

Midsomer Norton Sixth Form

Advice for Parents 2019-2020

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Subject	Equipment/Resources	Advice, Hints and Tips
Applied Law (BTEC)	Pupils will need pens, note paper, a ring binder and plastic wallets. Students will have access to the revision resources electronically to print at home if they wish or these will be provided for £2 per pack (a total of £4 across the two years)	Use the Assignment brief: the assignment brief gives details of the tasks to be completed for coursework as well as what you have to do to achieve each grade. Meet your deadlines: every assignment will have a clear deadline so students must make sure they get it in on time. Start revising early for the two exam papers: half of your course is examined, but you are able to take some notes into the exam. It is important therefore that you revise thoroughly, but also that you prepare your notes carefully.
Applied Science (BTEC)	All students to have (and bring to all lessons):	Each piece of coursework is broken into smaller tasks that have individual deadlines, with an overall unit deadline at the end of each term. It is essential that students stick to these deadlines so their workload is steady throughout the year. Students will be given ample time to complete the work and their teachers will be available to discuss and give interim feedback on assessed work. Students will need to regularly look through their notes for the examined subject material-a weekly revision along with completion of the subject booklets will help External exam is 3rd week in May with all coursework due by the beginning of May. There are four pieces of coursework: these are due on 09/11/18, 14/12/18, 08/2/19 and 22/3/19.

		There are coursework catch up sessions available as well as content catch up sessions; these will be finalised when timetables are issued.
Art & Design	The art department supplies most materials students require, but if students work in very specialised areas, needing specialist materials, or use a significant amount of expensive materials (such as oil paint), they will be expected to contribute themselves. Good quality A3 and A4 sketchbooks can be purchased from the art department, though it will be useful for students to have a variety of sketchbooks to jot ideas down and make sketches.	There are clear deadlines which need to be followed or students can find themselves with a great deal of practical work to complete. We expect students to spend a significant proportion of their non-contact time working productively in the art department, where they have access to materials and guidance. The specific times will be arranged at the start of the school term. Students should take every opportunity to visit art galleries or to engage with the work of artists, craftspeople and designers. This includes reading magazines and watching television programmes. This is very important for the development of their skills and knowledge, and is valued highly by examiners. There are opportunities for visits to galleries and workshops with practicing artists which students will be expected to take part in, and some of these may be after school.
Biology	Students need to bring to every lesson: Lined paper Current work booklet Textbook Stationery Scientific calculator	Students need to be interested in the natural world and how the human body works. They should be conscientious as homework is set every lesson, and this includes revisiting their class notes. Additional reading and research is expected, as is some preparation in advance of some lessons. This will usually take the form of pre-lab reading, using a section of the textbook to prepare for the content in the next lesson. Students are expected to stick to deadlines for completion of past paper questions, and to revise thoroughly for end of unit tests. Students will be asked to resit these if they do not achieve their target grade.

		Biology support sessions are offered every week after school to support students. They may drop in to ask questions or complete their own independent study during this time. Attendance may be compulsory if students are falling behind.
Enterprise & Entrepreneurship (BTEC)	Pens, pencils and all the correct books to every lesson.	Two very important factors are to stick to deadlines, and use the catch-up sessions provided. It is important to use your time effectively. Use Knowledge organisers to routinely 'self-quiz' terms, definitions, advantages & disadvantages. Using the notes from lessons to create revision tools.
Business Management Pre-U	Students should purchase strong Business A level texts. These can be bought cheaply second hand from Amazon. The best texts include Marcouse et al and Hall et al.	Use Knowledge organisers to routinely 'self-quiz' terms, definitions, advantages & disadvantages. Using the notes from lessons to create revision tools. It would also be beneficial for Pre U business students to purchase an inexpensive second hand copy of Business Studies, third edition by Dave Hall et al. If you wish to develop theory, use the revision material provided & you tube videos for further notes.
Chemistry	Students will be required to bring: their Chemistry folder, a scientific calculator, lined paper and standard school equipment to every lesson.	Students are expected to have a genuine interest in how the world around them works. They should be self-motivated and hardworking. Homework is set each lesson and it is expected to be done to the best of their ability. Additional reading from the textbook and frequent revisiting of notes is also expected as standard practice. Students will also be expected to revise thoroughly for all in class tests set and will be asked to re-sit papers which fail to meet their target grade.

