



South Bromsgrove High
Inspiring confidence through learning



South Bromsgrove High
Year 9 Curriculum Guide 2011/12

Year Nine Curriculum Guide 2011-12

July 2011

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As a parent of a Year 9 student, trying to support your son/daughter as he/she moves to High School can sometimes seem quite difficult.

To try to help with this we have put together a curriculum guide containing essential information for parents of Year 9 students.

Please try to find time to go through this booklet.

The following general points may be of help:

- Parental support for students with homework, coursework and revision improves students' GCSE results. Some GCSE courses will be started in Year 9.
- Students who have a study habit at home are more likely to reach their potential.
- If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress in a subject there are consultation evenings every half term where you can make appointments to meet staff.
- Teenagers frequently 'put things off'. Their organisational skills are not fully developed and they need advice, guidance and sometimes a firm approach to reach their potential.
- The planner for recording homework should be signed by parents weekly. Check that your child is recording homework – and have a look at his/her exercise books as well.

Year 9 Curriculum Booklet:

This booklet gives you important information and tips to help your child achieve his/her potential. It tells you:

- What is expected in each subject and how you can help
- An overview of the reporting and consultation system so you can keep a track of your child's progress
- Key dates for your diary

Yours sincerely

L.J. Colley

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SUBJECT OUTLINES

Art

Curriculum Coordinator

Mrs N Taylor

What we will teach your child:

In Art students will explore visual experiences to communicate ideas and meanings. They will work with a variety of materials, developing confidence, competence, imagination and creativity. Students will also reflect critically on their own work and other people's work, developing an appreciation of art, craft and design.

During the year students will have the opportunity to develop ideas around specific themes inspired by looking at the work of a range of artists. Students will practise drawing techniques and explore ideas through paint, print, collage and pastels.

There will also be an opportunity to work on a large scale group project in the summer term.

How you can support your child:

- Provide a suitable area for extended homework tasks
- Encourage your child to use their time wisely when planning and making. Marks will be given for the creative use of materials - so be prepared to offer ideas.
- Be aware of all homework deadlines.

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- There is a wealth of ideas in the work of other artists and the internet will be a useful tool for development.
- Websites will vary according to the artists being studied and students will be given suitable web addresses for each task.

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

Assessment is a vital part of the Art Curriculum. Students are continuously assessed using a variety of different means. Students can always expect verbal feedback during their art lesson. Each piece of class work and homework will be marked and grades and levels are recorded on the front of the students' folder which can be accessed by all. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate areas of improvement as their work develops.

Homework Expectations:

- Homework will be set when appropriate and will always compliment the unit of work.
- Students will be given deadline dates as the length of time allocated for each homework will depend on the task set. (Deadlines for homework's can be accessed via Moodle/Technology/Art/Yr9).

Biology

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr N Coates

What we will teach your child:

Half Term 1 – Interdependence: Students venture into the outdoors and learn about the importance of plants and the processes that take place within them.

Half Term 2 – Cells: Students study the building blocks of animals and plant life.

Half Term 3 – Fit and Healthy: Students study the different aspects of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Half Term 4 – The Genetic Code: Students study different aspects of DNA such as inheritance and DNA technology.

Half Terms 5+6 – Start of GCSE course.

How you can support your child:

Homework will be set each week, so please check your child's planner and ensure that he/she has completed it. Homework activities will often require research of some description so access to the internet would be of benefit.

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/science>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/qcsebitesize/science/>

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

Your child will be assessed through regular marking of their exercise book and homework activities. Additionally, students will complete a tiered (Level 3-6 or 5-7) unit test in each of the four units.

Homework Expectations:

Homework will be set on a weekly basis. A variety of homework tasks will be set and should be recorded in your child's planner.

Chemistry

Curriculum Coordinator

Ms G Scutt

What we will teach your child:

- **Term 1 – Chemical reactions**
 - Looking at the reactions of metals and their compounds with other chemicals
- **Term 2 – Using Chemistry**
 - How chemistry is used in industry and the home
- **Term 3 – Start the GCSE Gateway Science Course**

How you can support your child:

- Look through their exercise books asking them to explain key concepts to you (you don't need to know the science, but they should be able to explain it to you, if they can't then they need to ask their teacher)
- Encourage them to discuss science items they see in the news
- Help them to revise in preparation for tests

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- www.docbrown.info – *comprehensive chemistry revision notes and exercises*
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/> - excellent revision material

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- Tests will occur in the middle and end of each module
- A KS3 level (between 3 and 7) will be achieved by your child.

