

CARDINAL GRIFFIN CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Parent & Student Guide

Syntax (Year 11)

Handbook and Curriculum Guide

2016-2017



DEDICATION OF STUDIES

Prayer of St Ignatius

Lord, teach me to be generous:
to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek to rest;
to labour and not to ask for
no reward
save that of knowing I do your will.
Amen

End of Day Prayer

May the Lord support us
all the day long,
till the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, in his mercy,
may he give us a safe lodging,
a holy rest,
and peace at last.
Amen

Welcome

Welcome to the Syntax Handbook and Curriculum Guide. It is our intention that this guide should serve as a handy reference for parents who may have questions about their child's learning. To this end, we have tried to include all the general information you might want to know including curriculum, assessment guidance and a useful reading list as it is essential that wider reading is a continual focus of your child's academic development. We have also suggested ways of supporting your child with their studies, as well as aiding you to keep abreast of their progress.

Our promise to you as parents is for your child to be happy, safe, receive an outstanding education and be known as the individual that God has created them to be. In achieving this, we expect all to develop knowledge, understanding and skills through a rigorous programme. Beyond the curriculum there are many opportunities for your child to participate in extra-curricular activities, from sports to music, and from chaplaincy to charity events.

This is an important year for your child as they will complete their GCSEs and need to make some key decisions about their next steps in Poetry.

I would like to use this opportunity to highlight some key dates for this academic year:

Whole College Events	
Michaelmas Term	07 September 2016 – 20 October 2016
Christmas Term	31 October 2016 – 16 December 2016
Epiphany Term	03 January 2017 – 17 February 2017
Lenten Term	22 February 2017 – 07 April 2017
Whitsun Term	24 April 2017 – 26 May 2017
Trinity Term	05 June 2017 – 21 July 2017
INSET dates (Pupils should not attend college on these dates)	05 September 2016 07 October 2016 21 October 2016 24 July 2017 25 July 2017
Open Evening (1800 – 2000)	06 October 2016
Awards Evening (1830 for 1900 start)	20 October 2016
Christmas Service	15 December 2016
College Mass	29 June 2017
Sports Day	30 June 2017
External Exams	15 May 2017

Syntax	
Syntax PTLP	12 September 2016
Syntax 6 th Form Open Evening	10 November 2016 (3 – 4pm)
Syntax 6 th Form Information Evening	23 November 2016
PPE2	21 -15/November 2016
ECDL	03 – 06 January 2017
PPE3	06 – 10 February 2017
PPE4	22 – 24 March 2017
Syntax Prom	13 July 2017
Syntax Poetry Induction	03 July 2017
Syntax Parents Evening	17 October 2017
Publication of Syntax PD 1	24 November 2016
Publication of Syntax PD 2	13 January 2017
Publication of Syntax PD 3	17 March 2017
Publication of Syntax Reports to parents.	13 January 2017
Publication of Mock results (PPE2) to parents.	09 December 2016
Publication of Mock results (PPE3) to parents.	03 March 2017
Publication of Mock results (PPE4) to parents.	07 April 2017

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the college for any further information.

On behalf of all the college staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish your child a successful year at Cardinal Griffin Catholic College.

Mr M Burrowes
Headteacher

Mr D Duffy
RSL for Syntax

General Information

College Timings—model of the day

Before college	
08.45—09.45	Lesson 1
09.45—10.45	Lesson 2
10.45-11.05	Break
11.05—12.05	Lesson 3
12.05—13.05	Lesson 4
13.05—13.40	Lunch
13.40—14.00	Form/Assembly Time
14.00—15.00	Lesson 5
15.00—16.00 (Thursdays)	Lesson 6

The House Tutor Team

I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce you to the team that will be responsible for your child's academic and pastoral development during this very important year at the college. Please do not hesitate to contact them via the college planner or telephone.

