

Bournemouth & Poole College

English and Maths

Guidance booklet 2026/27

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Introduction:

Welcome to Bournemouth and Poole College.

English and mathematics are essential life skills. The courses equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to succeed on your current programme, progress to higher levels of study and function confidently in their wider lives

All students on study programmes who have not yet achieved a grade 4 will continue to study English and Maths alongside your main course.

Our team will help you build your confidence in the subject whilst also increasing your skills in English and Maths.

Most students will resit their GCSE in May/June 2027.

We recognise that students join us with varied prior experience and qualifications. Our guidance ensures they are placed on the most appropriate English and mathematics pathway to support progression.

Pathway Overview

Students on Foundation, ESOL and Progression – Functional Skills up to level 1 or GCSE depending on initial assessments and diagnostics and prior qualifications.

All other students → GCSE

Some students will have the chance to resit in November (see page here)

The key to successfully developing your English and Maths skills will be attending and taking an active part in your lessons.

We're here to help you be the best you can be.

Lessons and Blocks

You will receive 3 x 1-hour lessons for maths and 3 x 1-hour lessons for English as required.

Where possible, students will be streamed into groups based on qualifications on entry and initial assessments. This means you will be grouped with students working at a similar level to you. You will receive targeted teaching and support to help you make progress.

In September there may be some movement in the first few weeks whilst we get these groups right.

You will be contacted before your first English and Maths lessons to let you know where to go.

GCSE Examinations November 2026

The College's policy is to offer the opportunity to resit in November to only those students who were close to passing in the previous academic year. In our experience, it is these students who are the most likely to achieve a Grade 4 or above when resitting in November. We anticipate that around 10% of students will be resitting in November, but this is still a significant number of students cross-College. If your young person's score was below the required score, then they will be resitting in May/June 2026 along with the majority of the students in the college. We are unable to make any exceptions to the scores required.

The score required to be able to resit the exams in November will vary according to the exam board that your young person used for their exams. The scores required are listed below (we have chosen the main exam boards in the area).

Maths		
Exam board	Grade 4 pass mark	Minimum score required for a resit
Edexcel Foundation	151	143
Edexcel Higher	50	48
AQA Foundation	154	146
AQA Higher	63	60
OCR Foundation	133	126
OCR Higher	57	54

English		
Exam board	Grade 4 pass mark	Minimum score required for a resit
Eduqas	89	85
Edexcel	87	83
AQA	75	71
OCR	75	71

Next Steps

Please note that we can only enter students for the exam once we have received **proof** of their actual exam **SCORE**. This is sometimes on the results slip, otherwise you may need to contact the previous school and get them to send it to you.

Once you have the proof, you will need to send it to us. For this, we require you to complete this Microsoft form which your young person will be able to access by using their college email account. They will only be able to do this once they have activated their account by logging onto a computer at college which they will do during the first few days of being at college.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/bwxgLyjVRe> - GCSE Maths

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/as2aBkJhMY> - GCSE English Language

This form needs to be completed and the evidence uploaded by **Tuesday 15th September at 5.00pm**. To make it easier to process there is a separate form for English and for Maths. Each form will need to be fully completed. We are working towards nationally set external Examination deadlines and we are unable to make any exceptions to these deadlines.

The GCSE Examinations November 2025 dates are

Subject	Date
English Language Paper 1 (EDUQAS)	Tuesday 3 rd November 2026
English Language Paper 2 (EDUQAS)	Thursday 5 th November 2026
Maths Paper 1 (EDEXCEL)	Wednesday 4 th November 2026
Maths Paper 2 (EDEXCEL)	Friday 6 th November 2026
Maths Paper 3 (EDEXCEL)	Monday 9 th November 2026

Exams Access Arrangements (EAA)

Exam Access Arrangements are adjustments put in place for students who are entitled to additional support in exams. These might be extra time, a reader, a scribe, rest breaks etc.

There is a process to make sure that these arrangements are applied fairly.

Further information can be found below.

[Help in exams for children and young people with SEND](#)

[SENDISS - Exam Access Arrangements Parent Handout.pdf](#)

For November 2026: (only for students who meet the criteria set out in the November resits guidance)

If you/your young person had Exam Access Arrangements (EAA) such as extra time and/or a reader/scribe in their school exams, the College will request evidence from school to support these being put in place for the November resits.

The College will contact all schools to request this information, but please do contact the school directly to ensure this has been sent if your young person hoping to sit exams in November. If you have any other specific evidence, for example, a diagnosis or consultant letter which could provide evidence to apply to exam boards, please send this through to thelink@bpc.ac.uk.

The College must reapply and submit new evidence to the exam boards for approval. EAA is not automatically transferred from school exams. As different exams and exam boards have different requirements, the arrangements approved may vary. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Because of the short time between starting the course and the November resit, if you did not previously receive EAA it is unlikely that new arrangements will be in place for November.

Similarly, if The College does not receive the information from your school by 25th September 2026 then it is unlikely that you will have EAA in place for the November exam.

For Summer 2027

You will have been asked already if you had EAA in place previously, if you did, the process will apply as above. There is a deadline for us as a college to submit requests for EAA to exam boards. That means the college needs to receive all information from you by October 2nd.

You will be required to sit an in-class initial assessment to support the application for EAA, and you may be required to attend an assessment with one of our EAA assessors.

You may also be invited for an assessment with our EAA assessors. If you receive an invitation, it is vital that you attend. Not attending could result in EAA not being in place.

If you fail to complete the initial assessment and/or fail to attend the EAA assessment your exam access arrangements may not be in place for summer 2027.

Summer 2025 Exams

November Resit Exams are only for those students that were close to passing in the summer; the vast majority of students will take the GCSE exams in May/June 2027. These are the dates for the summer 2027 exams:

Subject	Date
English Language Paper 1 (EDUQAS)	Monday 24 th May 2027
English Language Paper 2 (EDUQAS)	Tuesday 8 th June 2027
Maths Paper 1 (EDEXCEL)	Friday 14 th May 2027
Maths Paper 2 (EDEXCEL)	Thursday 27 th May 2027
Maths Paper 3 (EDEXCEL)	Monday 14 th June 2027

All GCSE exam dates are set nationally and cannot be taken at any other time. Please make sure you are available on the days of the exams.

Century

Excitingly, for 2026 we are launching Century Tech for all 16-19 students. Century is an AI powered personalised teaching, learning and initial assessment platform. It's designed for students resitting English and Maths. You will receive guidance on how to set up your account during your first few weeks of your English and Maths lessons. There is lots of evidence that students that engage well with Century and engage well with their lessons get better results.

More information on Century Tech can be found [here](#)