

Whilst you wait- Screen-time check:

Have a little check of how many hours are currently logged for your child's screen time...



JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

YEAR 11

ASPIRATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT • SUCCESS

PARENT/CARER EVENING



Scan for GCSEPod

This information will also be shared with students in form time, and we will continue to communicate with you as we progress in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions following this presentation, please feel free to contact me. jsayce59rj@nsix.org.uk

Mr Sayce- Assistant Principal

Raising Achievement and Pupil Premium



Joe Sayce
Assistant Principal

Raising Progress & Achievement



JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

YEAR 11



THE FOCUS OF THIS EVENING

Practical information, advice and support to help you make the most of your Year 11 journey and achieve your best.



KEY DATES

Important dates for PPEs, GCSE exams and events throughout the year.



SUCCESS AT GCSE

What it takes to achieve your best, including mindset, effort and marginal gains.



REVISION TECHNIQUES

Practical strategies to help you revise smarter, not just harder.



STUDY HABITS

How to build effective routines, manage your time and make independent study work for you.



SUBJECT INFORMATION

Speak to subject leaders for bespoke advice on how to prepare, revise and be successful in your subjects.



SUPPORT IN SCHOOL

An overview of the support available to you, including teachers, intervention, study space and key resources.



PPEs AND ASSESSMENTS

What to expect, how to prepare and how the results will help you move forward into the final exams.



POST-16 AND CAREERS

Information and guidance on next steps, opportunities and how to start preparing for life after GCSEs.



WELLBEING

Advice on managing pressure, staying healthy and looking after your mental health.



ASPIRATION

Setting high goals, believing in your potential and making the most of the opportunities ahead.



HIGH AMBITIONS | GREAT OPPORTUNITIES | A BRIGHT FUTURE

What is the...Journey to Excellence?



YOUR PERSONAL BEST

Excellence isn't about competing with others—it's about reaching your absolute maximum potential.



DAILY EFFORT

Small, positive habits repeated day in and day out.



PRIDE IN RESULTS

Walking into every exam knowing you gave it

100%.



**SUCCESS
IS THE SUM
OF
SMALL
EFFORTS
REPEATED
DAY IN
AND
DAY OUT**

Purpose of the Evening:

- Give you key information to help you maximise your child's potential at GCSE.
- To share our high expectations of Year 11 students.
- To give you an overview of the key subject specific information surrounding your child's GCSEs in their final year via our subject marketplace.
- Allow you to access all the key information which can support your child at home with their GCSEs. Updates and support in place
- Answer any questions you might have about your child's final year at secondary school.



Main focus point-One eye on the future...

- How do you want to feel in **7 months** when you begin your exams?
- How do you want to feel in **10 months** when you open the envelope?
- Where do you **want to be studying** this time next year?



YEAR 11 ROADMAP

2026 – 2027

YOUR JOURNEY.
YOUR EFFORT.
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

KEY DATES | SUPPORT | OPPORTUNITIES | NEXT STEPS

SEPTEMBER 2026

- Assemblies on sixth form/apprenticeships
- Individual mentoring
- Careers education
- Journey to Excellence (1st Oct)

OCTOBER 2026

- World Mental Health Day
- Sixth Form Open days/evenings
- Progress Meetings
- Careers Guidance Interviews

OCTOBER HALF-TERM

NOVEMBER 2026

- Stress and Anxiety Workshop
- Mock exams round 1** (All subjects) from Monday 16th Nov (2 weeks)
- Study Support Sessions (with parents/carers)

DECEMBER 2026

- 6th Form Application Deadline
- Celebration Day

TRACKING 1 & MOCK 1 RESULTS
December 2026 (reports to follow shortly after this – before Xmas)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 2027

- GCSE Revision Evening
- Parents' Evening (Tuesday 5th January)
- Start of GCSE practical exams
- Maximise Potential – Study session days

YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS
Morning – Tuesday 5th January 2027

FEBRUARY 2027

- After-school intervention
- Mental Health Assembly
- Mock exams round 2** from Monday 8th Feb (1 week – Non-Core only)
- Mock exams round 3** from Monday 22nd Feb (1 week – Core/Ebac)

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

MARCH 2027

- 6th Form Offers
- GCSE practical examinations continue
- Year 11 Revision Evening – March



APRIL 2027

- Easter Holidays
- Revision focus in all lessons
- Exam stress workshop
- 15th April – Final Year 11 Parents' Evening

MAY 2027

- Start of GCSE exams

SUMMER EXAM SERIES
May – June 2027

- May Half-Term

JUNE 2027

- GCSE exams continue
- Leavers' Day – assembly
- Sixth Form Induction
- Leavers' Assembly – End of June
- Prom – End of June

JULY 2027

- Continue to prepare for results

AUGUST 2027

GCSE RESULTS DAY
Thursday 19th August 2027

EARLY FOCUS (AUTUMN)

Ensure you are beginning to develop the right revision habits, get into the routine of revising regularly. Frequently and in small bursts is the key. Active revision is the aim.

BUILD PROGRESS (SPRING)

Engage with revision using active methods and use tools such as GCSEPod effectively. Attend all mock exams in full uniform with full equipment.

BE EXAM READY (SUMMER)

Successfully embedded revision methods and have developed study habits linked to frequent revision.

Structure of the year- key dates

Mock exams 1- from Monday 16th Nov- in hall- lasting 2 weeks- all subjects



Year 11- tracking 1 and Mock 1 results- December 2026- reports to follow shortly after this (before Xmas)



Year 11 mock results morning-
Tuesday 5th January 2027



Year 11 parents evening- Tuesday
5th January 2027



Mock exams 2- Monday 8th Feb- one week- Non-Core only



Mock exams 3- Monday 22nd Feb- one week- Core/Ebacc



Summer exam series- May-June 2027



Leaver's assembly- ???

Year 11 Prom- ???

GCSE Results Day- Thursday 19th August 2027

GCSE GRADES EXPLAINED

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

	LEVEL 1 PASS Equivalent to lower grades				LEVEL 2 PASS Equivalent to higher grades				
OLD GCSE GRADES (LEGACY SYSTEM)	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	
VOCATIONAL GRADES (e.g. BTECs)	P	M	D		P	M	D	D*	
NEW GCSE GRADES (9-1)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				↑	↑		↑		
				STANDARD PASS Grade 4 Required as a minimum in English and Maths.	STRONG PASS Grade 5 Often required for many college courses and apprenticeships.		MINIMUM FOR A LEVEL STUDY Grade 7 Usually the minimum grade required for A level study in many subjects.		

KEY INFORMATION



Grades 9-1
are the new GCSE
grades and replace
the old A*-G system.



A Grade 4
is considered a
standard pass and
equivalent to a
low Grade C.



A Grade 5
is a strong pass and
equivalent to a
high Grade C / low B.



Grades 7, 8 and 9
are equivalent to
the old A and A* and
are often required
for A level study.



WHAT DO THE GRADES MEAN?

Grade 9 is the highest grade.
Grade 1 is the lowest grade.
A Grade 4 is considered a standard pass.



KEY MILESTONES

- Grade 4 – standard pass (required in English and Maths)
- Grade 5 – strong pass
- Grade 7 – often the minimum for A level study



SUPPORTING SUCCESS

Our aim is to support every pupil to achieve the best grades possible and to keep all options open for their future pathways.



BRIGHTER FUTURES

GCSE success opens doors to further education, training and exciting opportunities in the future.

Your booklet to take away and look back at!



1- The year ahead mapped out for.