		Students are recommended to regularly check Google Classroom for announcements and extra resources. There are after-school sessions every Wednesday and Thursday after school in S2 for if any students are struggling. Attendance at all lessons is expected. The expectation is that if students miss lessons it is their responsibility to catch up on work. The practical endorsement is only awarded if evidence is provided and if that a student has regularly met all practical skill areas, this is something which will be built up as standard during lab sessions.
Computer Science	The only specialist equipment that students will need is a set of headphones which should be brought to each lesson. They should have with them the standard list of essential school equipment i.e. pen, pencil, ruler etc.	This is a particularly demanding academic A Level and as such students are expected to complete a large amount of work outside of lesson time. Students should be organised with their notes which can be either electronic or paper based. Programming will form a large part of the course and this requires practise. Students will be expected to spend at least 2 hours a week outside of lessons on programming alone. Websites such as www.codeacademy.com have excellent resources to allow them to learn independently.
Core Maths	Students must have a suitable scientific calculator. We would recommend the CASIO FX-83GT PLUS which is currently the recommended calculator for GCSE Mathematics.	Success cannot be achieved in Mathematics without a great deal of practice. It is essential that all students reinforce the work covered in lessons by working through a large number of examples. Students are expected to take responsibility for identifying areas of weakness, seek advice and put extra work into these areas, above and beyond normal homework requirements if necessary. Regular written assessments and mock exams will provide students with clear guidance on their areas for development. Students that fail to achieve their target grade in any given assessment will be required to put in additional study and retake the assessment. This may involve attending additional study sessions after-school or having intervention sessions timetabled during "Free" periods.

Creative Digital Media	Students will need:	1) Use the Assignment brief: the assignment brief gives details of
Production (BTEC)	Standard school equipment including headphones for listening to audio visual texts.	the tasks to be completed for coursework as well as what you have to do to achieve each grade. If students are unsure how to proceed with their work independently then they should first check the assignment brief. Students should have a good idea of what grade they think they are going to achieve before they hand it in.
		2) Contact the teacher: if students are struggling to meet deadlines, have missed lessons or need to clarify what to do for their coursework then they should contact the relevant teacher either in person or by e-mail. It is an expectation that students will take the initiative to get support if they think they are in danger of falling behind with your coursework.
		3) Keep clear records of contributions to group work: students must keep a clear record of what they have done as part of a group production. If there is no clear proof of their contribution to group work then you cannot be awarded marks for it. It also means there is no danger of other group members getting the credit for what they have done.
		4) Back-up work: the ultimate coursework nightmare is to lose a precious piece of work after having worked so hard on it. Make sure back-up copies of all coursework assignments are kept to avoid this disappointment and all the work required to do it again!
		5) Meet your deadlines: every assignment will have a clear deadline so students must make sure they get it in on time. Students will certainly be given another assignment soon afterwards and once they start to get behind it is very difficult to catch-up.
		6) Prepare thoroughly for the two exam papers. The Unit 1 exam requires thorulough knowledge of Media theory and the abilityot ap;ly it to a new unseen text. The Unit 8 exam requires very detailed planning for a creative piece based on a brief set by the

		exam board.
Drama and Theatre	All playscripts are provided. Folders and books will also be provided.	The courses will make a demand on pupil's time. At least two theatre trips will take place during the school year; we try to keep costs as low as possible. Some of the trips are in the evening and may involve a late return to the Norton Hill Site. In the spring and summer terms pupils will be expected to be in
		school after lessons/evenings to prepare/rehearse for practical exams in March/April, this can impact on out-of-school jobs as exam preparation must take precedence.
		As the exams approach pupils will be expected to attend after school revision sessions - April/May 2019

