

WELCOME TO

YEAR 10

INFORMATION EVENING



VERULAM
SCHOOL





Mr F Moane

Headteacher

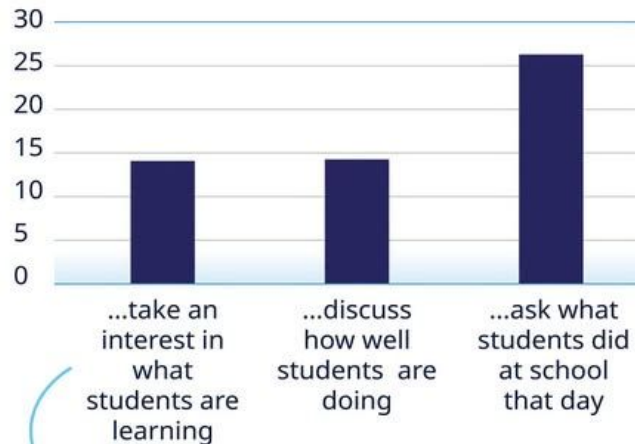
INTRODUCTION

- Positive start to the year so far
 - Every lesson counts
 - Simply turning up to school no longer enough: importance of homework, independent learning, deliberate practice
 - Tools available to support independent learning: GCSEPod, Seneca Learning, Languagenut, Massolit, Gemini Guided Learning
 - Parental support: extrinsic motivation, revision timetables, encouragement
 - Pathways: start of careers guidance process, early prompt for help with work experience at end of June.
-

- OECD research shows that parents simply taking and interest and asking about learning can make a significant difference to outcomes
- A reminder that all subjects publish the half termly topics being studied by each year group on our website under Curriculum->Subjects

Parental interest in schooling is linked to **higher student performance**

Score-point difference associated with students who report that parents or other family members...



Yet students reported **less family support than in 2022** in almost all countries and economies.



Ms L McInally

Head of Year 10

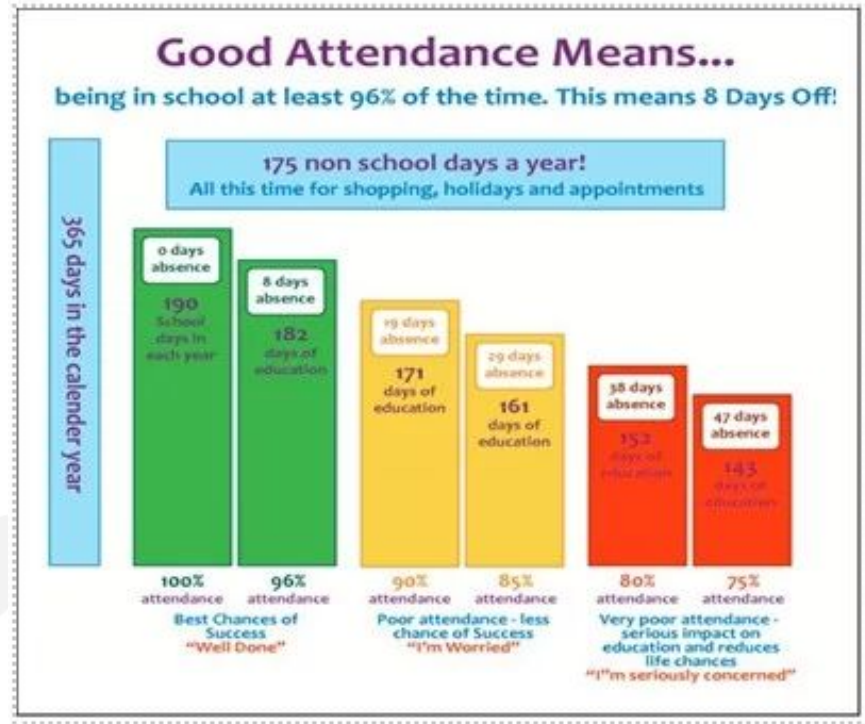
Key Dates

- Progress Data Updates - W/B 23rd November/
8th February
- Parents Consultation Evening - Thursday 3rd
December
- Exams Week - 19th April (Sports Hall)
- Full Progress Report - W/B 17th May
- Year 10 Work Experience - 28th June-2nd July

