

Past Paper Programme

After the Christmas Trials, Year 11 homework shifts focus from Sparx to completing past papers.

Each week, students complete a past GCSE paper for their homework. By regularly working through these papers, students become familiar with the types of questions and techniques required to tackle each one.

The papers are marked with timely feedback, highlighting both areas for improvement and providing guided examples to teach key exam techniques. This quick feedback offers personalised targets to help guide students' independent study and revision.

Period 6 sessions are available for students to attend, providing small-group support to help them complete each paper. Both Foundation and Higher sessions are offered, with specific details provided to students in the Spring Term.

Previous years have shown that successful completion and high engagement with the Past Paper Programme significantly improve student outcomes.

For the best results, follow these tips and hints:

- **Complete the paper in one colour:** Try to do everything you can without any help. Then, use a different colour pen to revisit any unanswered questions. Take advantage of all available resources, including Sparx, revision guides, after-school sessions, and support from friends.
- **Leave no blanks:** If you can't do a question, treat it as a prompt to take action and learn it, not an excuse to leave it out.
- **Show full workings:** Most marks in the papers are awarded for the workings, so make sure to show all your steps.
- **Attend after-school sessions:** Be sure to complete as much of the paper as possible before attending the session, so you can focus on the questions you find most difficult.
- **Form study groups:** Study with friends, either online or in person, to share strategies and solve problems together.
- **Make full corrections:** After reviewing the model answers in class or the annotated solutions provided through QR codes or mark schemes, ensure you correct any mistakes.
- **Use feedback to improve:** Apply the learning and feedback from each paper to do better on the next one.
- **Keep a file of past papers:** Organise all your past papers in one place so you can refer to them for support when needed.