Economics Pre-U	Economics exercise books. One for each of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics & China & the global economy. Students will benefit from purchasing an inexpensive second hand copy of Economics, 3 rd Edition by Alain Anderton.	Students are expected to news stories in economics. In particular, they should follow the global economics pages on businessweek.com and on the BBC Business pages. Reading general business news stories will also be hugely beneficial in developing their grasp & application of micro economics to real world examples. Use Knowledge organisers to routinely 'self-quiz' terms, definitions, advantages & disadvantages. You tube videos & the web-site economics help also provides detailed notes and case studies of the main theories covered on the course. Homework will often consist of longer written essay responses and students are expected to complete these on time and to the very best of their ability. Students will also need to revisit their lesson notes regularly and revise key diagrammatic models.
English Language and Literature	 A pack of highlighter pens The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (Vintage Classics: ISBN 978-1784874872) 	Upon their arrival in September they will be provided with an introduction pack which will help them understand the structure and demands of their course, as well as some useful resources. Students are expected to be regular readers of novels, poetry and plays. The occasional visit to the theatre, watching film versions of novels, reading the review sections and 'books' articles in newspapers and magazines – all of these help their confidence with and grasp of different genres of literature and types of language.

English Literature Pre-U	 A pack of highlighter pens English Literature: A Very Short Introduction by Jonathan Bate (ISBN 978-0-19-956926-7) Antony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare (ISBN: 978-1904271017) Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen (ISBN: 978-0141439662) 	Upon their arrival in September they will be provided with an introduction pack which will help them understand the structure and demands of their course, as well as some useful resources. Students are expected to be regular readers of novels, poetry and plays. The occasional visit to the theatre, watching film versions of novels, reading the review sections and 'books' articles in newspapers and magazines — all of these help their confidence with and grasp of different genres of literature.
EPQ	Students will be provided with a folder, but they are expected to log most of their research on a web-based piece of software called Project Q. All work will be marked and submitted on this. Students can also contact their supervisors via this.	In addition to the lessons where mentoring with their supervisor takes place, students have been allocated study periods on their timetable for EPQ. It is important that they use these to make progress on their progress as the project will require them to complete a reasonable amount of independent research. The deadlines for the various stages of the EPQ have been set to allow students to make good progress and if met will ensure students do not have lot of work to complete at the final deadline.
Geography	Students need to bring their folder and assessment books to each lesson. These folders will be provided. They will include all the required paperwork including, key words, reading lists, extended study and specifications. It will cover you for the entire 2 years. They will also need to bring a pen, pencil, ruler and calculator to lessons as they will often need this variety of resources.	Students are expected to carry out independent study and enhance their subject knowledge over the course. We advise that all students should read over their notes between lessons and use the online textbook to enhance their understanding and consolidate any material they are unsure about. It is also useful if students have good knowledge of current affairs and read a newspaper or watch the news regularly as this keeps their case study and example knowledge up to date and highlights their knowledge in exam answers. Knowledge of local news and issues is

	Students can also purchase revision guides for year 12 and 13 which many find useful to bring to lessons and link to lesson work.	also helpful as this allows the examiner to infer their knowledge of scale and links between examples. Students are expected to keep their own folder clearly separated between units and consistently check their work to keep it in order and chase any missing work. At the start of each topic we provide a reading, watching and website list for students to independently study, we recommend that this is followed over the year.
GPR Pre-U	Students need to bring their book to every lesson.	This course involves students working on coursework and also studying for an exam which is skills based. Students need to ensure they read or watch the news on a regular basis. They might want to consider looking at the publication "The Week" which is in the school library which summarises all of the main world news. Students will need to make sure they complete thorough research when preparing the coursework and should ensure they use reliable websites and do not use Wikipedia for research. Students should also try to practice Critical Thinking exercises as much as possible from the activities book to improve their Critical Thinking skills, which are required for the exam. Students will need to memorise key Critical Thinking terms in preparation for the Summer exam and need to be able to apply them.
3D Product Design	Students will need an A3 sketchbook or an A3 folder for the course. These can be purchased in school. Students are expected to attend the beginning of the year with their summer work completed and typed up and printed ready for the first lesson. Resources will need to be purchased throughout the course depending on the materials that they choose to	This is an extremely creative and demanding course that will require pupils to be independent thinkers and inquirers. You will need to be experimental with your work and would be expected to continue wider study to complete work independent to lessons. Practical is a huge part of this course and your designated study time should spent in the Technology area developing and completing practical skills that will link to your portfolio of work.

