions as possible) * Answer every question in thorough detail. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Consistent in all aspects of work * Achieves DISTINCTION in every unit * Organised folders – paper and electronic – well presented and structured * Dedication, commitment and hard work. |

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | A grade 8/9 student will demonstrate an exceptional ability in the following areas:   * To effectively develop ideas through creative and purposeful investigations. * To engage with and demonstrate critical understanding of sources. * To thoughtfully refine ideas with discrimination. An exceptional ability to effectively select and purposefully experiment with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. * To skilfully and rigorously record ideas, observations and insights through drawing and annotation, and any other appropriate means relevant to intentions, as work progresses. * To show consistent and effective use of specialist equipment, including sewing machines, batik pots, serif photo plus and other suitable equipment. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * High expectations of yourself and pride in the work you produce. * Ongoing refinement of ideas, modelling off assessment objectives. * Challenge yourself to create something different and imaginative and reflect on the success of the product of your work. * Make sure that you always meet your deadlines. * Do more that you have been asked to do. * Take ownership of your work and push it on in the direction that you want to. This will ensure that you produce work that is truly original. * Be self-critical – check back through your work and ask yourself how it could be improved further. Enjoy your artwork, if you do, it will really help you engage with the project. * Write in depth annotations making links to artists’ works and inspiration. Evaluate the success and the potential opportunities to further develop your ideas. * Keep practicing your drawing skills. Drawing underpins everything else. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * It is important that you develop both component 1 (coursework) and component 2 (examination) as thoroughly as you can. There are 4 Assessment Objectives and your work will be assessed against these. You have a copy of these Assessment Objectives in the back of the sketchbook. * Connections need to be made between the 4 Objectives. This will allow you to develop your work in a hostilic (complete) manner. Make sure that you always have reasons for the work that you produce. It might help you to consider your unit of work as a journey with a starting point (the theme or topic) and a destination (the final outcome). * It is useful to look at the exemplar material in the Art department. This will let you see how you can reach a grade 8/9. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * A grade 8/9 is awarded to work that demonstrates an exceptional level of formal skill. This means that you need to be able to use and manipulate media at an exceptional level. The work also needs to demonstrate and exceptional level of analysis and idea development. * The final outcome needs to be justified by the previous research and experimentation in an exceptional manner. You also need to have demonstrated that you have developed your work in an original and personal manner. This means that ultimately the ideas need to come from you. If your teacher suggests an idea or shows a technique you will still need to take that idea or technique and make it your own through research and experimentation. * Grade 8/9 work clearly shows that a student’s work has evolved through the course of study rather than simply following each task set by the teacher. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Art Textiles and Fine Art**