Homework Expectations:

Homework will be set on a weekly basis. A variety of homework tasks will be set and should be recorded in your child's planner.

Year Nine Curriculum Guide 2011-12

Design Technology

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr P H Clifton

What we will teach your child:

All Year Nine students will follow a range of modules linked to the Design Technology Key Stage Three National Curriculum with modules in 3D Design, Food, Graphics and Textiles. Each of these modules will cover the key themes of Investigating and Developing Ideas, Communicating Ideas, Planning, Making and Evaluating and all modules will include a practical dimension in which students will be able to display their creativity and practical skills. Each unit will be assessed independently with key assessments linked to the Y9 KAR.

Key subject information:

3D Design – Students will develop a range of Design, Graphics and Practical skills. These will be covered by carrying out a Design and Make Project based on a digital clock.

Food – Students will develop an understanding of healthy eating and basic nutrition and will be equipped with the skills to successfully prepare their own meals. They will analyse their own diets, understand how to prepare, cook and store food safely and how to present and garnish food to give it the wow factor.

Textiles – Students will develop their research skills producing a mood-board and carrying out existing product analysis. They will plan their individual order of work to meet deadlines and develop a range of practical skills including the use of a sewing machine. At the end of the unit students will test and evaluate their finished product.

Graphics – Students will develop a range of practical 2D Graphics skills across a range of media including computer graphics. They will plan, design, make and evaluate a range of graphics output according to a brief given to them.

Homework Expectations and how you can support your child:

- Homeworks will be given to back up the design and practical work within modules.
- Students will be required to research in preparation for given projects and source required materials for specified practical work.
- Students will often be expected to do some of the preparation for their practical work at home and parents are encouraged to support students in the completion of this work.
- Parental support is sought to encourage all students to come to Design Technology fully prepared with all required lesson materials and practical resources.

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- Useful web sites: www.technologystudent.com
- We will endeavour to make our modules as active as possible with regular opportunities to research the work of others and learn from real life situations.

Subject : Drama

Name of co-ordinator: Mr Sugars

What we will teach your child: Students will be taught a range of drama skills over the course, with a focus on improvisation, response to text and the development of their ability to communicate in a range of contexts. Building confidence is also at the heart of our course. In the Autumn term students will build their improvisation skills, exploring a range of theatre forms and styles in preparation for a performance based on thematic work. In the Spring term we will work collaboratively on dramatic responses to script, interpreting and developing a character, exploring the roles of actor, director and designer and working towards group performances of scripted scenes. The Summer term will focus on the creation of a devised performance, incorporating knowledge and skills accumulated throughout the course and based on research material and texts.

How you can support your child:

- Provide a suitable area for extended homework tasks
- Be aware of all homework deadlines.
- View and offer opinions on practical and written work.

Supportive resources / websites / visits

- Theatre visits / opportunities to see live performances
- Involvement in extra-curricular drama

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- Students will be assessed on their practical work through their final performance, but also through collaborative teamwork during the creation of their pieces.
- Written work will be completed and assessed throughout the course in response to preparations for practical coursework.
- Students will also be expected to produce an on-going record of their drama work through entries in their drama logbook.

Homework Expectations:

- Homework will be set on a regular basis and will always complement the unit of work.
- Homework will encompass a range of tasks including written work and practical tasks as well as

English

Curriculum Coordinator

Mrs Jackson

What we will teach your child:

- **Autumn Term:** A whole novel, a variety of poems and non-fiction texts. Students also write their own poetry, short stories and non-fiction texts.
- **Spring Term:** A detailed study of Shakespeare's "The Tempest." Students watch the play in performance by a visiting theatre group.
- **Summer Term:** We begin **AQA Syllabus GCSE English Language Unit B (15%)**. Students complete two controlled assessments by the end of the term. Firstly, all students study the film, "The Truman Show;" secondly, the students either write a newspaper column under the heading, "Don't Get me Started On..." or a response in any format based on the theme of "Change."

How you can support your child:

- You can support your child by encouraging their interest in English.
- Please take an active interest in their work by asking them about their homework, looking at their exercise books and discussing what they are learning.
- Most importantly, encourage your child to read. This can be a range of genres from books to magazines.