2- All subjects- key information

3- Top 10 most important tips



4- Revision checklist



5- The resources to use for revision at home

Revision Timetable 2026-27	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:20-8:50am							
8:50-9:10am							
9:10-9:30am							
9:30-10:00am							
10:00-10:30am							
10:30-11:00am							
11:00-11:30am							
11:30-12:00pm							
12:00-12:30pm							
12:30-1:00pm							
1:00-1:30pm							
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4:30-5:00pm							
5:00-5:30pm							
5:30-6:00pm							
6:00-6:30pm							
6:30-7:00pm							
7:00-7:30pm							
7:30-8:00pm							
8:00-8:30pm							
8:30-9:00pm							

6- Revision timetable schedule

Your 'how to guide' for all effective revision techniques

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HIGH SCHOOL
enjoy, achieve, succeed

**WENSUMTRUST**

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

REVISION TECHNIQUES

LEITNER METHOD

Review, remember, repeat.

SPACED REVISION = LONGER MEMORY

Small steps. Big results.

WHAT IS IT?

A spaced repetition technique that helps you remember information for longer by reviewing it at increasing intervals.

HOW DO I DO IT?

- 1 Create your revision flashcards (or use your notes).
- 2 Start with a short review of all your cards.
- 3 Move cards you know to the next box (longer interval).
- 4 Keep reviewing, and repeat the cycle.

EXAMPLE

- Box 1: review in 1 day.
- Box 2: review in 3 days.
- Box 3: review in 7 days.

(Adjust the timings to suit you and your subject.)

TOP TIP

Use flashcards or a revision app, and be honest with yourself about what you know. If you struggle, move it back to the first box.

TRY THIS

Right now: Make a set of flashcards for one of your subjects and put them in Box 1. Start your first review today.

SEE MR SAYCE OR MR REID FOR MORE HELP AND SUPPORT.
enjoy, achieve, succeed

VS.

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JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

REVISION TECHNIQUES

LOW EFFICIENCY METHODS

Know what NOT to do.

Some revision methods can waste your time and give you a false sense of progress.

THESE METHODS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE

Icon	Method	Why it's ineffective
	JUST RE-READING YOUR NOTES	Feels familiar, but doesn't help you remember.
	HIGHLIGHTING EVERYTHING	Looks productive, but you're not really processing the information.
	JUST MAKING FLASHCARDS	Can be useful, but on its own it's not enough to build real recall.
	PASSIVELY WATCHING VIDEOS	You might feel like you're learning, but it's not the same as doing it yourself.
	CRAMMING AT THE LAST MINUTE	Quick fix, but it leads to poor long-term memory and more stress.

REMEMBER:

- ✓ It's not about doing more...
- ✓ It's about doing the right things.
- ✓ Active, focused revision = **BETTER RESULTS!**

TRY THIS

Be intentional: Choose effective techniques from the posters, avoid the low efficiency methods, and make your revision count.

SEE MR SAYCE OR MR REID FOR MORE HELP AND SUPPORT.
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Our investment in Year 11...

1. Assistant Principal Raising Achievement- Mr Sayce
2. Year groups - Key Stage 4 Lead (Mr Reid), HOY (Mrs Auffray)
3. Progress tutors in English and Maths
4. Core (ENG/Maths/Science) Tutor Programme
5. Strive for 5 Programme
6. Aspire 9 Programme-
7. **Significant investment in GCSEPod as a premium revision tool.**
8. Pass to Prom Rewards scheme
9. **Personalised revision trackers and revision timetables**
10. Subject after school Intervention
11. Full access to the Year 11 Study Space all year round
12. Holiday revision sessions
13. Parental workshops - Revision, Wellbeing, Preparation for Exams



Joe Sayce
Assistant Principal
Raising Progress & Achievement



Priorities for this year

1. School + Lesson Engagement

2. Homework + Revision

3. Rest + Reading



What about?

- P6
- Aspire 9
- Strive for 5

P6 dates W/C:

- 12th Oct
- 19th Oct
- 2nd Nov
- 9th Nov

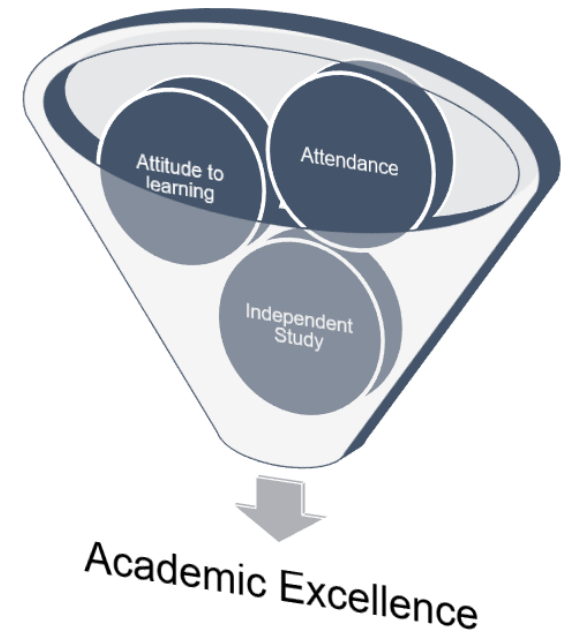
- Tues
- Wed
- Thurs

- **Attendance** – being in the building is the first and biggest influence on your chances of success
- **Attitude to learning** – capturing the knowledge your teachers share in each minute of each lesson will make you confident and ready for exams
- **Independent study** – take charge of your learning!

What changes do you need to make today to improve your chances tomorrow?

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

YEAR 11



Everyone's role in Success

A unified message and good communication between the school and home, provides consistency and routine for your child.

... but ultimately, they are your results. We believe you are capable of excellence. Your parents believe you are capable of excellence. Your determination and resilience will make you capable of excellence.

ool will
th quality
ns,
ons, and
learning
es to give
all they
achieve

The Main Muscle

You need to be able to write- at
speed, at length and for a
purpose...

