

ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL NEWRY



Year 11 GCSE Transition Guide August 2025

General Information for Parents/Carers

Kindly spend some time discussing the following important points with your daughter, helping her to reach her full potential at GCSE in St Mary's.

Attendance

Key to success at GCSE level is excellent **attendance** and **punctuality** at school. Parents/carers are encouraged to make appointments for their daughter outside normal school hours where possible and family holidays should not be booked during the school term. It is important to keep half days to a minimum.

Home Study

It is essential that students spend between 2-3 hours each evening during the week on home study. Your daughter will have a range of homework activities to complete for her GCSE subjects. Tasks will include research, written homework, learning, IT tasks and practical activities. To enable her to complete work to a high standard it is important that her home working environment is a quiet area, free from distractions including mobile phones and social networking computer sites.

Preparation for Learning

Your daughter must come to school each day fully prepared for learning including having all the correct subject books and equipment. Homework must be written into her diary at the end of each lesson and completed to a high standard for the next lesson.

Part time Jobs

Research clearly shows that students who have part time jobs do not reach their full potential at GCSE and 'A' Level. Please ensure your daughter doesn't have a part time job during the school week, as she needs time for homework and relaxation.

Use of School Diary

All pupils have been provided with a school diary, which is an essential part of school equipment.

-  The diary includes important information regarding the school rules, procedures and policies. All parents/carers should read this information and sign the diary to acknowledge agreement.
-  Your daughter must record all her **Homework, Assessment Results and Attendance Record** in her diary and keep it free from graffiti.
-  The diary can be used for communication between your daughter's teachers' and home. It is very important that you check the diary regularly and sign it at the end of each week.

GCSE Support Classes

Many subjects organise after school revision classes to support your daughter as she progresses through her GCSE course, in particular in preparation for GCSE module exams. Kindly ensure that she attends such classes, availing of the extra opportunities for her to succeed.

Examination Timetables and Repeats

When your daughter receives her Exam Timetable, please take time to go through it with her so that she fully understands what days and times her exams are at. Those students wishing to repeat GCSE examinations will be required to pay for the entry fee.

Assertive Mentoring Programme

A number of students, who are not reaching their full potential, will be selected for an ‘**Assertive Mentoring Programme**’. They will have a daily **Progress Report** to be signed by their Mentor and parent/carer. If your daughter is placed on this programme, you will be informed in advance. This programme has proven to be a great success when we have the support of students and parents/carers.

Year 11 and 12 Assessments

Each Year 11 and 12 student will be awarded a Target Grade based on the outcomes from previous assessments and Baseline Data. This Target Grade will be used as a benchmark to identify pupil attainment and progress which will enable us to establish a **Personalised Performance Record** for each student. Class teachers will use five standardised department assessments at identified times throughout the year (see below). The School Based Computerised Assessment System (Assessment Manager) will be used by all departments to monitor pupil attainment and progress in Years 11 and 12.

Intervention strategies will be initiated for those students who have been identified as underachieving in a number of subject areas. The Leader of Learning (Curriculum), Mrs L Little, will liaise with Subject Leaders, Year Tutors and Form Teachers to coordinate the programme.

All parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school if they have any concerns about their daughter’s progress and an appointment will be made for them to come to the school so that their concerns can be addressed appropriately.

YEAR 11 ASSESSMENT DATES 2025-2026

TERM ONE:	1.	Week Beginning Monday 6 th October 2025
	2.	Week Beginning Monday 8 th December 2025
TERM TWO	4.	Week Beginning Monday 16 th February 2026
	5.	Week Beginning Monday 23 rd March 2026
TERM THREE	6.	Week Beginning Monday 8 th June 2026