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- The School Learn Centre book borrowing service
- www.bbc.bitesize.com
- Shared Documents and Moodle
- The AQA English web-site

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- At the start of year 9 every student completes an original writing assignment for assessment of their writing skills. They also sit a short reading test to assess their reading age.
- In the Summer Term two controlled tests are graded from A* - G following the syllabus criteria and contribute 15% towards their final grade in GCSE English Language.

Homework Expectations:

- All Year 9 students are expected to complete a weekly reading homework.
- Writing homework is set weekly or periodically as appropriate. It is particularly important in preparation for class based controlled assessments.
- Students are regularly set reading, writing and research tasks to consolidate their learning.

Subject

Geography

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr Medicott

What we will teach your child: A broad range of Human and Physical Geography topics will be studied including; USA, Environmental Disasters, Powerful nations, The Olympics and How Safe is Britain? These units are designed to provide the key skills required to study Geography beyond Year Nine if desired.

How you can support your child:

- Your son / daughter would benefit from support when completing key assessments at home. Particular guidance could be required when using the internet for research. Discussing Geographical issues and topics also promotes a deeper level of understanding.

Supportive resources / websites / visits

- It is advisable to watch the news on a regular basis to build an appreciation of issues at a local, regional and national scale. Reading a local or national newspaper to identify Geographical themes is also worthwhile.

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- The course does not contain coursework. Assessments will be set for each unit of study which will be level marked and returned with guidance to help your son / daughter make improvements and increase their level of understanding.

Homework Expectations: Homework will be set when required and will link to the key assessment for each unit.

History

Curriculum Coordinator

Mrs Taylor

What we will teach your child:

Students will be taught about aspects of British and World History from 1800 to the present day. During the Autumn term students will examine significant changes and events in world conflict during the past century. They will gain an understanding of significant changes and events in the twentieth century and how these have impacted on peoples' lives, beliefs and attitudes. Students will also study developments in the history of medicine and surgery as part of a thinking skills project.

In the Spring term students will opt for their GCSE in History and will begin a course that will have been carefully selected to enable them to achieve the best result possible.

How you can support your child:

You can support your child by encouraging their interest in History. Please take an active interest in their work by asking them about their homework, looking at their exercise books and discussing what they are learning about in class.

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history

www.johndclare.net

<http://sbshistory.podomatic.com/>

www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

Assessment is an integral part of the History Curriculum. Students are continually assessed using a variety of different means. Students can expect one formal written assessment each half term. Each assignment will assess a particular skill. Students will be provided with detailed written and verbal feedback and will have the opportunity to demonstrate areas of improvement.

Homework Expectations:

Homework tasks will be set, as and when appropriate. These will include personal research, task completion and revision for internal assessments.

ICT

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr Clifton

What we will teach your child:

Students in Year Nine are following the final year of their KS3 ICT National Curriculum. More significantly pupils are also beginning work on an ICT OCR National qualification and will complete units that contribute towards a GCSE equivalent qualification by the end of Year Ten. The course is assessed at **Pass, Merit or Distinction**.

The Units followed in Year Nine will be:

- Unit 1: Skills for Business
- Unit 21: Creating Web Graphics

How you can support your child:

- All of the work linked to the units identified above is covered in class in Y9 ICT lessons and is listed on the school's Moodle ICT website. Please visit the Moodle site and examine the materials - all students have their own access, and will be able to show you how the site works.
- Please discuss the Moodle site with your child and find out what their understanding is. If you feel that your student needs more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.
- If your child does experience problems in ICT, please encourage them to discuss any issues that they might have with their teacher or, if you prefer, feel free to contact the teacher directly using the school's contact information.

Supportive resources / websites:

- Individual Assessment Criteria sheets for each unit. These sheets are the essential checklist for students. We will supply your child with a checklist for each unit.
- <http://www.ocrnationals.com/> This has an overview of the OCR Nationals and the ICT course in particular, and explains their value in GCSE terms.

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- There is no KS3 test in ICT and no examination for the ICT OCR National.
- All assessment is based on portfolio evidence and the ICT work completed in Y9 and Y10.
- Each of the units completed in Y9 has an assessment sheet detailing the evidence required – these are available on Moodle.
- Depending on the evidence produced and the assessment criteria met, pupils will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction for their work.
- Students who do not produce the work required will not achieve a Pass.