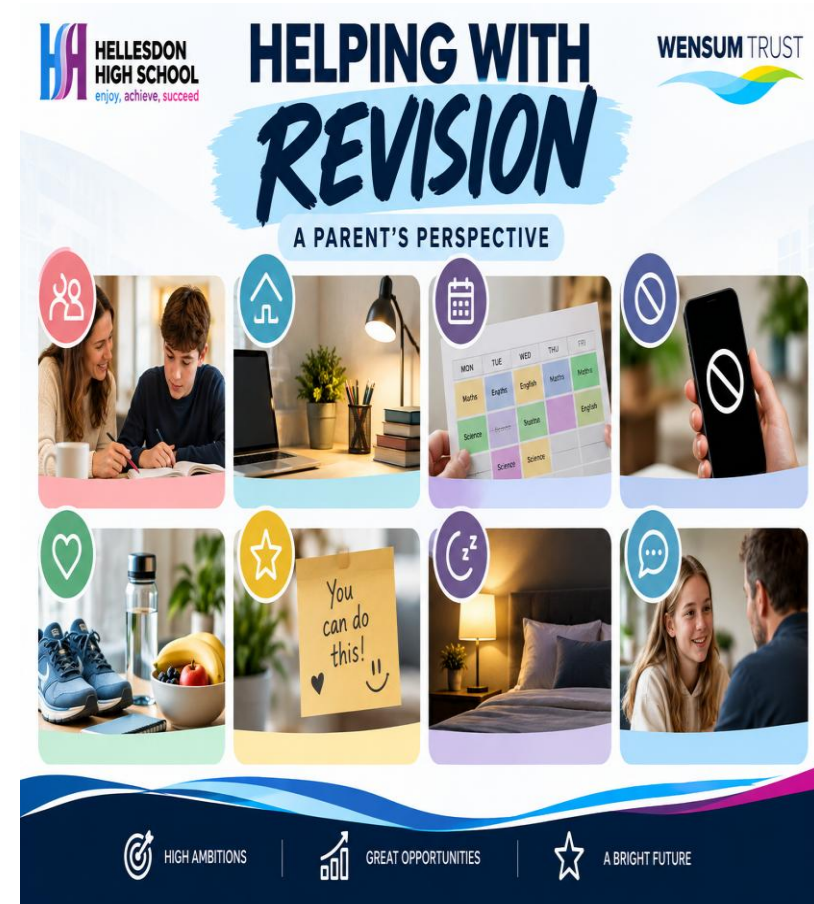


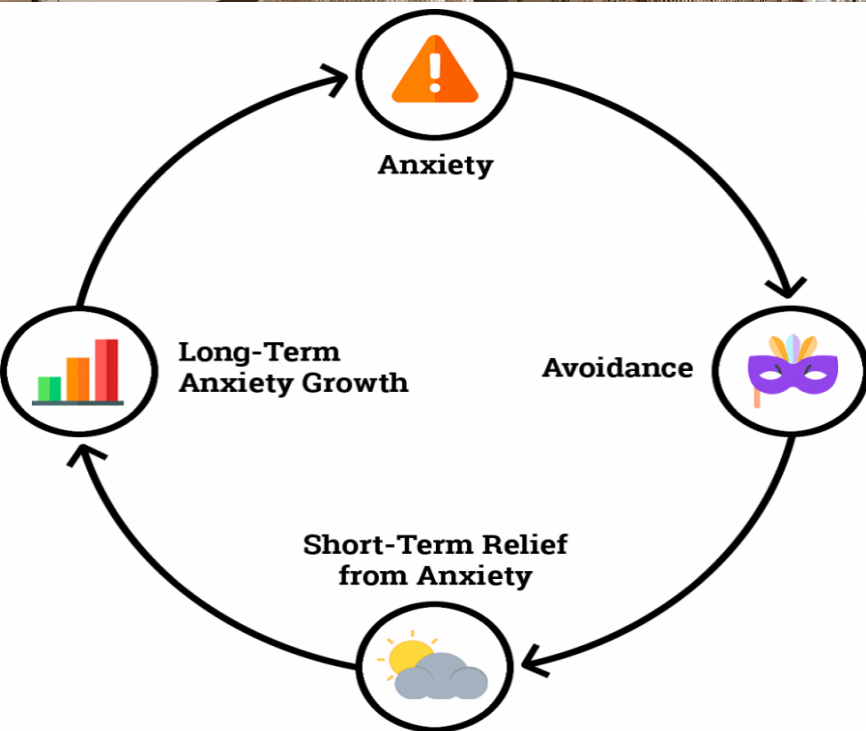
Building academic stamina

- **Train for the real exam** – GCSEs require you to **think, write and concentrate** for sustained periods. Revision should prepare you for this, not just test isolated facts.
- **Practise writing at length** – short-answer questions are useful, but regularly completing **full paragraphs, essays and extended exam questions** builds the stamina needed to maintain quality across an entire paper.
- **Build mental endurance** – sustained writing trains you to **stay focused when you are tired**, think clearly under pressure and keep going when questions become difficult.
- **Strengthen your handwriting stamina** – your hand also needs practice. Regular timed writing helps you maintain **speed, legibility and control** throughout longer exams.
- **Develop resilience** – completing challenging extended tasks teaches you not to give up when something feels difficult. **Struggle → persist → improve.**
- **You wouldn't train for a marathon by only running 100 metres. Don't prepare for a two-hour exam by only answering five-minute questions.**

A parent's perspective

- Fitting everything in is hard
- **Visibility-** work downstairs
- Make them show you the resources
- **Regular routine-** little and often - revision timetable on the fridge
- The content is significant
- **Application of skills**, not just knowledge retention
- **Exam practice-** use us to help mark
- AI is very helpful when trying to support your child





This is an important resource- Refer to it regularly!

- This checklist and key info sheet is being given to you tonight.
- It would be best deployed being pinned to your fridge at home.
- Refer to often and ensure you follow these techniques and advice as they are proven to be highly effective.

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SMALL STEPS BIG RESULTS

YEAR 11 WEEKLY REVISION CHECKLIST

PLAN TODAY. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

DISCIPLINE TODAY BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

YOU'VE GOT THIS!

- ☐ Start the week by planning your schedule – 20 mins – write it out – be specific with what you plan to revise – make it public. Aim for 2 hours per night (1 hour if completed period 6) and 2-4 hours over the weekend. Build in time for rest/exercise/recreation.
- ☐ UNPLUG – and don't revise in bed.
- ☐ Work smarter, not harder – focus on high impact revision strategies.
- ☐ Avoid just re-reading/highlighting. Do something active with your revision.
- ☐ Focus on the topics which you struggle with – not just subjects you enjoy.
- ☐ Maths – complete MathsWatch and a Maths past paper.
- ☐ English Language – complete a Section A or Section B of a past paper.
- ☐ English Literature – 30 mins of re-reading a text – mind map a sample character or theme question including key quotations.
- ☐ Science – create flashcards from core questions and practice exam Qs.

For option subjects rotate the following methods:

CREATE RESOURCES
Create flashcards – use the Leitner System.

PROGRESS

3X / WEEK (HARD - Review often)
2X / WEEK (MEDIUM - Review regularly)
1X / WEEK (EASY - Review less often)

gcsepod
20 minutes of GCSEPod – ensure you complete the Check and Challenge questions.

PRACTICE PAPER
Complete a practice paper or large section of a past paper.

CREATE REVISION CLOCKS
Spend 5 mins on each segment (an hour in total).

FEEDBACK AND REVIEW

- ✓ Hand in the practice paper.
- ✓ Get feedback.
- ✓ Identify gaps in knowledge – where you need to improve and revise/practise the gaps.

TAKE A 5 MINUTE BREAK EVERY 25 MINUTES

SMALL STEPS BIG RESULTS

ENJOY • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED

A BRIGHTER FUTURE AWAITS

Every subject counts

- Every GCSE subject you take gives you points depending on your grade
- Many sixth form colleges are now asking for your average point score in your best 8 subjects or ask you to reach a threshold on your best 8 subjects.
- Applications for sixth form places have been so oversubscribed by students who meet the entry criteria, they are now selecting students with highest average point score.
- Some students were offered places in the morning, only to then be denied places in the afternoon ! Even though they had met the published entry requirements!

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

YOUR GCSEs **OPEN DOORS** FOR THE FUTURE

WENSUM TRUST

SIXTH FORM

APPRENTICESHIP

COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY

EMPLOYMENT

1 EVERY GCSE GIVES YOU POINTS

Each GCSE subject you take is worth a certain number of points depending on your grade.



2 COLLEGES LOOK AT YOUR BEST 8 GCSEs

Many sixth form colleges now ask for your average point score in your best 8 subjects or ask you to reach a threshold on your best 8 subjects.



3 PLACES ARE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

Applications for sixth form places have been so oversubscribed by students who meet the entry criteria, they are now selecting students with the highest average point score.



4 PLACES CAN CHANGE VERY QUICKLY!

Some students were offered places in the morning, only to then be denied places in the afternoon – even though they had met the published entry requirements!



MEETING THE ENTRY CRITERIA IS NO LONGER A GUARANTEE.

EXAMPLE:

BEST 8 GCSEs



6 x GCSEs at grade 6
2 x GCSEs at grade 5

TOTAL POINTS

42

AVERAGE POINT SCORE

$$42 \div 8 = 5.25$$

Best 8 GCSEs = 42 points
42 divided by 8 = 5.25

WHY THIS MATTERS

- ✓ A higher average point score gives you more options for sixth form, college and beyond.
- ✓ The most competitive courses often take students with the highest scores.
- ✓ The more successful you are across your subjects, the more opportunities you will have.
- ✓ Make every subject count – your best 8 could open the door to your next steps.

Hellesdon Sixth Form

Your next step



YOUR NEXT STEP STARTS HERE

Why choose our Sixth Form?

GREAT CHOICES & STRONG RESULTS

A wide range of academic and vocational pathways

KNOW YOU. SUPPORT YOU.

