

The GCSE Year

Students
Parents
Staff

Getting the grades!

The Evening Ahead

- Welcome *Ms White*
- Boys are different-Supporting your son. *Mr Sadler*
- A student's perspective – *Tom Roscoe Josh Trillow*
- Coursework/Revision – *Mr Bown*
- Exams/How the School is helping -*Mr Sadler*
- Group discussion – *How you can help*

Boys at GCSE

Why are we here tonight?
Andwhere are the girls?

GENDER GAP

Nationally girls'
5 A* to C achievement
is *X%* better/worse
than boys

- Girls continue to outperform boys in the 14-16 age group in English schools, whatever their ability and whatever type of school they attend, according to new research from Bristol University
- The researchers studied boys and girls aged 16 in all English state-maintained secondary schools in 2001 - a total of more than half a million pupils in more than 3,000 schools.
- The gender gap is driven by girls outperforming boys in English. In maths and science, the performance of girls and boys is the same.

Fig. 2.2: Percentage entry of girls and boys achieving 5(+) A-C grades GCSE (or equivalency) 1996-2004*

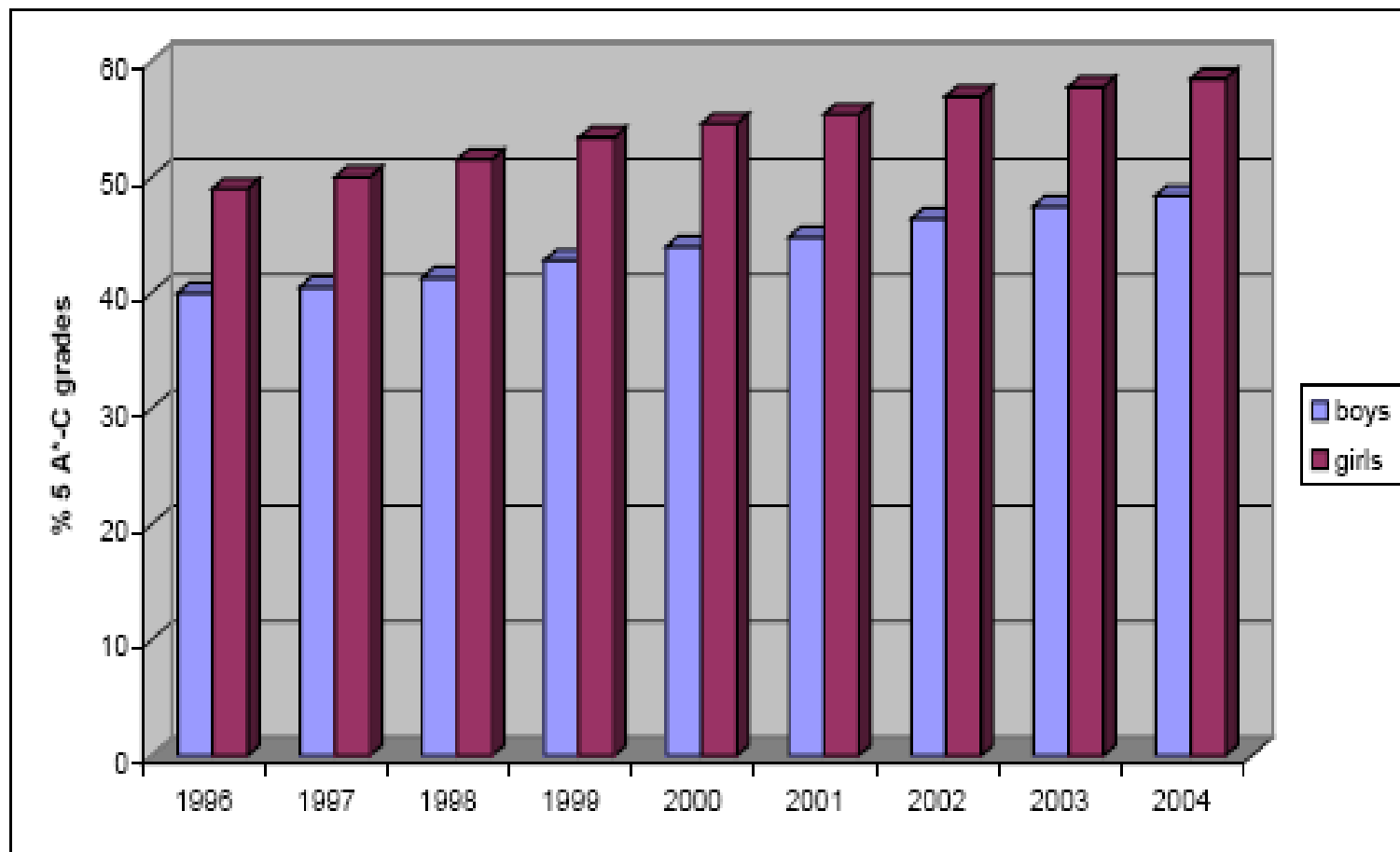


Table 2.4: GCSE entries and performance levels, 2004 for subjects taken by over 20% of national cohort.