Homework Expectations:

- All tasks linked to completion of the ICT OCR National will be available on Moodle. These tasks will obviously be undertaken in class but students will be expected to use homework time each week for completion.
- All completed work will need to be uploaded on Moodle.

Mathematics

Curriculum Coordinator

Miss S Rowing

What we will teach your child:

- A variety of mathematical techniques from the Number, Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data strands of the GCSE Mathematics curriculum.
- How to apply these in different situations, particularly in the examination context.
- We will start the GCSE course in year 9 and aim to complete two units. Students will do a further unit in year 10, thus **completing GCSE at the end of year 10**.
- We will provide the opportunity for improvement and further development in year 11.

How you can support your child:

- Show enthusiasm for Mathematics! Point out how important Mathematics is – not only as a qualification in itself, but also as something that is essential in everyday life.
- Have a look at his/her exercise books and talk about how he/she is progressing. Look for the 'traffic light' marking done by the teacher. What does he/she need to do to improve?
- Ensure your son/daughter is properly equipped for lessons. This includes having a pen, pencil, exercise book, textbook and importantly a **CALCULATOR!**

Supportive Resources/websites/visits:

- www.mymaths.co.uk is an excellent resource which reinforces the work done in class. Access is available via **login = Bromsgrove** and **Password = ilovemaths**. Each student has his/her own personal login/ password which allows them to track his/her own progress.

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- The course is modular, students take Units A, B, C. Units A and B are worth 25% of the GCSE and Unit C 50%. There is no coursework.
- Units A and B will be done in year 9 and Units C at the end of year 10.
- Calculators are allowed in Units A and C, but not B.
- The module examination sessions are in November, January and June.

Homework Expectations:

- Homework will be set **on average about once per week**. It may be set more than this during intensive periods, such as when preparing for module examinations and conversely, less at other periods in the year. The teacher will decide what best suits the needs of the class.
- Tasks may be varied – practice exercises, learning formulae, mymaths tasks, designing a poster, doing research from the internet, preparing for recap tests and module exams.

What we will teach your child:

In Modern Foreign Languages we will continue to build upon the skills which your child has developed through their language learning at Middle School.

All students will continue their study of French in the first half term of Year 9 with German introduced as an additional language in upper-band groups and Spanish in middle-band groups. At the end of the first half term, students will be asked to express a preference about which language they wish to take to GCSE. After careful consultation and on the recommendation of their teachers, students will begin their GCSE course after the autumn half term.

How you can support your child:

You can support your child by encouraging their interest in Languages. Please take an active interest in their work by asking them about their homework, looking at their exercise books and discussing what they are learning. They will receive at least 1 learning homework per week and testing your child on a regular basis at home will be extremely beneficial to their vocabulary learning. We also recommend students buy a good foreign language dictionary once they've started their GCSE course.

Supportive Resources/websites/visits:

These websites will support your homework (some will need a password which is available from languages teachers)

Languages on-line (<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/rgshiwyc/school/curric/HotPotatoes/index.htm>)

Linguascope (www.linguascope.com)

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

Assessment is an integral part of the MFL curriculum. Students are continually assessed using a variety of means. Students can expect a Feed-Forward Assessment in the middle of each half term, where they will be given targets on how they can improve. At the end of each half term students will complete a Key Assessment which will be graded using GCSE criteria..

Homework Expectations:

Homework will be set regularly and will reinforce the learning done in class.

All students will be set one vocabulary learning homework each week which will be followed up with a vocabulary test.

Additional weekly homework tasks will focus on speaking, listening, reading or writing and may include:

- reading or listening exercises
- preparation of oral presentations and conversations
- grammar exercises
- writing short texts/paragraphs

At least once per half-term students will be set a piece of extended writing, usually their Key Assessment.

Music

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr Cobon

What we will teach your child:

- Students will be taught performing, composing and listening skills through a range of activities. The Autumn term has a focus on structure and musical devices which are studied via a range of musical styles. This first term also includes a brief introduction to music technology. Spring term has a focus of music and media and examines the power of music to support the moving image and also looks at how music can create a range of feelings. Lastly the Summer term studies the development of pop and rock music as students start to develop their own rock or pop composition.