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Dance**

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| Image result for illustrated studying imagesWhat are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject? | * The ability to rehearse rigorously and independently. * The ability to improve own work through   analysis, critical self-reflection and evaluation.   * To be able to write in detail, including   appropriate examples which are justified.   * To be able to analyse, interpret and evaluate   professional dance works.   * To be able to research from a variety of sources and translate that research into a piece of choreography. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject? | * Revise the skills glossary. * Read through the revision guide and complete sample questions. * Independently watch the extracts from the professional works on YouTube. * Research choreography ideas and watch contemporary dance composition on YouTube. * Keep all notes up to date. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  Image result for illustrated studying images study-hi[1] | **Choreography**   * Choose your stimulus carefully. * Research your stimulus thoroughly and make notes on how the research could be translated into movement. * Plan your rehearsals and use rehearsal time effectively. * Complete peer and self-assessment at regular intervals.   **Performance**   * Use repetition to develop confidence with the movement. * Improve own work through analysis, critical self-reflection and evaluation. * Attend after school rehearsals to develop confidence within the performance space.   **Written Exam**   * Underline key terms in the questions. * Use the revision guide and complete practise questions. * Practise past papers against the clock. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * A Grade 8 student will demonstrate, including through own performance, sustained and perceptive knowledge and understanding of skills required to perform safely, accurately and with sensitivity to style and intention. * A Grade 8 student will demonstrate sophisticated selection and use of choreographic elements and aural settings to communicate choreographic intention. * A Grade 8 student will critically analyse, interpret and evaluate own and professional works, to produce convincing reflective judgements using specialist terminology accurately and effectively. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Drama**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * The ability to rehearse rigorously and independently. * The ability to use physicality and voice when performing, whilst being audience aware. * To be able to write in detail, including appropriate examples which are justified. * To recognise that all artistic decisions must communicate meaning. * To be able to research from a variety of sources. * Read through independently and make changes where necessary in written work before submitting it for assessment. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Independently read a section from the set text. Creating revision mind-maps. * Rehearse lines, when preparing for performances. * Visit BBC Bitesize Drama page, National Drama and, researching the historical context of your set play/devising stimulus. * Read through your set text booklets. * Keep all notes up to date. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | **Devising**   * Choose your stimulus carefully. * Research your stimulus using at least eight sources (remember to use books not just the internet) * Write a clear evaluative journey of how you developed your work, including examples and justification.   **Scripted Performance**   * Learn your lines and perform for as many people as possible. * Keep a record of what you do on stage and justify every point. * Research the Social, Historical and Cultural context of the play.   **Written Exam**   * Read the scripts several times, independently. * Complete practise questions. * Research the historical period relating to your scripts. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Uses ambitious language, and drama specific terms flawlessly. * Committed to rehearsals. * Passionate about all of the work. * Fully prepared for every deadline. * Approaches all tasks independently. * Hands work in before the deadlines * Answers all questions in examinations. * Makes a clear distinction between the character and the actor during the long answer question for Section B. * Asks for help as soon as they find a topic/issue confusing. * Use the extra support available outside of lessons to stretch and challenge. |

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| **Securing Outstanding Achievement in Music (BTEC)** |

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Distinction\* student in this subject?  See the source image | * High level performance skills – ability to connect with an audience. * A good knowledge of the Music Industry – venues, health and safety, production and promotion, service companies and agencies, unisons, job roles, management and recording roles, and payments. * Organisational skills are key in this course with 75% of the course being evidence based coursework. * Presentation skills are vital to present evidence to the examiner. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Practice your instrument – at least 1 hour per week – preferably little and often (10 minutes per day). * Review classwork from the previous week and summarise your notes into revision resources. * Find definitions for any words that you don’t understand. * Act on any feedback given on your coursework using the marking criteria to improve it. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Read through the requirements carefully. Use a highlighter to highlight any key words in the examination questions. * Revise in small groups to help keep you motivated and to get feedback on your work from others. * Ask Mrs Wilson about anything that you don’t understand, either during the lesson or immediately after the lesson. * Break your learning down into manageable chunks. Focus on once element of the music industry at a time. | What distinguishes a Distinction(\*) from a Merit in this subject?  See the source image | * Confidence and good communication with your audience. * Attention to detail. * WHY? Detailed coursework which explains your choices. Constantly asking yourself ‘WHY did I do this?”. * Address any weaknesses that you have across the units of work so that easy marks are not lost to simple mistakes. |