Teachers and tutors who understand you and help you succeed

MORE THAN JUST QUALIFICATIONS

Leadership, enrichment, independence and confidence

READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT

University • Apprenticeships • Employment

Hellesdon Sixth Form – YOUR natural progression route!



Hellesdon Sixth Form

Your next step

SIXTH FORM → YOUR FUTURE

Where could it take you?

CAREERS

Discover what interests you and where your strengths could take you

UNIVERSITY

Explore subjects, courses and future opportunities

APPRENTICESHIPS

Earn while you learn and gain valuable experience

EMPLOYMENT

Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence employers value

You don't need to know exactly what you want to do yet. You just need to start exploring your options.

FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

VOCATIONAL REMINDER...

You will go into your examinations knowing that you have already achieved the best marks possible.

Support Available:

- ★ Vocational support days to give you focused time to achieve
- ★ Clear deadlines from us to parents so you can stay on top of your submissions



**Action for tonight: Are your internally assessed units up to your potential?
Ask you teachers what you can do about it!**



**Hellesdon High School
& Sixth Form Centre**

Enjoy | Achieve | Succeed

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE EVENING: J2E Supporting Vocational & Practical Subjects

A Guide for Parents & Carers on Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs)

Welcome to the Journey to Excellence Evening! Practical & vocational subjects (BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, WJEC Hospitality, Construction, Art, Drama, Music, PE, etc.) rely heavily on ongoing NEAs. Unlike end-of-year written exams, **NEAs assess ongoing practical skill, portfolio creation, and real-world application.** Your home structure makes a direct impact!

UNDERSTANDING NEAS

What is a Non-Examined Assessment?

Controlled tasks completed in school and independently over extended periods. They test research, practical execution, analysis, and evaluation.

High Final Grade Weighting:

In subjects like Art, Hospitality, Health & Social Care and iMedia, NEAs account for **40% to 60%** of the overall qualification. A strong NEA bank relieves exam pressure before summer!

BANK MARKS BEFORE SUMMER

PARENT ACTION PLAN THIS WEEK

- 1. Check Progress:**
Understand where your child is now.
- 2. Review Assessment Dates:**
Log deadlines together.
- 3. Weekly Check-in:**
Dedicate 10 mins every Sunday.
- 4. Contact School Early:**
Reach out immediately if your child falls behind.



ATTEND TODAY. ACHIEVE TOMORROW.

SAME LESSONS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.



GOOD ATTENDANCE OPENS DOORS

More learning. More opportunities. A brighter future.



Year 11 pupils with attendance of **95% or higher** are **1.9 times (nearly double)** as likely to achieve **Grade 5 or above** in both English and Maths GCSEs compared with pupils with 90%–95% attendance.

Source: Schools Week



Missing just **10 days** of school (around 5% of the academic year) in Year 11 **halves the likelihood** of achieving a Grade 5 in core subjects compared with full attendance.

Source: Schools Week



DfE Key Stage 4 tracking shows pupils maintaining **95%–100% attendance** achieve on average **over one full GCSE grade higher** across subjects than pupils who are persistently absent (below 90%).

EVERY DAY COUNTS

ATTENDANCE AND DAYS MISSED OVER A SCHOOL YEAR

100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance
0 days missed	9–10 days missed	19 days missed	29 days missed	38 days missed



MORE LEARNING
Get the most from every lesson



STRONGER PROGRESS
Build knowledge and confidence



MORE OPPORTUNITIES
Keep future options open



BETTER PREPARATION FOR GCSEs
Be ready to succeed

“Attendance is the strongest predictor of academic success at secondary school.”

DfE



When in life is 90% not good enough?

90% attendance is classed as persistent absence and adds up to missing 4 weeks of learning throughout the year.

Good attendance and punctuality is important life skill that is needed for all students future success

DAYS OFF COST GOOD GRADES



RESEARCH SHOWS THAT FOR EACH 17 DAYS
MISSED FROM SCHOOL, YOUR GCSE
RESULTS WILL GO DOWN
ONE GRADE!

Pupils with good attendance are more than twice as likely to pass their English and Maths GCSEs compared to those who are persistently absent.

Only 12% of pupils with below 80% school attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (old A*-C) including English and Maths

Compared to 68% for pupils with attendance greater than 95%. (Attendance of 95% for the year equals 10 days that your child has been absent)

The importance of English and Maths

- **Core requirement for further study and employment-** Both English and Maths are compulsory GCSEs that almost all post-16 courses and employers require. Students must achieve at least Grade 4 to pass; otherwise, they will have to retake the exam post-16, which can affect confidence and progression.
- **Minimum benchmark for progression-** Achieving Grade 5 or above is increasingly seen as the standard for studying A-Levels and many vocational courses. Students below this level may face limitations in the courses they can take at college.
- **Higher grades open more opportunities-** A Grade 7 or above in English or Maths can significantly enhance a student's profile for: Selective sixth form colleges. Competitive A-Level courses. UCAS applications for selective universities and specific degree courses (e.g., Law, Medicine, Engineering).

Year 11 Form time intervention- From October



Each form will now follow the same basic experience of form time sessions but on different days led by subject specialists.

You will all have the following as part of your weekly form time programme:

1- All- (normal form time) Personal Development day

2-All- Assembly every Monday

3- English specialist revision session

4- Maths specialist revision session

5- Science specialist revision session

Why are we doing this?

This will enable you all to receive 30 mins additional English/Maths/Science specialist support every week which will add up to over 20hrs of extra study before your exams begin.

Groupings

These will be not be changed once the intervention period has started.

They Year group will be split into 5 key groups

- Aspire 9
- Group 1-3 (mixed)
- Support group

This will help ensure each group has a maximum of 20 pupils which will also greatly help the value of these sessions.

The mocks are on the horizon...

Mock exams begin on Monday 16th November 2026

This is less than 6 weeks from today. It is 25 school days away.

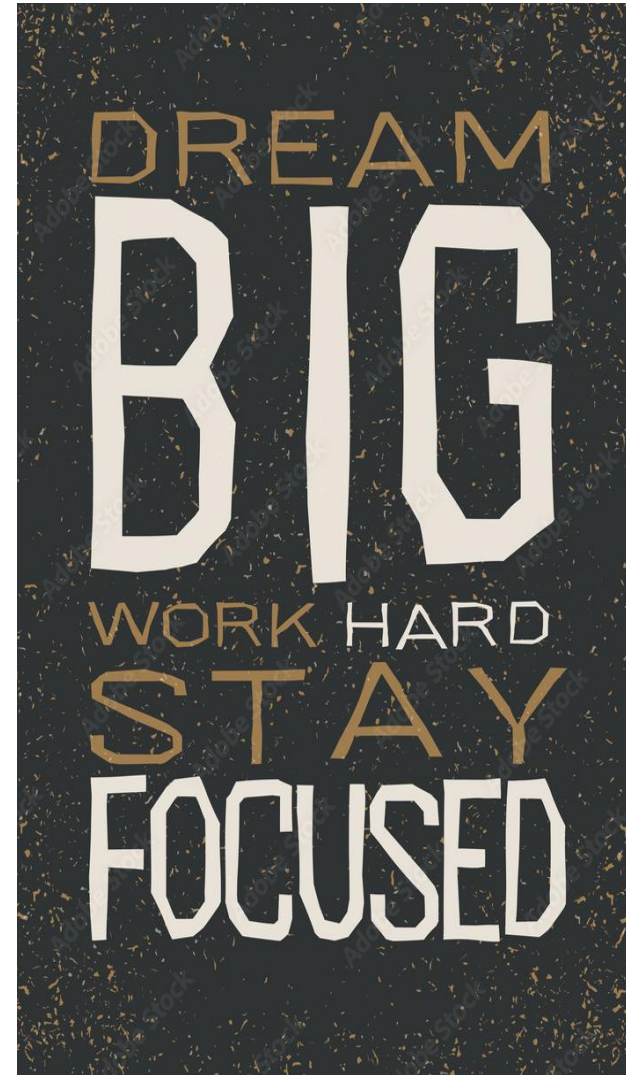
College offers will often ask for your mock results and it is important that these are taken seriously, and you apply yourself effectively

You do not want to take the attitude that- *'I'll just see what I get without any revision'*

This will be a waste of time.