ALLEN			NEWMAN		
Head of House: Mrs J Archer			Head of House: Mrs J Burrowes		
Allen 1	Mrs L Hamilton	A14	Newman 1	Mrs R Brindle	E1
Allen 2	Miss M McInerney	B5	Newman 2	Mr S Forrester	E4
Allen 3	Mr S Holsgrove	D8	Newman 3	Mrs R Mahmood	B14
Allen 4	Mr R Ardin	A13	Newman 4	Mrs L Kearsey	B3
Allen 5	Mrs D Glynn-Cobbett	C6	Newman 5	Miss K Dono	B11

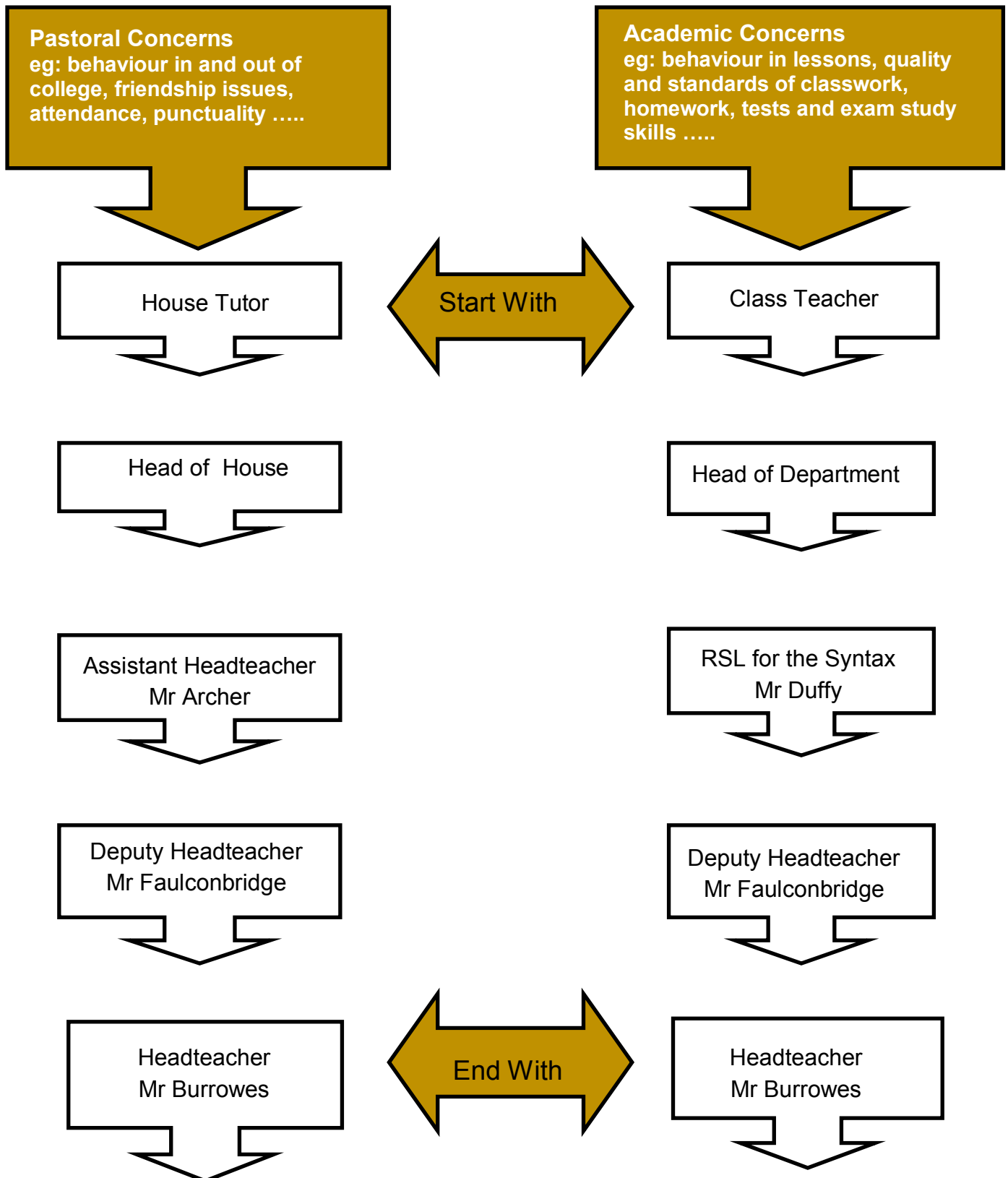
MANNING			VAUGHAN		
Head of House: Mr R Woodgate			Head of House: Mrs J Archer		
Manning 1	Mrs H Hulme	D1	Vaughan 1	Miss K Dunning	B16
Manning 2	Miss C Williamson	B10	Vaughan 2	Mrs S Barlow	A3
Manning 3	Mrs J Harvey	D4	Vaughan 3	Mr N Harris	A15
Manning 4	Mr L Love/Mrs E Davies	B7	Vaughan 4	Mrs L Taylor	C2
Manning 5	Mr J Wood	B6	Vaughan 5	Mrs J Green/Miss R Wood	B1