How you can support your child:

- Provide a suitable area for homework and revision
- Encourage revision via the school VLE

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- <http://moodle.southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk/>
- <http://www.southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk/music/>

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- Students are continually assessed using a variety of different means. Class listening tests and homework tasks are instantly marked with immediate feedback for the student. Performing and composition tasks are continually assessed.

Homework Expectations:

- Homework is every fortnight. Due to the nature of the subject this is set mostly as online (Moodle) tasks which test, with music, concepts that have been introduced in the lessons.

Physical Education (Core)

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr D Bayliss

What we will teach your child:

- Your child will be taught the 'new' PE National Curriculum that now is less activity focussed but now concentrates on your child learning Key Concepts and Processes. The Key Concepts are: Competence, Performance, Creativity and Healthy Active Lifestyles. The Key Processes are: Developing Skills, Making and Applying Decisions, Developing Physical and Mental capacity, Evaluating and improving and Making informed choices about healthy, active lifestyles. With this in mind, we have integrated these Concepts and Processes into our schemes of work and activity areas. Throughout the course of the year, your child will experience an indoor and outdoor lesson every week (2 x 60 minutes). They will be taught sports such as football, netball, badminton, table tennis, hockey, basketball, outdoor and adventurous activities, rugby, tennis, rounders, softball, athletics and health related exercise.

How you can support your child:

- Participation is vital to your child's success and improvement in PE. Having the correct school PE kit for every lesson is vital. This includes the odd occasion when illness/injury happens as they can still participate in another role in the lesson. Encouragement to attend extra curricular clubs is also appreciated.

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- Extra curricular clubs
- Competitive fixtures in local leagues against local schools

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- Not applicable for Year 9 Core Physical Education

Homework Expectations:

- Not applicable for Year 9 Core Physical Education

Physics

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr Stark

What we will teach your child:

- **Term 1 – Energy**
 - Completing a project about ‘energy resources’ and practical work focusing on renewable energy
- **Term 2 – Rockets**
 - Rockets project, followed by practical work building and testing various types of rocket.
- **Term 3 – Start the GCSE Gateway Science Course.**

How you can support your child:

- Homework will be set each week, so please check your child’s planner and ensure they have completed it.
- Access to the internet or a library would be useful for the extended projects in half-terms 1 and 3
- Help them to revise in preparation for tests.

Supportive resources / websites / visits:

- www.howstuffworks.com – explains how rockets and power stations work
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/> - excellent revision material.

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

- There will be a test at the end of each half term
- A KS3 level (between 3 and 7) will be achieved by your child, based on tests and the work they produce in class/at home.

Homework Expectations:

- Homework will be set on a weekly basis. A variety of homework tasks will be set and should be recorded in your child’s planner.

RS

Curriculum Coordinator

Mr Giles

What we will teach your child:

In Year 9 students complete GCSE AQA B Unit 2 Religion and Life Issues course, they study the following 4 topics in 2 lessons a week.

1. **Religion and Animal Rights.**
2. **Religion and War and Peace.**
3. **Religion and Prejudice.**
4. **Religion and Early Life.**

How you can support your child:

The best book is for Year 9 is AQA GCSE Religious Studies B Religion and Life Issues (Paperback from Nelson Thornes). Whilst we use copies of this exercise book in school students complete the course in two lessons a week. Because of this there is a reliance on independent study, so any support with homework is greatly appreciated.

Supportive resources / websites / visits

www.rsrevision.com - Games, starters and plenary activities

www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/rs/index.htm - AQA GCSE resources towards the bottom.

www.queens.herts.sch.uk/RS/index.html - A limited selection of downloads.

<http://rnjking.googlepages.com/choice> - A selection of resources.

Key subject information including relevant coursework deadlines:

No coursework or controlled assessment. 100% Short-Course Exam in Year 9.

In Year 10 students will complete another Short-Course to make a full course GCSE RS.

There is no Year 11 core RS.

Homework Expectations:

Students will have homework to complete **every week**. Some work will be set over a period of one or two weeks, such as designing leaflets, power point presentations and group projects, whilst other homework will be completed by the next lesson. This really helps students develop their independent learning for GCSE RS. Last year 320 students achieved 66% A* to C in GCSE RS.