The purpose of the mocks is to ensure teachers can give you guided feedback on what you're doing well and what you still need to focus more on.

How can you possibly know your areas for improvement if you haven't put the effort in first?



Things to avoid with the mocks- Pitfalls

- **Leaving revision until very close to mocks** (cramming). It may give short-term recall, but harms long-term retention and adds stress.
- **Passive revision** (just reading or highlighting without testing). These feel productive but are much less effective than active methods.
- **Overloading with too many subjects at once** without focus — spreading yourself too thin. Better to address fewer topics well than many poorly.
- **Ignoring feedback:** if you don't check why you made mistakes, you may repeat them.



7 Stages of Revision Success

1. Plan your revision – timetable your study

Map out all subjects and topics across the weeks leading up to mocks. Break big topics into smaller chunks to make them manageable. Include rest breaks, exercise, and catch-up time.

2. Check topics against knowledge organisers or topic lists

Use school-provided checklists, knowledge organisers, or exam specifications. Tick off what you feel confident with and highlight weaker areas to focus on.

7. When ready, answer exam questions under exam conditions

Sit full papers, timed, without notes. Build exam stamina and practise managing time across all sections. Review performance to refine final revision focus.

6. Hand in exam questions and get feedback

Share practice answers with teachers and ask for feedback. Act on the feedback: redraft, correct mistakes, or practise similar questions.



3. Go through content and make revision resources (active revision)

Use active strategies: flashcards, mind maps, summary notes, or Cornell Notes. Avoid just re-reading or highlighting — always do something with the information.

4. Practise revision with materials regularly – recall and retrieval

Test yourself frequently without looking at notes. Use flashcards, online quizzes, or quick written recall activities.

5. When knowledge is retained, apply it to exam practice questions

Start with short questions or single topics. Use mark schemes to check how answers should be structured. Identify any gaps or misconceptions.

Is it ever too early to begin revising?

- Students who do their best in the GCSE exams, **work hard all through Year 11** rather than relying on last minute revision.
- It is best for students to start revision early and to keep revising during the year by doing little but often.
- This will give your child time to review what he/she has studied and to strengthen the memory and this will avoid the panic of leaving things to the last minute.



Memory and starting with Revision

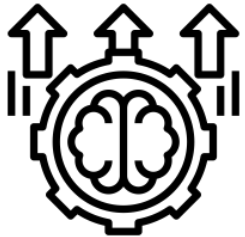
What do we know about memory?



Your working memory is easily overloaded, cramming doesn't work



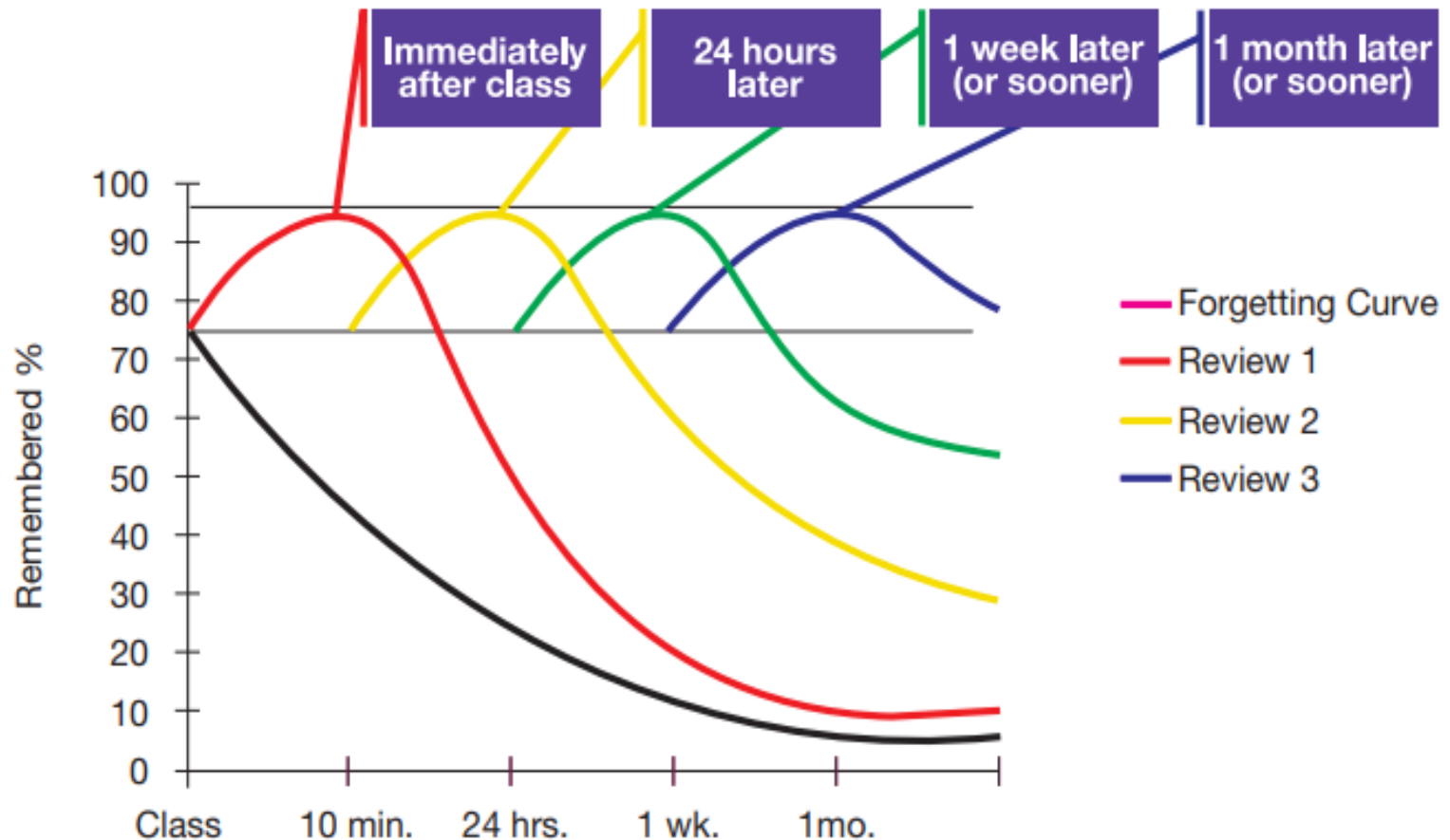
Information is forgotten if not revisited, it's natural.



Practice and retrieval helps strengthen long term memory & boosts learning

Why is home learning and revision at home so crucial to success?

This diagram called the Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve – it illustrates how information is quickly forgotten unless it is reviewed at spaced intervals.



What can parents do to help to reduce the memory burden?

- If homework and revision are left to the last minute, this will limit your child's chance of doing their best.