Subject Information

Subject	Exam Board	Other Information	YEAR 11		YEAR 12	
			Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical	Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment /Practical
Art and Design	CCEA	Attendance at After School Classes Equipment Required (List given to pupils at beginning of term)	None	60% = Coursework Sept 2025- June 2026	Exam Paper Jan 2027 40% =Final Exam	60% = Coursework 40% External Exam May 2027
Business Studies	CCEA	Attendance at after school classes as and when needed	40%=Module June 2026 (1 Hr and 20mins)	None	Repeat Module if necessary (must be paid for) 40% =Final Exam June 2027 (1 ½ Hrs)	20% = Controlled Assessment Sept 2026 – Nov 2026
Business and Communication Systems (BCS)	CCEA	Attendance at after school classes as and when needed	40%=Module June 2026 (2 Hrs) Computer Based	None	Repeat Module if necessary (must be paid for) 35% = Final Exam June 2027 (1 Hr)	25% = Controlled Assessment Sept 2026 – Nov 2026 (6 Tasks)
Level 2 Certificate in Children's Play Learning & Development	OCN	After school support classes are available weekly for both year groups to allow pupils to complete coursework tasks.	Coursework	6 Units 50% = Coursework	Coursework	5 Units 50% = Coursework
Drama GCSE/ Performance Studies Level 2	CCEA CCEA	Attendance at After School Rehearsals as and when needed	Written Log 10% Portfolio completed	15% = Practical (Devised) Practical	40%=Written Exam June 2027	35% = Practical (Scripted)
English Language	CCEA	Attendance at after school classes as and when needed	None	On-going between Year 11 and 12 20% = Speaking and Listening Year 11 20% = Controlled Assessment	30% each = 2 Written Exams Nov. 2026 June 2027	On-going between Year 11 and 12 20% = Speaking and Listening Year 11 20% = Controlled Assessment

Subject	Exam Board	Other Information	YEAR 11		YEAR 12	
			Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical	Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical
English Literature	CCEA	Attendance at after school classes once a week.	30%-Module June 2026 (1 Hour and 45 min.)		50%-Module June 2027 2 Hour	20% = Controlled Assessment
French	CCEA	Continual memorising of language, practice of speaking, writing and learning of key grammar is essential for this 100% exam-based subject.	Pupils sit Writing and Reading papers at end of Year11 and again in Year 12. Best result goes towards GCSE. Speaking and Reading exams at end of Year 12	Orals/Writing/Reading and Listening as part of tracking	Listening 25% 45 minutes Speaking 25% 7-12minutes Reading 25% 1 hour Writing 25% 1 hour 15 minutes	All papers are taken at the end of Year 12, June 2027. There are no Controlled Assessments
Further Maths	CCEA	Excellent attendance to ensure continuity of learning, and diligent and timely completion of homework essential. A great deal of revision/independent study required.	25% Unit 3 - Statistics June 2026	None	50% Unit 1 – Pure 25% Unit 2 - Mechanics June 2027	None
Geography	CCEA	Very content heavy subject. Good command of English required. A great deal of revision and home study required for this subject Attendance at after school classes as and when needed.	40% = Unit 1 June 2026 (External Exam)	None	40% = Unit 2 June 2027 (External Exam)	20% = Unit 3 June 2027 (External Exam)
Health and Social Care	CCEA	Full attendance required and revision classes available in April & May 2026	50% = Written Exam June 2026	None	None	50% = Controlled Assessment Completed by May 2027
History	CCEA	Very dense subject content. Good command of English required. A great deal of revision/study required	60% = Module June 2026 1 hr 45 mins	None	40% = Final Exam June 2027	None
Home Economics	CCEA	A good command of English required. A great deal of revision and learning required throughout. The practical Module demands organisation, preparation and full participation in a variety of cookery practicals.	None	None	50% = Written Exam June 2027	50% = Controlled Assessment Sept 26 – Mar 27

Subject	Exam Board	Other Information	YEAR 11		YEAR 12	
			Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical	Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical
Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology	OCN	This qualification is 100% portfolio based. Pupils must complete numerous assessments in class. Excellent attendance is required as this is a practical subject.	No external examinations	Practical and theoretical assessments throughout the academic year.	No external examinations	Practical and theoretical assessments throughout the academic year.
Learning for Life and Work (LLW)	CCEA	After School Support Classes during the period when the Controlled Assessments are being completed are compulsory when returning from an absence. After school revision classes prior to modules.	20% = Written Exam June 2026 20% = Written Exam June 2026		20% = Written Exam June 2027	40% = Controlled Assessment Task September – December 2026
Mathematics	CCEA	Attendance at after school GCSE Support Classes in Years 11 and 12 Essential Equipment Required: Scientific Calculator, Ruler, Pencil, Protractor, Compass	45% = Written Exam (Module) June 2026	None	Repeat Module Possible Nov 2026 55% = Written Exam (Completion Paper) June 2027	None
Music	CCEA	Essential that pupils are able to play an instrument/sing to at least Grade 1 or 2 standard It is essential that singers attend lessons with a singing teacher.	None	Completion of one composition (15% of coursework mark)	35% = 1 Listening Exam June 2027	Completion of second composition (15% of coursework mark) 30% = Performance 5% = Discussion with examiner
Occupational Studies (Business and Services)	CCEA	This is a 2-unit course and is 100% internally assessed. Students complete 1 unit in Year 11 and another in Year 12. Full attendance required as this is a practical subject. Equipment required – USB pen.	None	Unit 1 Using Office Technology 50% = Coursework Sept 2025 - June 2026	None	Unit 2 Communication in a Business Environment 50% = Coursework Sept 2026 - June 2027