**Securing Outstanding Achievement in Music (GCSE)**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Distinction\* student in this subject?  See the source image | * Advanced performance ability at grade 4 or above. Confidence performance as a soloist and a member of ensemble. * Familiarity with MuseScore and Ignite and an awareness of composition techniques * A strong understanding of music theory – scales, chords, candences, intervals, time signatures, key signatures, modulation and clefs. * A good knowledge of key composers and musical works from the Baroque era to present day. An understanding of stylistic features of the era and the instruments used. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Practice your instrument – at least 1 hour per week – preferably little and often (10 minutes per day). * Review classwork from the previous week and summarise your notes into revision resources. * Find definitions for any words that you don’t understand. * Keep practicing your music reading skills. * Listen to music from all the Areas of Study we learn about – Musical Forms and Devices (1600 – 1900), Music for Ensemble (Jazz, Blues, Chamber Music and Musicals), Film Music and Popular Music. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Use the assessment criteria when completing your coursework. * Practice questions are the key to success. Revise your keywords and use your revision guide to help you. * Ask Mrs Wilson about anything that you don’t understand, either during the lesson or immediately after the lesson. * Revise classwork regularly and produce materials (mind maps, keyword lists, summaries etc.) to check that you have memorised important information. * Use a yellow and green highlighter on the exam questions (MAD T SHIRT) to ensure you fully understand what the question is asking. | What distinguishes a Distinction(\*) from a Merit in this subject?  See the source image | * Precision when performing – don’t practice to get the piece right, practice until you can’t get it wrong. * Review your coursework regularly, using the marking criteria. * Pay attention to detail. Make sure your compositions and performances are so polished there is no doubt about the mark. * Address any weaknesses in any of the three components (performing, composing and appraising) so that easy marks are not lost to simple mistakes. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Design Technology**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | * Use key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing, innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making, manufacture and production; critiquing, develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work. * Extensive evidence that investigation of design possibilities has taken place throughout the project with excellent justification and understanding of possibilities identified. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Fully engage in all theory sessions each week (stand-alone / single lesson) * Conduct and record continual analysis and development throughout the entire NEA on a weekly basis as an integral aspect of your homework. * Spend one hour per week re-visiting the theory work carried out every week as this is tested at the end of each topic. * Use the GCSEPOD in conjunction with the theory covered each week to reinforce learning as part of your weekly home study. * Keep yourself completely familiar with the tracker, this is your `LIVE` performance record and will inform you where you are and what you need to do next. |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source imagestudy-hi[1] | * Within taught theory sessions, you should produce a comprehensive revision guide. * Keep a tight control of timings – work on the basis that 1 mark = 1 minute. * Do **NOT** leave empty spaces and unanswered questions – have a go and record responses even if you **THINK** you don`t know. * Respond to a task or question needs to be justified. * Ensure the question is understood fully before answering and answer every question in thorough detail. | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image866529_feedback_form_excellent[1] | * Excellent design focus and full understanding of the impact on society including; economic and social effects. * Comprehensive investigation into the work of others that clearly informs ideas. * Very detailed development work is evident, using a wide range of 2D/3D techniques (including CAD where appropriate) in order to develop a prototype. * Fully detailed manufacturing specification is produced with comprehensive justification to inform manufacture. |

**Securing Outstanding GCSE Performance in Food Preparation and Nutrition**

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| What are the skills and competencies shown by a Grade 7/8 student in this subject?  See the source image | -Showing excellent understanding of all the core topics; food safety, food commodities, food provenance, foods from around the world, nutrition, healthy eating and scientific process of food.  -Showing evidence of being able to plan and following a logical order throughout all practical work.  - Using correct ingredients and methods.  - Showing high level skills and producing a demanding food product with a quality finish.  - Being independent and organised.  - Showing solid evaluation and decision making skills and basing all decisions around the target market and nutritional content. | What should I be doing on a weekly basis to secure the very highest grade in this subject?  See the source image | * Keep on top of the work. * You need to be producing one food product and its associated evaluation per week. * Spend one hour per week re-visiting the theory work carried out in Year 10 as this will be tested during the examination and will not be covered again this year except during revision lessons. * Look at the BBC Bitesize website and do the interactive exercises related to Food Technology. * Use the revision guide. * Revise thoroughly for all tests and exams |
| How should I approach the examination and assessment requirements?  See the source image | * Learn key terms and vocabulary. * Learn the science behind cooking. * Learn about the nutrition of all the macronutrients and micronutrients. * Be aware of sustainability and environmental issues. * Learn the healthy eating guidelines and be familiar with the Eatwell Guide. * Look at dietary requirements throughout all the life stages. * Consider multicultural changes in society. * Keep a tight control of timing - work on the basis of 1 mark per minute. * Use only high complex skills in practical work | What distinguishes a Grade 8 from a Grade 7 in this subject?  See the source image | * Choosing to make food products which show a higher level of skill and achieving a high quality finish. * Evaluating in sufficient detail, always referring back to research findings and hypothesises. * Use technical language and communicate all decision in a focused and concise way. * Use excellent spelling, grammar and punctuation. Show flair and originality. * Produce an excellent quality product. |