Over the next few months:

1. Ensure that your child **attends school** and is always on time. Every day lost in attendance reduces their chance of achieving their best at GCSE. If they miss days, make sure they log onto Google Classroom and catch-up on missed content.
2. Encourage your son/daughter to persevere and to begin working hard now in preparation for the exams. Check that they are **keeping up with homework** and **attending any and all in-school revision sessions** on offer.
3. Encourage your child to **begin revising now at home!**

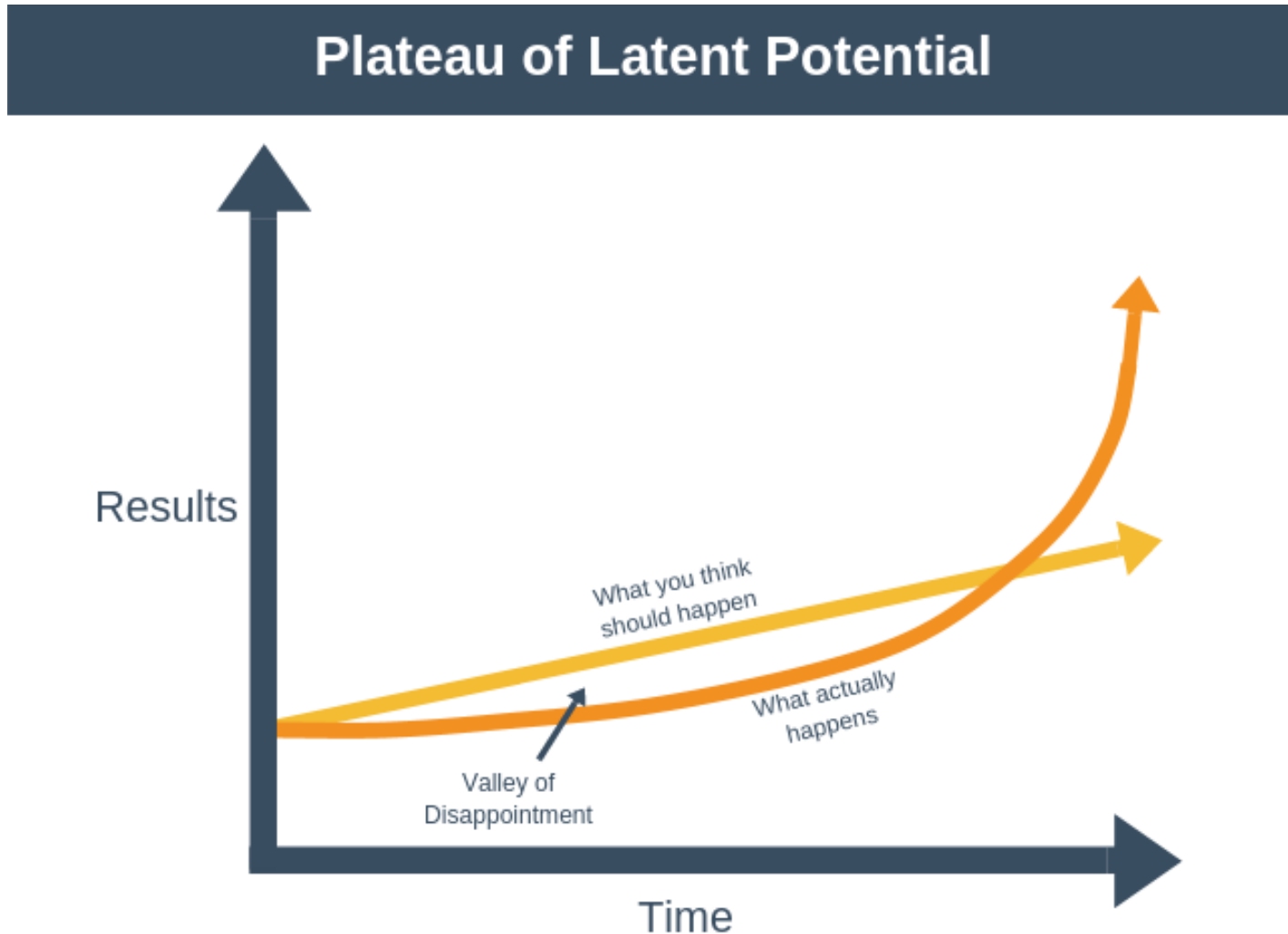
How much time should they be spending on home learning?

- This will vary occasionally as sometimes homework will come in patterns.
- On average most studies say that Year 11 students should be completing approximately **1 and half hours homework a day.**
- Getting into good habits linked to completing homework and using time effectively will benefit pupils when revision starts to step up.



You will not see instant results

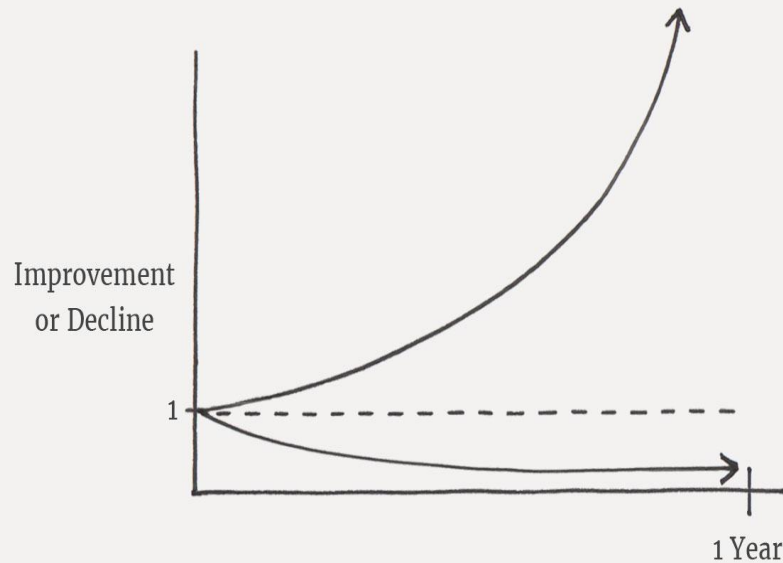
Creating a new habit



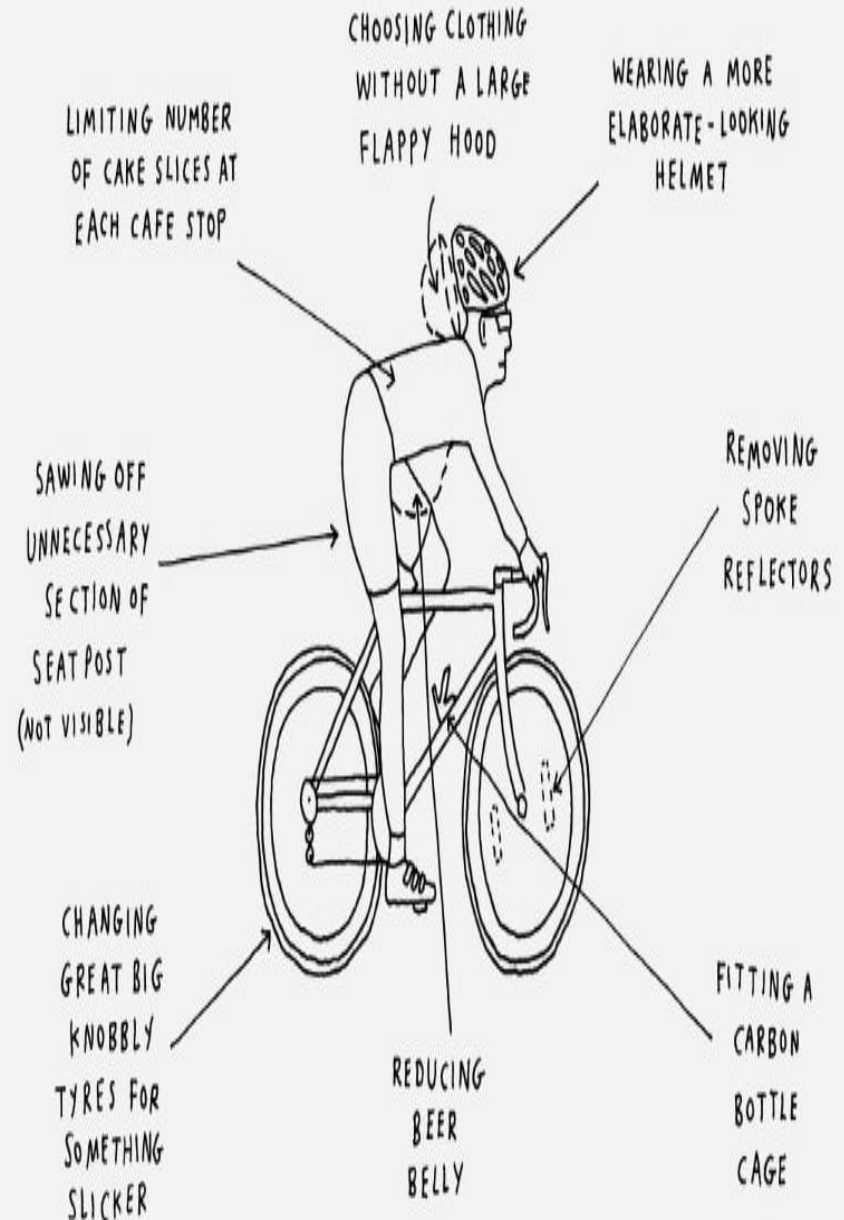
The impact of Marginal Gains

The Power of Tiny Gains

1% better every day $1.01^{365} = 37.78$
1% worse every day $0.99^{365} = 0.03$



JamesClear.com



What can **you** do to get 1% better each day?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IMPROVING
AND REGRESSING BY 1 PERCENT EVERY
DAY FOR 1 YEAR