PASTORAL CURRICULUM

PASTORAL SUPPORT AND CURRICULUM

During Year 9 students will receive guidance on Personal Health and Social Development as they work with their tutor. Students also follow a Citizenship & PSHE programme which covers a range of topics, for example Human Rights, Diversity within our Society, Healthy Lifestyles, Relationships and Local Justice Systems

Pastoral Support

Each student in Year 9 becomes part of a tutor group. The tutor plays a significant role in offering support to your child. Students remain with their tutor for the next three years to ensure a strong relationship is developed. Tutors will have an overview of each student's academic progress and will oversee the maintenance of good standards of behaviour in the classroom and around the school.

Behaviour

Issues surrounding poor behaviour will be dealt with in line with the School Behaviour Policy. Clearly, we will not allow students to disrupt the learning of others in the classroom. The Year team and teaching staff will endeavour to work with students and parents to resolve all behaviour issues.

Anti-bullying

Bullying may be verbal or physical and will not be tolerated by the school in any form whatsoever. If your child is a victim of bullying, or you suspect some kind of bullying is occurring at school, please do not hesitate to let us know. Also, encourage your child to inform a member of staff they trust and feel able to talk to. **No action will be taken without consulting the person suffering bullying, unless their health or safety is at risk. No student at South should put up with bullies – silence is the bully's main weapon!**

The following are essential guides to ensure success this year:

- Students who have good attendance achieve the best examination results.
- Do not put your child's success at risk by arranging family holidays in term time.
- Please make sure your child gets to school on time.

Please contact Mrs Colley, Head of Year 9 (via co@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk or by telephone) if you have any problems that you feel we need to know about.

THE REPORTING SYSTEM

THE REPORTING SYSTEM

The formal reporting system

The reporting system is designed so that students and parents have a clear idea of the individual student's potential, where they are in their learning and what they need to do to achieve their potential. Key points are:

- There are three reports **posted** home to parents throughout Year 9 (**Friday 25th November, Thursday 9th February** and **Friday 22nd June**)
- Each report indicates for every subject a target grade, an indication of the level the student is currently working at, an 'attitude to learning' grade and an indication of the status of homework and coursework.
- The report in January will also include teacher comments suggesting how to improve performance. The report in June includes a comment on performance from the form tutor.
- Following the issue of each report students will spend time with their form tutor reviewing their progress in relation to their targets and discussing strategies to improve performance.
- Annual Review Day is on **Friday 24th February**. This is scheduled as a mid-year consultation entitlement for each student with the form tutor. Parents are also invited to attend. The purpose of the AR Day is to secure strategy for student improvement in the remainder of the year, and to guarantee personal guidance counselling for each student.
- We continually monitor the performance of all students and aim to give additional support when the need arises.

The informal reporting system

The marking of students work will vary from subject to subject. However, all subjects will mark at least one **key assessment** in depth every half term. The feedback will include a grade and comments which the students are expected to act upon. Every half term at least one further **feed forward assessment** will be marked with a diagnostic comment and meaningful targets. Learning will be further supported by regular **checking** of work, especially to ensure students have acted upon the feedback and targets set.

HOMework

&

STUDY SKILLS

Homework

Homework is an essential part of learning:

- Homework acts as a support and extension of work completed in lessons.
- Homework allows students to reflect and build on their understanding of a topic.
- Homework encourages self-discipline and a responsible attitude to independent study.
- Homework reinforces and develops a partnership between home and school.
- Each subject has its own requirements for homework.

Examples of Homework Tasks

- Note taking
- Essays
- Problem solving activities
- **Research**
- Reading
- Practice exercises – maths
- Learning vocabulary
- **Reviewing work for tests / exams**
- Collection of information/materials
- Web-based activities
- The completion of tasks started in lessons.

Homework Guidance

- Expect your child to complete one to one and a half hours of homework a night.
- As you can see from the list opposite, homework can take many forms. Active revision is included as home study.
- The school offers facilities at lunchtime and after school for homework such as the Resource centre and IT Rooms.
- Homework should be recorded in the student planner and signed by parents and tutors.

Top Tips for Parents to Support Homework!