WISEMAN			HINSLEY		
Head of House: Mrs J Burrowes			Head of House: Mr R Woodgate		
Wiseman 1	Miss H Necchi	E2	Hinsley 1	Miss E Malpass	A1
Wiseman 2	Mrs D Sanderson	A16	Hinsley 2	Miss C Thompson	D5
Wiseman 3	Mr A Weaver	A12	Hinsley 3	Mr J Underhill	B4
Wiseman 4	Miss J Dunne	B18	Hinsley 4	Miss H Clews	C5
Wiseman 5	Mrs F Ryan	D5	Hinsley 5	Mr R Lally	D2

Raising Standards Leaders

RSL FOR THE YEARS		
Year 7	Rudiments	Mrs R Shakespeare
Year 8	Figures	Mrs R Shakespeare
Year 9	Lower Grammar	Mr S Davies
Year 10	Upper Grammar	Mr S Davies
Year 11	Syntax	Mr D Duffy
Year 12	Poetry	Mrs L Wynne-Jones
Year 13	Rhetoric	Mrs L Wynne-Jones

Syntax Concerns



COLLEGE POLICIES

The use of Planners at Key Stage 4

All students are issued with a 'Day Book' which serves as a diary and a key communication tool between home and the college. It assists the students to stay organised by recording important dates and day to day information. The planner contains a lot of very important information about the college. May I take this opportunity to remind you to check you child's planner and sign it on a weekly basis. The planner is the college's property and we expect your child to treat it with respect and use it correctly Any planner that is lost, defaced or misused in any way will need to be replaced. This year we have photocopied spare planners and your child will be expected to bear the cost of the replacement planner (£5.00).

Attendance and Punctuality at Key Stage 4

Attending college regularly and on time is crucial. All students are expected to be inside the College at 08.40 and lessons start at 08.45 (prompt). Your child's attendance is monitored weekly and badges are issued for 100% attendance at the end of every term. If your child is absent from college, please telephone the college on **01543 502215** and select the 'absence line' option. The college has a target of 97% attendance and it is our expectation that all students meet this target. This equates to a maximum of 7.3 days absence per year.

Syntax Prom

The college will offer automatic invitations for the Syntax Prom to the following students:

- a) Attendance for the year exceeds 95%.
- b) All controlled assessments have been completed in line with expected progress.
- c) Attendance at the Upper Grammar retreat.
- d) Attendance at the Syntax retreat.
- e) Attendance at Activities Day in Upper Grammar.
- f) There are no prohibitions to attend the Syntax Prom issued by the Head Teacher or the Assistant Head Teacher
- g) The Dress Code for Sytax has been adhered to during the year.

All other invitations are issued at the discretion of the Head Teacher, the Deputy Head Teacher, the Assistant Head Teacher and the Raising Standards Leader for Syntax. Prom invitations will be withdrawn and will not be re-issued if a student fails to attend a public exam without a doctor's note.

Student Services—removing barriers to learning

At Cardinal Griffin Catholic College we recognise that sometimes our students experience difficulties that affect their performance in college. To help in the removal of these barriers, a number of services are available to students including:

- School Nurse
- Student Mentors
- Lay Chaplain specialising in Bereavement
- Higher Level Teaching Assistants
- SENDCo

If we are unable to meet a student's needs fully within the college, they may also be referred to agencies such as:

- Educational Psychologist
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Social Care
- Young Carers
- Educational Welfare Officer

Important information re. Permission for Leave in Term Time

The Government has changed the law from September 2013.