$$1.01^{365} = 37.8$$

$$0.99^{365} = 0.03$$

- ✓ Adopt a positive attitude to each and every lesson
- ✓ Don't think of cover lessons as 'doss' lessons or lessons where you don't need to work. That's on you!
- ✓ Work out where you are struggling and ask for help.
- ✓ Consolidate your learning by following on from it- e.g. GCSEPod, Cornell Notes or making flashcards.
- ✓ Work with your teachers and not against them.
- ✓ Consider 'flipped learning' by looking up topics you're due to be taught in advance and doing research on them.
- ✓ Practise exam questions and act on feedback.
- ✓ Make the most of every minute in lessons.
- ✓ Stop procrastinating- aim to spend 10 mins less a day on your phone and instead add 10 mins of study time.

Strategies

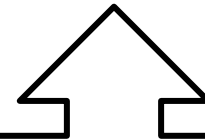
The Science of Learning

Most Powerful Strategies

- Practice
- Quizzing
- Flashcards
- Mind-maps
- Spacing out your revision

Least Powerful Strategies

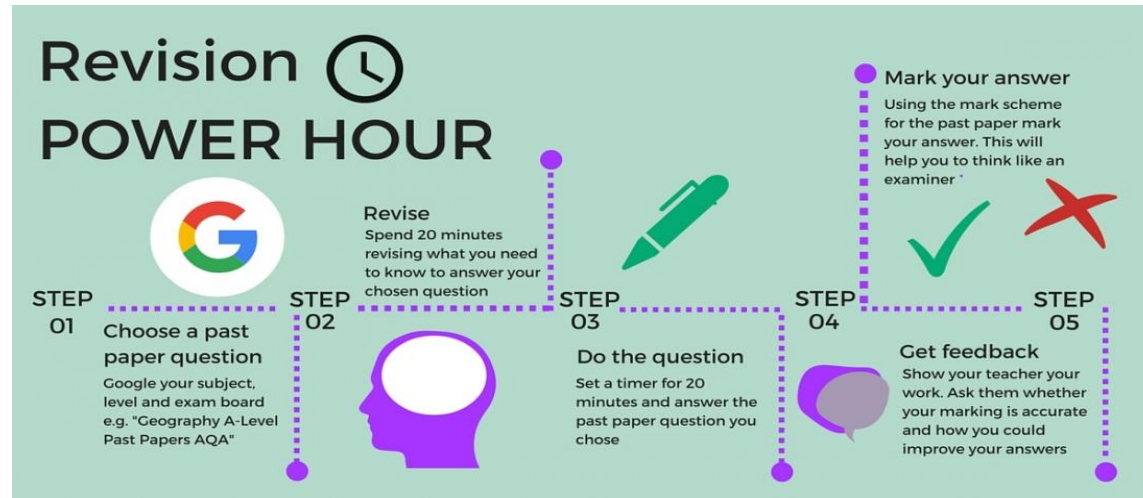
- Re-reading
- Summarising
- Highlighting



These three make you **feel** you are doing something, but your brain isn't working hard!

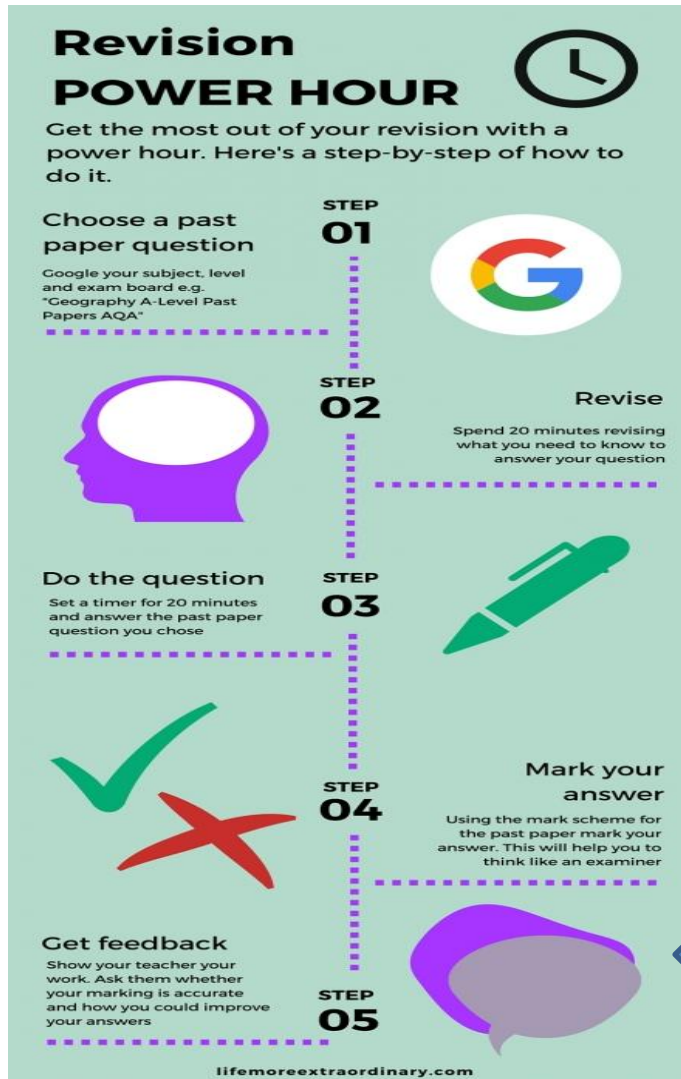
- Cramming

Power Hour technique



- *'We were bored with you going on about the Power Hour'*
- *'It was so repetitive and you were so annoying...'*
- *'It clearly worked though, so thanks!'*

What is the 'power hour'?



1. Speak to your teachers or use the school revision zone to access all the past papers you could need.

2. Take notes, create a mind-map/ flashcards. You have revision guides and resources provided by teachers.

3. Practising exam questions is hard but it is effective.

4. Again, ask your teacher for a mark scheme or check the revision zone.

5. Hand in your exam answer. You teacher will be happy to check it and provide further feedback.

Period 6- When will it start?

explained

- This year, period 6 will precede each of the blocks of mock exams.
- As such, there will be 4 weeks of focused period 6 sessions which are linked to the upcoming mocks before they take place.
- The first set of **mocks take place from Monday 16th November**, there will be 4 weeks of revision sessions after-school from the 12th October onwards. These will be primarily for English/Maths but other subjects might offer sessions too.
- The **second set of mocks will begin in February** and the Period 6 sessions for these will begin as soon as the first round of mocks finish after Christmas.
- After the mocks have concluded, it is then the responsibility of pupils to complete independent revision at home. Teachers will still be able to offer period 6 sessions if this is preferable for them/students and small group sessions will be the primary focus.