	use within their design work.	When making a product students will be asked to purchase materials/ components etc.
Health and Social Care (BTEC)	A file on each unit must be maintained and brought to the relevant lesson well-presented and in order. Students must maintain both a paper file for class notes and a well organised electronic filing system for coursework. They will also have an exercise book where feedback and additional assessment will be provided by staff. Attendance to all theory lessons is compulsory. If absent from the lesson due to illness or unforeseen circumstances work covered in the lesson must be collected from the teacher and completed. The majority of lesson resources and tasks will be stored on the Google Classroom which students will be given access to at the start of their course.	The two year course revolves around students studying and completing four units. The content of these units provides a wide base of skills and knowledge that support students to developing career pathways in a range of courses such as; Nursing, Child Care, Teaching, Early Years Development and Social Worker. EDEXCEL BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care (Level 3)
		 Students will study two units per year. It is recommended that students start work when set and do not leave it to the last minute.

History Pre-U	Students will need to bring their folder and lined paper to every lesson as well as any texts that they are issued.	Students are expected to develop their interest in History. They are expected to embrace all types of learning in and out of the classroom. This may include independent study, as well as working with others. Students are also expected to undertake a large amount of wider reading, from supporting articles to key historical texts and historical fiction. Students will be provided with a reading list for each unit and will be expected to complete a yellow wider reading sheet each week. Homework will be set each lesson and students are expected to complete this on time and to the very best of their ability. Students are also advised to read over their notes regularly. Students will be provided with an exam prep booklet which they should use to plan essays independently throughout the year to
IT BTEC	The only specialist equipment that students will need is a set of headphones which should be brought to each lesson. They should have with them the standard list of essential school equipment i.e. pen, pencil, ruler etc.	ensure they are fully prepared for their exams. There is a significant step up in skill level and academic rigour in the new set of BTECs and therefore students will be set a far greater amount of homework than in previous years. The database unit in particular requires a great amount of practise and students will have to become experts on Microsoft Access if they are to have a good chance of passing the 10 hour and of year exam. It would be useful if Microsoft Access which comes bundled with most MS Office packages is installed at home. For the social media unit, students will be expected to organise their notes properly and ensure these are comprehensive and clear. Deadlines are very strict and must be adhered to.
Mathematics/Further Mathematics	A CASIO CLASSWIZ (fx-991EE) Scientific Calculator is ESSENTIAL for the new Mathematics A-Level Course. This model allows students to evaluate probability distributions and provides a whole host of useful	Success cannot be achieved in Mathematics without a great deal of practice. It is essential that all students reinforce the work covered in lessons by working through a large number of examples.

	algebraic and vector manipulation tools which are not available on simpler models. Students will not be able to complete AS or A2 exam papers without one! This model costs around £30 online, but is available at cost price from the school Maths Shop for £20. A wireless electronic device that can access the web such as a laptop, tablet or smartphone would be very useful.	Students are expected to take responsibility for identifying areas of weakness, seek advice and put extra work into these areas, above and beyond normal homework requirements. Regular written assessments and mock exams will provide students with clear guidance on their areas for development. Students that fail to achieve their target grade in any given assessment will be required to put in additional study and retake the assessment. This may involve attending additional study sessions after-school or having intervention sessions timetabled during "Free" periods. Year 13 (A2) 2 x Pure Mathematics (2 hours) 1 x Applied Mathematics - Mechanics and Probability (2 hours) In addition, Further Mathematics students will sit: Year 12 (AS) 1 x Further Core Pure Mathematics (1 hr 40 m) 1 x Further Statistics and Mechanics (1 hr 40 m) Year 13 (A2) 2 x Further Core Pure Mathematics (1 hr 30 m) 1 x Further Statistics (1 hr 30 m) 1 x Further Statistics (1 hr 30 m)
Modern Languages	 Students should be in possession of a good bilingual dictionary for use at home. Students also need headphones in order to access the listening materials. Students are expected to log onto Dynamic Learning weekly to complete tests/translations/video tests therefore access to the internet is required. Bring to every lesson: folder with correct dividers and learning logs. 	Expectations: Attend ALL lessons. For French students, you must attend your speaking sessions. German and Spanish students will be expected to arrange extra speaking practice with their teacher (more info to follow) In addition to the homework assignments: spend at least an hour every day, learning and revising specific topic vocabulary. All language students are expected to spend at least one free lesson a week in the language HUB completing extension work. All extension tasks should be logged (listening to current news