- Try and provide a quiet space for your child to work in (away from the television).
- Ask to see completed homework and encourage your child to discuss homework with you.
- Praise effort, achievement and progress.
- Focus on the benefits of academic achievement and enhanced career opportunities
- Reward good or improved home study habits

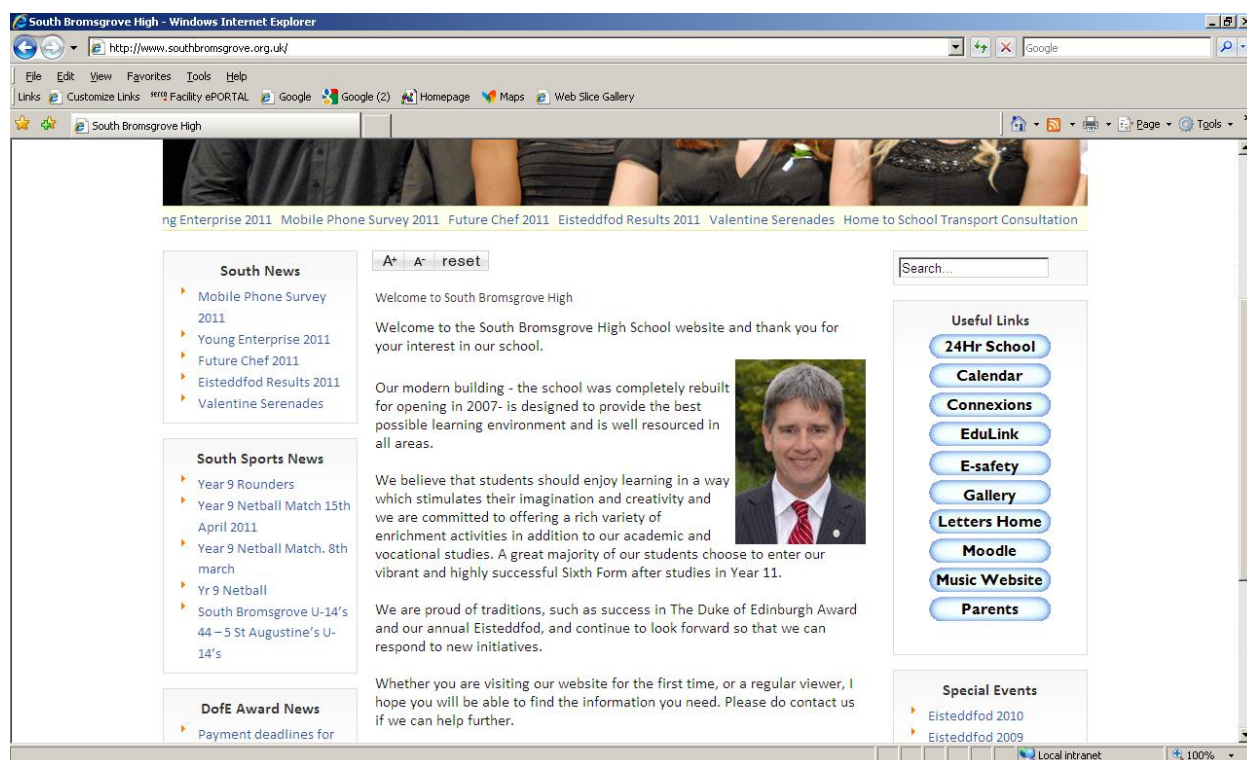
ICT ACROSS THE SCHOOL

Accessing Information Electronically

The school website has been created to provide parents with a wide variety of information about the school. It will allow parents access to such things as school procedures, important dates, contact details and news about the school.

In addition the school provides students with a great deal of subject content *on line* and this can be accessed from home, via the school web site.

You will see that on the image below, of the front page of the school web site, is a link to the **24hr school**. (This is on the right hand side of the page.) Students can log onto this using their normal school password and this will then provide access to the school's Intranet site and the Shared Documents area. Both of these contain a huge range of teaching materials to help our students work effectively both in school and at home.



In addition, the school is a Moodle Learning Platform which is also linked via the school website (again, you will see the link at the bottom right of the image above). The Moodle site is being used by an increasing number of teachers and again this provides a wide range of teaching and learning resources. In a number of subject areas students are now being set homework tasks that they access via the Moodle site.

The school web site address is: <http://www.southbromsgrove.org.uk/>

THE REWARD SYSTEM

THE REWARD SYSTEM

Rewarding good progress, attainment and effort are very important at South.