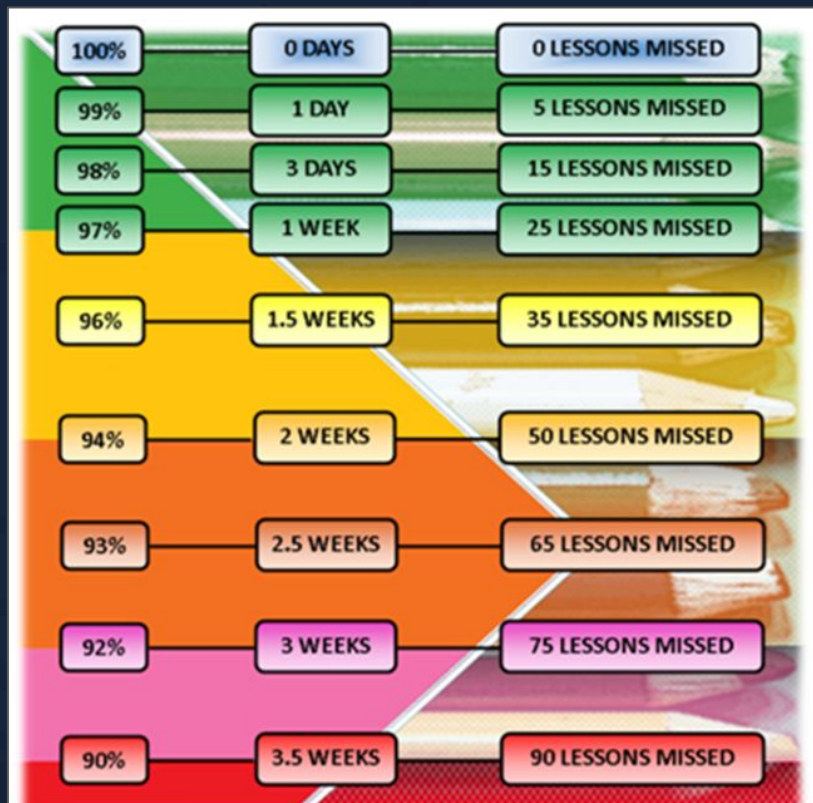


Attendance Matters

DfE evidence shows that attendance below 90% harms progress, and missing just 17 school days drops GCSE attainment by a full grade.

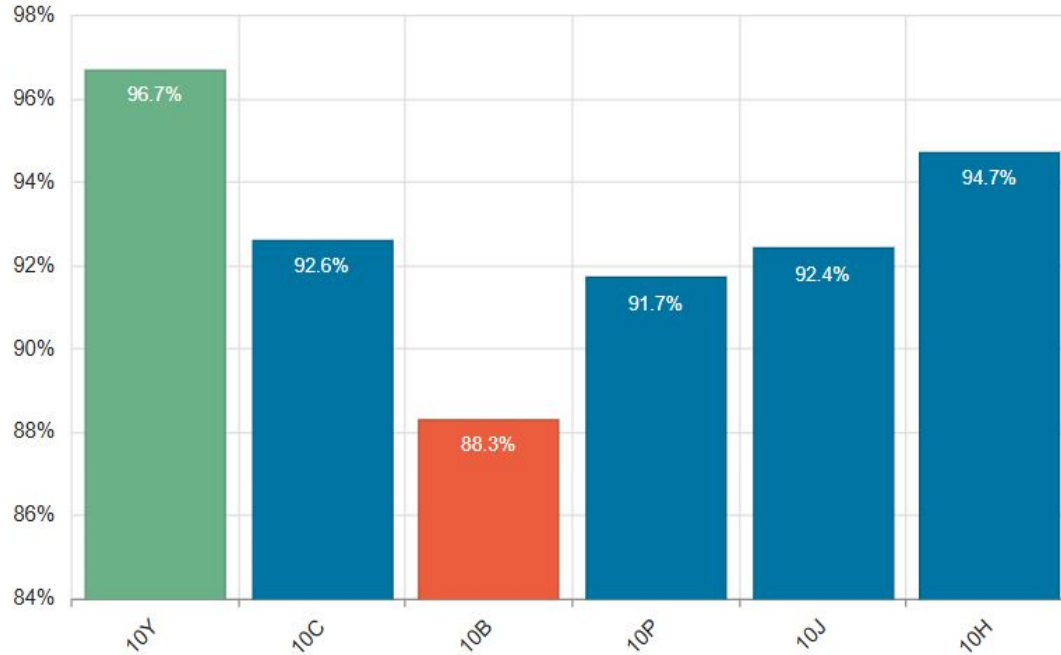


Attendance Matters



Attendance rate below 90% is classified as persistent absence; we are committed to working in partnership with students and families to overcome barriers and provide early support.

Attendance Matters



**Every lesson counts
at GCSE.**

**Year 10 so far this
year: 92%**

A concern!

Readiness for Learning: The basics

Equipment

You can only make good progress and enjoy school if you have the correct equipment to use in both lessons and when doing your homework.

You need to make sure that you are fully equipped for school and that you check your equipment is correct before school each day.