Subject	Exam Board	Other Information	YEAR 11		YEAR 12	
			Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical	Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical
Occupational Studies (Health & Social Care)	CCEA	This is a 2-unit course and is 100% internally assessed. Students complete 1 unit in Year 11 and another in Year 12. Full attendance required as this is a practical subject. Equipment required – None	None	Unit 1 Working in a Care Environment 50% = Coursework Sept 2025 – June 2026	None	Unit 2 Reminiscence with Individuals in a Care Environment 50% = Coursework Sept 2026 – June 2027
Preparing for Adult Life (PAL)	CCEA	Attendance is extremely important as this is 100% coursework. 13 units of work with the focus on Citizenship, Personal Development and Employability.	None	UNITS 1 – 7 Completed	None	UNITS 8 – 13 Completed
PE	CCEA	Pupils are required to take part in extra-curricular activities on at least two afternoons per week. Failure to attend extra-curricular sports will have an impact on candidates overall grade for their practical assessment. For those pupils who have selected a non-centre-controlled sport/physical activity, this must be approved by a member staff from the PE Department. Once approved pupils must then provide video footage as part of their practical assessment and arrangement must be made to enable the candidate to perform live on moderation day. Miss Malone and Mrs Haughey are also required to attend two live performances of candidates who have selected a non-centre controlled sports/physical activity. If this cannot be accommodated then unfortunately the candidate will be unable to be assessed in that sport/physical activity. Pupils will undertake fitness training and assessment as part of the course.	None	37.5% = Consistent Assessment (Practical) May/ June 2026	25% = Component 1: Written Exam 25% = Component 2: Written Exam May 2027	37.5% = Component 3: Individual Performances in Physical Activities and Sports Consistent Practical Assessment Candidates will perform live at CCEA Moderation in April 2027 12.5% = Analysis and evaluation of their own and others' performances.

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			Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical	Written Exam/Module	Controlled Assessment/Practical
GCSE RE	CCEA	Pupils complete 2 units. <u>YEAR 11</u> - Unit 5: Mark's Gospel. Worth 50% of GCSE. Exam in June 2026 (Pupils who choose to re-sit Unit 5 in Year 12 will be required to pay for this exam) <u>YEAR 12</u> - Unit 6: Christian Ethics. Worth 50% of GCSE. Exam in June 2027	50% = Written Exam Unit 5 - June 2026 Unit 6 – June 2027	None	Full Course GCSE 2 Written Papers Unit 5, June 2026 Unit 6, June 2027 Each Written Exam = 50% Year 11 repeat module - June 2027 (must be paid for)	None
Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies	OCN	This qualification is 100% portfolio based. Pupils must complete 9 units across 2 years. All work completed during class time. Excellent attendance is required.	None	5 units completed	None	4 units completed
Science (Single Award)	CCEA	Repeat Modules will have to be paid for Attendance at afterschool revision classes Higher & Foundation tier available Excellent attendance is essential	25% = One Written Exams (Module) Feb 2026	None	1 module in Nov 2026 25% 2 modules in May 27 (1 is a written practical exam) = 42.5%	7.5% = Controlled Practical Assessment externally marked
Science (Double Award)	CCEA	Repeat Modules will have to be paid for. Attendance at afterschool revision classes. Double Award Science = 2 GCSE's These can have different grades e.g. AB, BC Higher & Foundation tier available Excellent attendance is essential	33% = Three Written Exams Nov 2025, Feb 2026 & May 2026 (Modules)	None	59.5% = Six Written Exams <u>All in May 2027</u> <u>Includes 3 (30mins) written practical exams</u>	7.5% - 3 pre-release practicals (higher & foundation tier) Externally marked
Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science	OCN	This qualification is 100% portfolio based. Pupils must complete all assessments in class, so excellent attendance is essential. Equivalent to a C grade at GCSE	No external examinations	Will complete 50% - all Biology and half Chemistry	No external examinations	Will complete 50% - half of Chemistry and all Physics
Design and Technology	AQA	Attendance at after school classes to complete practical as and when needed	None	None	50% = written exam (June 2027)	50% = Portfolio and manufactured design