- Leave of absence may only be taken for **exceptional reasons**
- Educational event
- Family event

Parents must request leave for exceptional circumstances as far in advance as possible. The request should be made in writing using the appropriate leave of absence form available from the college reception. Given the importance of this year to students any absence will impact on the students performance in exams.

This must also include the reason why you feel that it is necessary to take a leave of absence. This may include any extenuating or compassionate reasons, including evidence of circumstances such as medical certificate or letter from employers.

On receipt of an application for leave on the appropriate form together with any supporting documentation, consideration will be given to the circumstance. A letter outlining the decision of the college will be sent to you within 7 working days.

Parental Support

How can I make a difference?

Many parents feel at a loss when their child enters secondary school. If you feel like this you are **not** alone! The exam system has changed greatly over the past few years, and is continuing to change. Sometimes it feels as if it is best just to let the 'experts' at the college get on with it.

However, your involvement during this crucial time can make an enormous difference – the difference between success and failure!

*Parental support is **eight times** more important in determining a child's academic success than social class....*

And the good news is – you don't have to be an expert in any of the subjects your child is studying to make a real difference – you just need to know how best to spend the time you do have, at each stage this year.

The major focus should be:

- ✓ Using time wisely to complete homework and additional stretch and challenge activities
- ✓ Preparation for the exams

PPE (Pre-public Mock) Exams

The PPE weeks are really important for your child. There is no 'right' way to revise, but it is really important that they:

- ✓ Have a revision timetable that is realistic (balance between social; rest and work)
- ✓ Vary the nature of subjects they are revising (30-45 min revision sessions);
- ✓ Are clear on what needs to be revised (following revision guides from each subject);
- ✓ Work through past exam papers and uses a watch to 'time' some responses;
- ✓ If possible – work with a study buddy to test each other's knowledge;
- ✓ Eat well; drink lots of water and pace themselves;
- ✓ Use every exam opportunity as a chance to practice for the real exams.

Students and parents—top ten revision tips

Post-it Stickers

Get a pack of post-it stickers and write the key words from a subject on the individual post-it stickers. Stick them all around your home on every object (milk bottle, door handle, light switch, toilet seat). Before using the object students need to explain what that word means. If they do not know they need to go to their revision area and find out. Use different coloured post-it stickers for different subjects.

Mind Maps/Spider Diagrams/Notes

Rather than simply reading class notes re-write them in the form of a mind map (a lot of web sites will do this for you). Add pictures as visual aids and use many different colours for different themes. You may decide to re-write your notes. Keep re-writing them so that you eventually get them down to one side of A4. This will be easier to do last minute revision from. THIS WORKS!!!

Make revision into a game

- Blockbusters
- Who Wants to a Millionaire
- The Weakest Link
- Trivial Pursuit

Past Papers

Practice past papers or GCSE style questions. The college will provide these for students. You can also go onto the examination boards website and down load past papers and mark schemes. There are 3 main exam boards that we use (AQA, Edexcel, OCR). These websites also offer advice on revision.

Attend revision sessions

Some subjects will run after school revision sessions—you must attend these!

Revise with a friend

Revision can be boring. Find a study buddy. Make sure that you do revise and not spend all of your time talking / playing on consoles. Test each other and take turns being the teacher. If you are trying to explain a topic to your friend you will need to understand it first before you can explain it.

Use Acronyms and Mnemonics

Use the first letter of a word to make a new word to prompt your memory. Make up a silly sentence to help you remember the order of something.

Use revision website

The internet is much easier to update than books and these websites get revised every year and have the most up to date information. You do not need to buy study guides from the shops.

Revision posters on bedroom walls

Make your revision notes on a giant piece of paper (strips of wallpaper). Place them around your bedroom and lie on your bed. Immerse in your revision. If you have posters up,, replace them with these for the next 3 months!

Flash Cards/Postcards

Write information about a topic on a postcard. This will force you to condense your notes so you only include the most vital information. These are easy to transport and can be taken out anywhere including when waiting for a bus/train! You could also write 10 questions on one side and 10 answers on the reverse.