Making use of the resources available to you

We have wealth of incredibly useful and proven revision resources at our disposal to help GCSE students attain highly.



GCSEPod



Year 11 Study Space



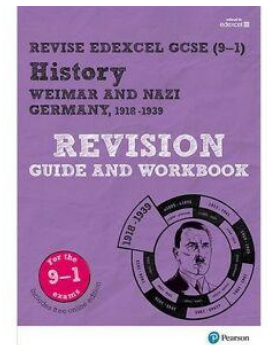
Seneca



Pixl Apps



Oak National Academy



Traditional revision materials

What is GCSEPod?

3-5
minute
'Pods'

28+
subjects

Easy
to use

167 million
pods
watched

84 million
pods
watched in
2025



10 years experience as
an award
winning educational
publisher

Mapped to the
curriculum

Available on all
platforms

1 in 3 secondary schools in the UK
subscribe

- In use across 40+ countries

- “The Netflix of GCSE
Content”

GCSEPod covers a broad range of subjects

The subjects are filtered on your child's account to what they study and their exam boards



EXAM SUCCESS

PARENT'S GUIDE

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH GCSES



GCSEPod offers GCSE students hundreds of mini online lessons, in the form of short videos called "Pods". These Pods are just 3-5 minutes long and perfect for understanding and revising key topic areas. **Encourage your child to use GCSEPod to support their learning.**

“

The highest achieving students
each watched on average

102 PODS

so there is a clear correlation
between GCSEPod and results.

Principal

”

WATCH 10 PODS PER WEEK

During exam time aim to watch 3 Pods per day



“

I cannot emphasise enough
how important it is that
GCSEPod be used all year
round, not just for revision,
for maximum impact.

Parent

”

“

Our top users exceeded their
target grades in many areas.

Principal

”

73%

of videos are watched out of school



20 MINUTES

Little and often is best, so try to keep sessions
around 20 minutes to get the best results.

“

It's the best thing you can
have to revise and make sure
you are ready for the exam.

Student

”



CREATE A PLAYLIST

Identify the areas which are most challenging
and create a playlist to focus learning.

“

GCSEPod played an
important role in
helping me achieve A*.
I would definitely
recommend it.

Student

”



gcsepod
education on demand

IS YOUR CHILD USING GCSEPOD TO REVISE?

We've subscribed to the award-winning, learning and revision resource, GCSEPod.

GCSEPod is designed to support your child through their GCSEs and it's never too late for them to start using it!

- Watch short, focused Pods
- Watch → pause → note → recall

The key: GCSEPod works best when pupils are actively thinking, recalling and testing themselves — not simply watching videos.



✓ Exam specific playlists ('My Courses') provide ready-made revision

✓ Watch Pods together and use the identified keywords to create flashcards, memory posters and mind maps

✓ Students can test their knowledge in GCSEPod assignments set by their teacher



- Assignments from teachers .
- Revise anywhere, anytime .

Top tip: Use **My Courses** to create a timetable with your child.

Access your child's account at www.gcsepod.com
Your child should already be aware of their login details.



Why GCSEPod works!

Year 11 Impact Analysis

On average, regular users of GCSEPod achieved

1.1

more Progress 8 points than non-users

On average, the highest users achieved

20

Attainment 8 points more than non-users

Regular users of GCSEPod achieve, on average

1

grade higher per subject than non-users

YEAR 11 STUDY SPACE

SAME GOALS
BRIGHTER
FUTURES

REVISE • PRACTISE • GET SUPPORT • ACHIEVE

OPEN TIMES



BEFORE SCHOOL
From 8:00am



BREAK TIME
10:50 – 11:10



LUNCH TIME
13:10 – 13:55



AFTER SCHOOL
Until 16:30

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?



REVISION GUIDES
FOR EVERY SUBJECT



PAST PAPERS
(ORGANISED BY SUBJECT)



CHROMEBOOKS
(LIMITED AVAILABILITY)



BLANK FLASHCARDS



HIGHLIGHTERS
& ESSENTIALS



A QUIET SPACE
TO FOCUS

SUPPORT AVAILABLE



See Mr Sayce (Assistant Principal)
or Mr Reid (Head of Key Stage Four)
for support and guidance.

WHY USE THE STUDY SPACE?

- ✓ Access key resources
- ✓ Practise past papers
- ✓ Develop revision skills
- ✓ Get subject-specific support
- ✓ Earn Passport to Prom points
- ✓ Build confidence for your exams



SAME
EFFORT
BIGGER
RESULTS

Make the most of it – having a dedicated Year 11 Study Space is a real advantage and something many pupils in other schools simply don't have access to.

Everything you need in one place

Get support when you need it

Turn time into progress



HIGHER AMBITIONS



GREATER OPPORTUNITIES



A BRIGHTER FUTURE

PASSPORT TO PROM

GOOD
HABITS
BRIGHTER
FUTURES

YOUR EFFORT | YOUR REWARD | YOUR FUTURE



ATTENDANCE
95%+

Be here and
make every day
count.

**ACHIEVE
95% ATTENDANCE
OR HIGHER**



**POSITIVE
BEHAVIOUR**
95%+

Make the right
choices consistently.

**MAINTAIN 95%
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR
COMPARED WITH
NEGATIVE POINTS**



**ACADEMIC
INTERACTIONS**
95+

Engage with the
opportunities available
to help you succeed.

**COMPLETE 95 OR
MORE RECORDED
ACADEMIC
INTERACTIONS**

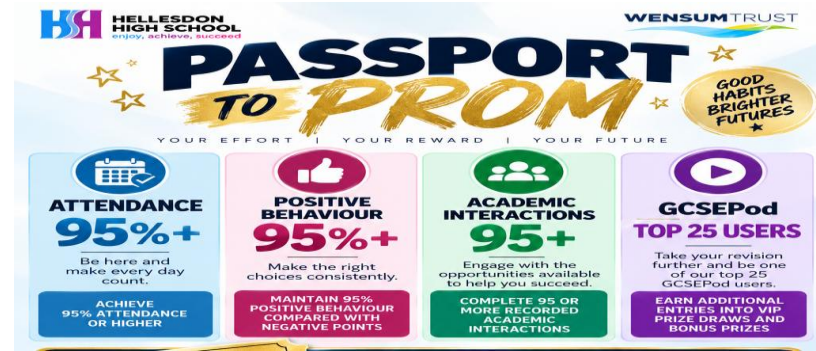


GCSEPod
TOP 25 USERS

Take your revision
further and be one
of our top 25
GCSEPod users.

**EARN ADDITIONAL
ENTRIES INTO VIP
PRIZE DRAWS AND
BONUS PRIZES**

Passport to Prom – Your Effort. Your Reward.



- The message is clear and simply- you will be being rewarded for the **things you can control every day**: showing up, making positive choices, engaging with support and taking responsibility for their revision.
- **95%+ ATTENDANCE** – Be here and make everyday count. Achieve **95% attendance or higher** to secure your first Passport to Prom marker.
- **95%+ POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR** – Make the right choices consistently. Maintain **95% positive behaviour compared with negative behaviour points** to earn your second marker.
- **95+ ACADEMIC INTERACTIONS** – Engage with the opportunities available to help you succeed. Complete **95 or more recorded academic intervention/support interactions** to earn your third marker.

Key messages to takeaway

1. THE SMALL THINGS, EVERY DAY, WILL MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE

Attendance. Lessons. Behaviour. Homework. Revision. Sleep.

Success won't come from one huge push in May. It will come from getting the basics

Seven months from now, we want every pupil walking into their exams knowing they have done everything they could to achieve their personal best.

3. WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM

Pupil + Home + School = the strongest chance of success

We will provide the teaching, intervention, resources, guidance and opportunities.

Parents can provide **encouragement, routine, challenge and support**. But ultimately, pupils have to take ownership of their GCSEs and make use of what is available.