		broadcasts on the internet, reading magazine articles etc).
Music (A Level)	 Folder/file dividers - provided by the department. Revision guides - provided by the department. Recommended: Voice/instrumental lessons. ABRSM Music theory workbooks 	 Component 1: Appraising Music (exam - 40% of total marks) Play a wide variety of music at home (from Baroque to Rock!) Students should regularly revise key terms/musical devices. Students should regularly practise essay writing skills to analyse pieces of music. Students should be working their way through music theory workbooks with an aim to be at grade 5 level by the end of year 12. Component 2: Performance (coursework - 35% of total marks) Your son/daughter should be continuing with instrumental lessons and should be working towards grade 6 or above. They must be practising 20-60 minutes every day. Every student must attend at least one extracurricular group in the music department, even if they play in a group outside of school. Component 3: (coursework - 25% of total marks) Students should compose regularly at home. In the lead up to a composition deadline, it is expected that all students should spend at least two free study periods or after school sessions a week in the music department recording their ideas and/or notating their pieces; they can create ideas at home, but it has to be notated/written up in school.
Physical Education	 AQA Textbook x 2 (loaned from the school) Memory stick Lever arch file & exercise books Folder dividers Plastic wallets Access to ICT facilities 	 Must be committed to regularly competing in a sport throughout their 2-years of A level study Must evidence their performance in line with filming guidelines. Attend parent meeting on coursework guidelines in September (letters to follow).

		 Meet coursework deadlines. To spend sufficient time completing independent study, especially revisiting year 12 (when in year 13) work due to the linear nature of the course. To be punctual to all lessons. Inform your teacher with a valid reason if you are unable to attend a lesson and take responsibility to catch up on missed work. To follow sport in the news via websites and social media.
Philosophy and Ethics	Students must bring to every lesson: A4 lined paper Pen and ruler Their PB folder (this will be provided for them) Highlighters x3	 Students should to be self-motivated, independent learners and take it upon themselves to read widely around topics. If students miss lessons for any reason they should contact teachers in order to catch up with work missed. It is useful if students discuss at home the topics they are learning in order to develop, consolidate and embed their learning. Students should also be aware that the course is linear in nature and therefore they should be revising throughout the year and using their own notes in order to do so.
Photography	It is beneficial that the students have access to their own digital SLR camera as pupils are expected to take their own field trips to find a context appropriate to their project.	The Photography course requires students to spend an additional 5 hours a week on developing their sketchbooks and organising photography shoots. The coursework aspect solely relies on the student's ability to do this as well annotating their sketchbooks weekly using photography vocabulary. The coursework contributes 60% of their final grade so it is fundamental that students comply and actively work to meet the assessment criteria.

Physics	Students will need basic equipment; pen, pencil ruler and scientific calculator in every lesson. Students need to bring their folder (provided by dept) to each lesson, as well as normal school equipment. Within this folder they should have filed their summary booklets, workbooks and practical books. Ensure all sheets are stuck in or filed logically.	Students should be prepared to learn key material as they go along and to this end should go over their notes and complete the summary booklets and practice questions provided. They should organise time for independent study using the textbook to check their understanding and complete all end of section questions and end of chapter questions. They must allocate time to complete homework well before the deadline so they can seek help as necessary. After each assessment students will be provided with feedback and targeted follow up work which will enable them to clarify weaker areas. It is essential that they complete these tasks and attend Physics Forum to seek help as necessary. Attendance at all lessons is expected. The expectation is that if students miss lessons it is their responsibility to catch up on work. The practical endorsement is only awarded if evidence is provided that a student has regularly met all practical skill areas, this is something which will be built up as standard during lab sessions.
Politics	Students will need a folder and file dividers to organise their notes and need to bring these to each lesson. Students should bring all resources for the relevant side of the course to each lesson as well as any texts that they are issued with.	Students are expected to develop an avid interest in Politics and are encouraged to debate and discuss their opinions in class. As part of the course students should watch the news every night (BBC/Channel 4) and subscribe to twitter accounts as recommended in the extension tasks for the subject. Homework will be set each lesson and students are expected to complete this on time and to the very best of their ability. Please see extension booklet for further details. Students should read through the relevant chapter in the text book given after each lesson and add to their notes. Students need to have a good knowledge of current UK politics to