PiXL

Cardinal Griffin Catholic College is part of a wide group of PiXL (Partners in Excellence) Schools. We are not governed by PiXL but we do adopt many of their teaching, learning and assessment strategies. The PiXL paradigm of diagnosis, therapy, testing (DTT) is a practical, hands-on approach to pupil progress and is focused on evidence based assessment so the foundations are sound and is one that we believe improves the grades of our pupils.

Pupils across the College are tracked using fine grades. If your child is following an old specification subject the fine grades are 1,2,3. 1 being the pupil is secure at that grade and should be working to moving to the next grade, 2 being the pupil is likely to get that grade with some intervention and 3 being the pupil is vulnerable at that grade and requires a boost to achieve that grade. If your child is following a new specification then fine grades H,M,L: are used to represent the same criteria.

Some PiXL language:

PLC– Personalised learning checklists allow pupils to track their own progression against the specification to ensure they are not just revising the topics they like and enjoy and they are covering the full scope of what could be examined.

PPE– Pre-public examinations, there are 3 pre-public exam weeks for Syntax and the time in-between them gets closer every time as the pace of revision increases.

Smith pro-forma– The Smith pro-forma instructs pupils to plan what marginal improvements they wish to make between each set of PPE examinations and the focus being on providing evidence that this progress has now been made.

WTM– Walking, talking mocks are a key focus of examination preparation. It is important that the pupils have plenty of examination experience and know exactly what the paper will look like, number of questions, style of questions and exactly how the marks are allocated so as to maximise performance on each paper.



Beating the Stress Factor

It is vital to get the right balance between work and play, to learn how to relax, to have plenty of diversions, to ensure you've still got a life'.

Take time out

The body and the mind need regular 'time outs'.

When you are tired, concentration is more difficult, you get distracted much easier and learning is less effective. There comes a point in an evening study session when it is counter-productive to carry on—nothing is going in and you are only tiring yourself. Take the opportunity of a 'mini-break' during the day, perhaps when you come home from school in the afternoon. Lie down for 15 minutes, use some relaxation techniques or breathing exercises, get some 'quiet time' for yourself.

Catch Those Zees

The best guarantee of a relaxed mind is to achieve a regular sleep pattern. A regular eight hours is much more beneficial to the system than a build-up of lost sleep followed by spending half the weekend in bed!

Get off that Seat

If your idea of vigorous exercise involves sending multiple texts—you need something else! A regular exercise programme speeds up the body's metabolism of fat and carbohydrate, boosts the immune system and reduces stress levels and anxiety. On the occasions that your head feels like it's going to explode, you may need to do a bit morn—like go for a long run or take it out on a punch bag!

Get those Nutrients

Having a balanced, nutritious diet based on fruit, vegetables and carbohydrates will give you the right fuel for life. Snacking on crisps and chocolate bars is great but if that's all your system is getting, it'll be running on heavily leaded two-star!

Get a life

If you don't get out and about, doing the things you like to do you will have a pretty miserable and unproductive two terms ahead! Do as much as you can—play the music, see the films, do the training and play the matches ... Get the balance right and all parts of your life will progress.

THE CURRICULUM

The Jesuit tradition calls for education of the whole person — including the intellectual, social, and spiritual dimensions. In and out of the classroom, Cardinal Griffin Catholic College students are challenged with a broad and balanced curriculum which is designed to prepare them for life.

In mapping curriculum provision, the Headteacher and his colleagues have reflected on what we stand for as a college, what is distinct about the learning experience that we offer and what our students require for academic success beyond Cardinal Griffin Catholic College. In all, we have created a model that is balanced, rigorous, appropriate and relevant to the students that we have.

Much of the teaching in Rudiments to Lower Grammar will be mixed ability. This will allow a sense of ambition, aspiration and support for each individual. This model also allows flexibility to the core curriculum to set within their area if their professional view is that it will benefit the students. We have ensured that students get the opportunity to make choices when in Upper Grammar to Rhetoric.

The Formal Curriculum

Firstly, every student at the college studies Religious Education with 100% entry for the GCSE examination. Study of Religious Education continues into Poetry and Rhetoric.

Citizenship is taught by House tutors and within RE lessons. The learning of our values are reinforced through assemblies and worship.