Subject	Gender	% A*-C grades	Gender gap	% A*-A grades	Gender gap
Art / Design	female	76	20	28	14
	male	56		14	
Design / technology	female	64	16	21	10
	male	48		11	
English	female	67	14	18	7
	male	53		11	
English Lit	female	71	14	21	7.5
	male	58		13.5	
French	female	58	14	21	7
	male	44		14	
Geography	female	66	7	26	7
	male	59		19	
History	female	67	5	29	5
	male	62		24	
Mathematics	female	53	1	11.5	-0.5
	male	52		12	
Physical education	female	61	4	22	7
	male	57		15	
Religious education	female	71	13	32	11
	male	58		21	
Science (double award)	female	54	1	14	3
	male	53		11	

Why is that then?

Boys

- Are laid back- ('It'll be alright on the night!')
- Are relaxed about deadlines
- Are less well organised than girls-equipment etc
- Often fail to write down homework/coursework instructions properly so don't know what to do when they get home.
- Sometimes want to avoid being seen to be academic to maintain 'cool'
- Tend to rush their work and hate re-reading/re-drafting/improving it
- Are growing really fast-that's very tiring!
- Are less mature than girls and therefore less able to handle pressure and prioritise
- Expect that as most good jobs are currently held down by men that they will walk into them in turn

But..Hang on a minute...

Boys

- Are competitive (enjoy exams!)
- Enjoy using computers
- Are instinctive
- Respond well to short term targets and rewards
- Have few problems eating and sleeping
- Often score the best results
- 70% of boys learn better by doing

So...supporting your son might involve..

- Communicating with staff
- Filing/organising work
- Check he has the right equipment. Hold 'the exam pencil case'
- Know what needs to be done and set short term targets and rewards
- Set a pre-deadline deadline and help with re-drafting and presentation
- Access to ICT with a contract
- Routines during exams

“The Master of Time is the
Master of All”



Coursework

- Know the target grade and the coursework%
- Go through each subject and the Coursework requirements with your son. Does he know what is needed? Get into the loop!
- Are they meeting the deadlines?
- What further support might be needed- notes/materials/teacher help. Clear the blocks to coursework completion. Contact staff for clarification and support.
- Help him to re-draft and tidy it up. Does it match the brief?
- Be the mediator with school!

REVISION-EVERYONE LEARNS DIFFERENTLY



Revision

- **Draw pictures**
- **Make Charts**
- **Say ideas out loud**
- **Play gentle music**
- **Highlight the main points**
- **Sing**
- **Walk about**
- **List key ideas**
- **Make key point cards**
- **Record things on I pod**
- **Use mnemonics**
- **Mind maps – spider diagrams**
- **Tell other people**
- **Share things with others**
- **Take breaks no more than 40 minutes at a time.**
- **Drink water**

PLANNING REVISION

PERSONAL REVISION TIMETABLE

	9.00 - 11.00 am	11.00 - 1.00 pm	2.00 - 4.00 pm	4.00 - 6.00 pm	6.00 - 8.00 pm	8.00 - 10.00 pm
MONDAY						
TUESDAY						
WEDNESDAY						
THURSDAY						
FRIDAY						
SATURDAY						
SUNDAY						

ON-LINE

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Exams-The final hurdle!

- Know the timetable- Issued end of spring term
- Check the timetable-Courses/Level/Number of papers
- Have a calendar
- Identify stress points-consecutive papers

The Big Day

- Early call
- Breakfast!
- Arrive 20 minutes before exam start or start of revision session
- Full Uniform
- All exams in the Sports Hall so socks only
- Clear pencil cases
- Bring all necessary equipment especially for Maths etc
- Water – small bottle
- Valuables in the red bags

How the School is Helping

- Coursework clubs- catch up sessions
- On Line learning resources
- Extra classes – now and later
- Examination practice
- Study Leave changes-scheduled classes
- Revision booklets – and study aids
- Targeted groups students-review data
- Easter Revision Courses
- Mentoring Schemes
- Sixth Form/Careers advice-Connexions interviews

SOME QUESTIONS

- 1. How can you help keep your child's stress levels down?
- 2. In what ways can you show your child support?
- 3. In what ways can you help them stay organised and motivated?
- 4. Will you have to change your routines during Study Leave to support their revision?
- 5. On exam days how can you help them be on time, calm and properly prepared?
- 6. How can you help them with their home learning environment?

A CHECK LIST

Encourage and Praise

Ask the right questions

Show an interest

Limit but don't ban social activities

Try to limit background distractions like the TV

Take an active role when appropriate!!!

Keep things in perspective

Encourage sensible sleep patterns

Try to provide a good revision environment

Attendance and punctuality!