We use a variety of ways to reward students:

- Rewards are awarded to students in a variety of forms. Rewards recognise student attainment, student progress, student effort and student attendance.
- Departments will issue postcards home for good progress, attainment and effort.
- Most departments operate a 'Star Student of the Week' for good work. Names are projected on the plasma screens in faculty areas.
- Students will receive an effort certificate for achieving good effort scores on their Interim Progress Report.
- All students have a place in their planner to record MERITS. Merits are issued by subject teachers or tutors during the school year. When students reach a certain number they are rewarded with a Bronze, Silver, Gold, platinum & finally the Head Teachers award.
- Attendance certificates are awarded at the end of the year for students who achieve 100% attendance.

SANCTIONS

Students who fail to meet the required standard of behaviour should expect something to happen as a consequence.

Detentions are the normal way of dealing with misbehaviour. Detentions can be given without parental warning at break or lunchtime.

An after school detention will require staff to contact parents before the date. Transport may then have to be arranged by parents.

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

We have three Houses at South:

PLYMOUTH = GREEN

TALBOT = RED

VERNON = BLUE

Each year group has four tutor groups assigned to each House. They are led by a House Leader and a Sixth Form team of House Captains.

The sense of identity and competition between the Houses is very strong. This gives an extra dimension to school life and builds team work.

Students from all year groups are invited to take part in the many competitions organised during the year.

House sports are organised each term with sports day occurring in the last week of the Summer Term.

In the Spring term the Eisteddfod House Competition takes place. This involves a great number of students taking part and performing in several different sections; music, drama, dance and basketball. Parents are welcome to attend the Eisteddfod evenings.

CONSULTATION EVENING

Consultation Evenings

The details of our consultation system can also be found in the student planner.

Each half term, on a Tuesday, between 4.00pm and 5.30 pm, you have the opportunity to consult any of your son/daughter's teachers. Similarly, if the teachers are particularly concerned about progress, they may make contact with you and invite you to come into school. You may decide to send your request for appointments at any point within that half term **with a deadline of one week before the consultation date - all dates are in the school calendar that has been issued to parents.** If you try to make an appointment after that time it will not be possible to process it.

To make an appointment you need to complete one of the pink slip pages in your son/daughter's planner which he/she will then show to the tutor. Some parents prefer to write a note to the tutor, or telephone or email them. These forms of communication are all acceptable, provided they are completed by the deadline date. Requests to see all teachers must be directed to your child's tutor not to subject teachers. Parents are advised to request to see no more than 5 teachers in order to ensure that we can accommodate all requests.

Your appointments will be processed by our administrative staff and a few days before the consultation date (usually on the preceding Friday) your son or daughter will bring home a letter confirming your appointments. On the consultation evenings, please bring your appointments letter and sign in at reception where student hosts will guide you if you are unclear where to go. Appointments are held in teaching bases to afford privacy. The system is also designed to enable students to accompany their parents to the appointments as they are clearly central to the learning process

Parents will not receive additional reminders that the consultation sessions are taking place so it is important to keep checking the school calendar. This year's dates are listed in the section 'Key Dates for your Diary' on the final page and also on the school website at www.southbromsgrove.org.uk.

**KEY DATES
FOR YOUR
DIARY**

Key Dates for Your Diary

	Autumn Term
Thurs 22 nd September	Year 9 Tutor-Parents' Evening 6.30-9.00
Thurs 29 th September	Open Evening
Fri 30 th September	School closed for training day
Wed 5 th October	Deadline for Parents' Consultation Requests
Tues 11 th October	Parents consultations 4.00pm – 5.30pm
Fri 25 th November	Year Nine report issued
Wed 30 th November	Deadline for Parents' Consultation Requests
Tues 6 th December	Parents' consultations 4.00pm – 5.30pm
	Spring Term
Wed 25 th Jan	Deadline for Parents' Consultation Requests
Tues 31 st Jan	Parents' Consultation 4.00-5.30
Thurs 9 th February	Year 9 report issued
Fri 24 th February	Annual Review Day
Thurs 1 st March	KS4 Information Evening 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Fri 30 th March	School closed for training day
	Summer Term
Wed 2 nd May	Deadline for Parents' Consultation Requests
Mon 7 th May	School closed for Bank Holiday
Tues 8 th May	Parents' consultations 4.00pm – 5.30pm
Fri 22 nd June	Year Nine report issued
Wed 27 th June	Deadline for Parents Consultation Requests
Tues 10 th July	Parents' consultations 4.00pm – 5.30pm

These dates could be subject to change