Sex Education is delivered through Religious Education and Science in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In Careers, there is professional guidance available within the college to ensure full economic well-being. This includes individual interviews, visits off site and work placements. Students have been provided with the opportunity to run their own business—'Tenner Challenge' and attend Career Days at Keele University. A Careers and Higher Education programme is implemented throughout the Sixth Form.

All students participate in Physical Education lessons. A GCSE/BTec option is available as well as an A Level/BTec. Extra-curricular activities are wide ranging and reviewed termly in response to student demand, as part of our Extended Schools programme. Competitive sports provide opportunities for teamwork.

Computer Science is taught as a discrete subject in Rudiments through to Lower Grammar. All students are taught English at college and are entered for English and English Literature at GCSE.

Syntax Examinations

SUBJECT	EXAM BOARD		SUBJECT	EXAM BOARD
Art and Design	OCR		Drama	Edexcel
Graphic Products	AQA		Resistant Materials	AQA
Textiles	AQA		English Language	AQA
English Literature	AQA		French	Edexcel
German	Edexcel		Geography	WJEC
History	Edexcel		Information and Communication Technology	AQA
Computing	OCR		Computer Science	AQA
Mathematics	Edexcel		Music	OCR
Physical Education	Edexcel		Religious Studies	Edexcel
Science	Edexcel		Additional Science	Edexcel
Further Additional Science	Edexcel		Biology	Edexcel
Chemistry	Edexcel		Physics	Edexcel

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form offers a broad range of courses at Levels 2 and 3 and all follow a formal programme of General Religious Education. For a more detailed overview of the curriculum offer for each year group, please do refer to our web site which details topics, specifications and additional relevant information specific to each subject we teach.

Biology	Law
Business Studies	Law– Applied Level 3 BTEC
Business Studies Level 3 BTEC	Mathematics
Chemistry	Media Studies
Child Development Level 3 LEVEL	MFL - German
Design Technology	MFL - French
Drama	Music
Economics	'A' Level Subject
English Literature	Music Level 3 BTEC
Further Maths	PE
Geography	Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)
Health and Social Care Level 3	Physics
History	Psychology
Horse Management	Science - Applied Level 3 BTEC
ICT	Sport Level 3 BTEC

Assessment

We have already assessed our pupils in Rudiments and Figures and have a very clear indication of ability in each subject area. We set robust and challenging targets for the end of year, and plot progress towards this. During the course of Syntax, you will receive student data information in the Christmas, Epiphany, and Whitsun terms, and a full subject report in the Trinity term. You will be able to review your child's progress in the Lenten term with your child's subject teachers. In addition, we would encourage you to read carefully the comments that are made formatively by your child's subject teachers throughout the year, to help you keep updated with their current progress in each subject. Should you then have any concerns regarding progress, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Syntax Library

The Syntax Library is located in E5. It is staffed during the college day by Miss Karen Walker, the Raising Standards Leader for E-Learning. The library contains copies of all text books used in Upper Grammar and Syntax, ICT resources and wireless facilities. It is available to Syntax students from 08:00hrs - 08:40hrs each day and 15:30hrs - 16:30hrs.

Arrangements for use at the weekend are currently under discussion.

HOME WORK

All homework set is posted on Show my Homework and individual homework timetables are available on our web site. Parents and students will receive personal login details from the Raising Standards Leader. Your child should spend 30-45 minutes per subject each evening or a total of 9-11 hours per week. The library is open every day until 16:30hrs; we encourage your child to make use of this quiet, well-resourced study environment. If you have any concerns about the amount or quality of homework set at KS4, please feel free to contact either your child's Form Tutor or the Raising Standards Leader for Syntax.

Purpose of homework

- Homework is an essential aspect of a student's study and a requirement for success.
- Work set will be appropriate: reinforcing classwork or accessing extension tasks.
- Work set will challenge and stimulate learning.
- Work will help contribute to the students' personal development by building learning skills, perseverance, time-management and self-confidence. Homework will enable the student to develop sound, personally directed study habits.
- Work set will reinforce the aim of Cardinal Griffin Catholic College to develop independent learners.