		achieve the higher marks in the papers. Successful students add additional stories to their notes that could be used to illustrate the theory. Year 12 largely covers the essential knowledge for good political understanding, therefore it is crucial that students review their notes and learn the content as they go. Students will be set a weekly revision task and their retention of this knowledge will be tested in class. Reading wider political articles will help broaden their understanding of the subject.
Psychology	Pupils will need pens, note paper, a ring binder and plastic wallets. Students will be expected to complete reading tasks (in revision guides) before every lesson. As a department we are happy to print out all of the revision resources for students at a cost of £4 per paper (working out £12 across the whole A-Level). Included in the £4- • Wider reading on all 4 units with exam tips, assessment objectives signposted and quick check questions • A question bank on every topic with reference made to the wider reading • detailed mark schemes for all of the exam questions Students will have access to the revision resources electronically to print at home if they wish. Due to the number of pages in each document this will work out costing more than £4.	Students will be expected to read both the notes they make in class and extra reading on a regular basis. Students will also be expected to revise thoroughly for all in class tests set and will be asked to re-sit papers which fail to meet their target grade. Students should be aware that they will need to both understand and apply content covered in class to scenarios- this can only be done by answering exam questions in their own time. The expectation is that if students miss lessons it is their responsibility to catch up on work. Previous experience would suggest that self-motivating students are successful in Psychology; students will struggle if they only ever do the bare minimum. There is always something they could be doing.

	Revision will run after school from October.	
Sociology	Pupils will need pens, note paper, a ring binder and plastic wallets. Students will be expected to complete reading tasks (in revision guides) before every lesson. As a department we are happy to print out all of the revision resources for students at a cost of £4 per paper (working out £12 across the whole A-Level). Included in the £4- • wider reading on every topic • detailed essay plans and links to exam questions • Key term, examples and theorist glossary for every topic Students will have access to the revision resources electronically to print at home if they wish. Due to the number of pages in each document thsi will work out costing more than £4. Revision will run after school from October.	Students will be expected to read both the notes they make in class and extra reading on a regular basis. Students will also be expected to revise thoroughly for all in class tests set and will be asked to re-sit papers which fail to meet their target grade. Students should have an understanding of current affairs and issues to draw upon within lessons. Being able to make links between what they learn in the classroom and real life examples will be of benefit to their progress in written assessments. Previous experience would suggest that self-motivating students are successful in Sociology; students will struggle if they only ever do the bare minimum. There is always something they could be doing.
Sport (BTEC)	A file on each unit must be maintained and brought to the relevant lesson well-presented and in order. Attendance to all theory and practical lessons is compulsory. If absent from the lesson due to illness or unforeseen circumstances work covered in the lesson must be collected from the teacher and completed. For practical sessions students must bring the correct kit. Sporting trainers are expected as fashion trainers are not appropriate for these sessions. There are some practical	The two year course revolves around students studying and completing fours. The content of these units provides a wide base of skills and knowledge that support students to developing career pathways in a range of courses (Sports Science, Sports performance, Sports Coaching etc.) and professions (Personal Trainer, PE teacher, Coach etc.). EDEXCEL BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport (Level 3) Year 12 UNIT 1: Anatomy and Physiology (Examination. 1 hour 30 minutes.)

elements to the course and participation in these is
essential. Exceptions can be made for illness or injury
where a doctors note is provided.

Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance. (Internal assessment).

Year 13

UNIT 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being. (External Assessment).

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry. (Internal assessment)

<u>Assessment</u>

The method of assessment throughout the course is a mix of internal assessments, external assessments and one examination. The examination will take place at the end of the year with internal assessments being spaced throughout the year.

- Students will study two units per year.
- It is recommended that students start work when set and not leave it to the last minute.