Best types of homework tasks involve:

- Prep work.
- Re-drafting and making corrections.
- Rote learning - a memorisation technique based on repetition.
- Applying knowledge through practising exercises.
- Extended writing.
- Preparing a starter activity or a plenary.
- Independent work using digital resources (MyMaths).
- Rehearsals and practice (particularly for the Creative Arts).

HOW TO SUPPORT HOMELEARNING

Homework

Homework is defined at Cardinal Griffin Catholic College to be any task or activity that students may be asked to complete outside of the lesson that supports and consolidates the work covered in class. It may take various forms such as: research work, consolidation of skills, extended writing, portfolio work etc. It is imperative that students develop independent research skills from an early age and develop a culture of study through a daily routine of attending school and then completing homework.

Organisational help

Organisation can be a problem with some students and you may want to get your child into the habit of sorting out their bag the night before college so that they have all of the resources and work that they require for the next day. You may find it useful to have a copy of your child's timetable displayed in the home so that you can help them with this.

- ✓ Have equipment handy – paper, pens, ruler, highlighters, calculators etc.
- ✓ Have a place where he can access a dictionary, Bible and bilingual dictionary.
- ✓ Establish a daily routine – stick in worksheets from the day's lessons or if they have worked on paper, ensure that these are stuck into exercise books.

Help them manage their learning

- ✓ Help your child develop independent learning strategies by modelling how to look up information or find a word in a dictionary rather than simply giving the answer in order to get the task completed. Help them but do not do it for them!
- ✓ Be interested - get your child to explain the task to you and repeat it back to them - this helps to clarify the task in their mind.
- ✓ Read the comments made by the teachers in the books - they will give you advice on how your child can improve their work. Encourage your child to respond to teachers' comments in green pen.
- ✓ Encourage them to complete the work the night it is set whilst it is fresh in their mind.
- ✓ Check that they have used all of the resources available to them to help with the task: teacher, text book, friend and class work examples in books,.
- ✓ Help them make the links between subjects - often skills learnt in class are designed to be transferable to other subjects.
- ✓ See if there are any educational programmes on TV that link in with what they are studying in school; free museum trips and the local library are great ways of extending their learning.
- ✓ Help your child to catch up on work missed through absence from the college; it is important that students independently find out about the work that was set on that occasion.

The Extras

- ✓ Encourage your child to take pride in the presentation and quality of their work.
- ✓ Check that class work and homework is headed up with dates and titles underlined with a ruler.
- ✓ Proof read work with your child and make sure that what they have written makes sense.
- ✓ Check spellings, punctuation and grammar.
- ✓ Has your child used full sentences?
- ✓ Have they used pencils for drawing and a ruler for axes on a graph? Do diagrams / graphs have a title?
- ✓ Discourage your child from copying when undertaking research tasks. Talk about the information together, tease out the key facts and help your child to write these down as brief notes.
- ✓ Make sure that internet research has been personalised – i.e. being selective so that only that which is related to the topic is used.
- ✓ Ensure that your child's target is written in the exercise book and in the planner. Discuss the target level with him – how are they going to achieve his/her target?
- ✓ If work has been completed on paper, does it have their name and the date on it?

Revision

Students will have Christmas term and End of Year assessments in all subjects. All students must aim to meet or exceed their target level in every subject. It is most important that Rudiment students get into good practice early in their academic career and revise thoroughly for each assessment. Revision is an essential part of the assessment process. In order to revise effectively, the following tips should be taken on board:

- ✓ Make sure that important dates for tests are highlighted on a calendar.
- ✓ Begin intensive revision at least 4 weeks before their tests begin.
- ✓ Encourage your child to revise every day and not only on the night before the test.
- ✓ Plan a schedule / revision timetable, so that time can be devoted to each subject.
- ✓ Use exercise books and websites such as 'BBC Bitesize' to aid revision.
- ✓ Make revision active NOT just reading – use “look, cover, write”, question and answer, practise calculations, cue cards and mind maps.
- ✓ Students should not revise for more than 40 minutes in any one revision session. Regular 15 minute breaks should be planned into revision timetables.
- ✓ Students should revise the subjects they find most difficult first of all.
- ✓ Parents should test their child on test topics so that students feel supported in their learning.

CLASS TEXT BOOKS

	Syntax
Religious Education	WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies by Joy White, Chris Owens, Ed Pawson, Amanda Ridley.
English	A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens Blood Brothers by Willy Russell An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley <i>Text dependent on the teacher</i>
Mathematics	Edexcel Maths GCSE Foundation Student Book. Edexcel Maths GCSE Higher Student Book
Science	AQA GCSE Biology (9-1) Student Book. AQA GCSE Chemistry (9-1) Student Book. AQA GCSE Physics (9-1) Student Book.
Art	Art and Design Student Handbook AQA by Martin Piercy and Anne Stewart.
Design Technology	AQA GCSE Design and Technology: Graphic Products. AQA GCSE Design and Technology: Resistant Materials Technology; or AQA GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles Technology.
Geography	GCSE Geography for WJEC A'OPTIONS TOPICS' by Owen.A et al, HODDER
History	Paper 1: British Thematic Study—Crime and Punishment in Britain c1000 to present. Paper 2: Period Study with British Depth Study—Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991 and early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 Paper 3: Modern Depth Study—The USA, 1954-75: Conflict at home and abroad by Pearson Edexcel.
Information Technology	AQA GCSE Information and Communication Technology: The Essential Guide by Heathcote, Flora, Spencer, Diane, Sykes, Peter. (Edited by Nelson Thornes Ltd.
Modern Foreign Languages	Edexcel GCSE French textbook by Pearsons Edexcel French Revision Guide. Edexcel French Practice Papers. Edexcel French revision Workbook.
Physical Education	Cardinal Griffin PE booklet provided by the college. Edexcel GCSE Physical Education Student Book by Maarit Edy and Matthew Hunter

And finally

Be positive about your child's attempts to complete challenging work. If you have concerns about your child's progress, make an appointment with the college. Do not let homework become a chore—make it a special time that you both look forward to.

Word of warning: we are extremely keen that parents become fully involved in their child's education but please don't be tempted to correct homework and make your child copy it out; we need to know how much your child understands and can do independently.

In achieving the best for all our students, we also promise partnership with all our families and look forward to working closely with you this academic year. In doing so, we strongly encourage the highest internet safety and that parental controls are in place. Technology changes rapidly and the following are a glossary of the most popular social media sites for you to be aware of.

Ask FM – is a social networking website where users can ask other users questions, with the option of anonymity. The site has caused controversy by not having workable reporting, tracking or parental control processes, which have become the norm on other social media websites.

Facebook – is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with family friends and colleagues. Facebook offers a range of privacy settings to its members. A member can make all his communications visible to everyone, he can block specific connections or he can keep all his communications private. The site's policy requires members to be over the age of 13 to join. However, the sign up process is not authenticated and children simply have to choose a birth year that makes them 'of age'.

Snapchat – the app allows the sender to draw or insert text or a photo image on the Snap and determine how many seconds (1-10) the recipient can view it before the file disappears from the recipient's device. Snapchats that are listed as a 'story' are visible for 24 hours. This app has allegedly been used by teens as a medium to share inappropriate photos with one another .

Instagram – allows member users to upload, edit and share photos with other members through the Instagram website, email and social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook. Instagram cannot accept applications for accounts for children under the age of 13 years, However, the sign up process is not authenticated and children simply have to choose a birth year that makes them 'of age'.

Vine - is a free mobile application that enables users to record and share an unlimited number of short, looping video clips with a maximum length of six seconds. Vine has had its age rating increased to 17+ on the Apple store, the highest option available.

Twitter – is an online social networking and micro blogging service that enables users to send and read ‘tweets’, which are text messages limited to 140 characters. Registered users can read and post tweets but unregistered users can only read them. Every tweet is a statement, a written record that cannot be deleted and this ensures appropriate content at all times.

Please help us by:

- ✓ Monitoring the amount of time your child is spending online both at the PC and on their mobile smartphone
- ✓ Ensuring you have sufficient mechanisms and controls in place on your home devices and your child’s smartphone
- ✓ Ensuring bedtime is a phone/laptop/iPad—free time