☐	 Rucksack This should be large enough to carry all of your books and your tablet device to and from school. Please note that small, fashionable, 'man bags' are not permitted	☐	 Ruler This must be a rigid 30cm ruler	☐	 Maths Set To include a protractor and pair of compasses	☐	 Solid Adhesive Glue stick or similar
☐	 Tablet Device Your device must be charged and with you each day	☐	 Scientific Calculator Casio fx-83GTX or similar required	☐	 Small Scissors	☐	 Coloured Biro Pens Red and green
☐	 Black or Blue Pens Your classwork must be written in either blue or black ink only	☐	 French/Spanish Dictionary e.g. The Collins Easy Learning or similar	☐	 Pencils HB Graphite pencils	☐	 Coloured Pencils A variety of colours
				☐	 Highlighter Pens In a variety of colours		
				☐	 Pencil Case To keep all of your equipment tidy		Make sure you have a private reading book with you at all times.

Homework Expectations

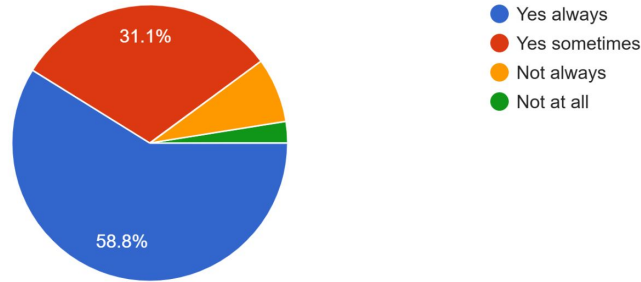
- Homework is an important part of your son's learning
- It allows your son time to practise core knowledge and skills for GCSE
- Google Classroom (for guardian summaries which detail a weekly report of assignments due in)



“Student voice transforms learners from passive participants into active partners in shaping the quality of their own education.”



Q: Are you up-to-date with your homework?



89% said yes



Analysing Year 10 only sanctions for E2: home learning not completed

**28% of students have
received this sanction**



MCAS: the source of all information and communication

- Attendance & Punctuality
- Direct School Communications
- Timetables & Academic Calendar
- Academic Reports & Progress
- Behaviour & Rewards
- Payments & Online Shop



Creating Good Habits

Have a clear
goal/
targets in
sight



Set the
Stage

Take breaks
Study at the
same time
every day



Listen to calming
music



Eat healthy



Keep
distractions
away e.g.
Phone



Exams W/B 19th April 2027

First time students have sat an exam in the sports hall – great preparation for GCSEs.

We will be using form time to support your son:

- Revision timetables
- Revision techniques
- How to make effective mind maps/ flashcards
- How to look after mental wellbeing
- Reflection on exams afterwards



Prioritise well-being

- Being active can have a positive impact on your son's mood
- Does what he enjoys
- Playing his favourite sport
- Playing for the school teams
- Going to clubs at lunch time and after school



Clubs and after-school activities

Autumn Term Clubs – 2025



	Lunchtime Clubs	Afterschool Clubs	Afterschool Sports Clubs
Monday	Year 7-9 Book Club (BLUE WEEK) - Library Year 7&8 Chess Club (GOLD WEEK) - 38 ALL Years Homework/Coding/Robotics Club - 40	Year 10 HPQ - 6 Year 11 Monday Night Maths - Bradshaw Year 10&11 Music Revision Club - M1 Year 9 Christmas Show - 12 ALL Years SEND Homework Club - Hub Year 10-13 GCSE and A-Level exam performance Comp Sci - 40 Year 12&13 KS5 Geography Club - 10	See Verulam Sports Clubs Posters
Tuesday	Year 7-9 Board Games Club - T3 Year 10&12 My Money Matters - 38	ALL Years SEND Homework Club - Hub	
Wednesday	Year 11 French GCSE Revision - 24 Year 12&13 Sociology Support - 60 Year 7-11 General Knowledge Fun - 8 Year 7-11 Christianity Unpacked - 22 ALL Years Card Games Club - B4 ALL Years Band Club - M1	Year 10 HPQ - 6 Year 10&11 History KS4 Study Clinic - History Department Year 10&11 KS4 Geography Club - 10 ALL Years SEND Homework Club - Hub	

Autumn Term Clubs – 2025



	Lunchtime Clubs	Afterschool Clubs	Afterschool Sports Clubs
Thursday	Year 10&11 Art Club - A2 Year 10&11 Business & Economics - Homework Support - 38 Year 7-13 Computing Club - LRC Year 7-11 Psychology Club - 23 Year 7-13 STEM Club - 53	Year 10&11 Art Club - A2 Year 7-13 Choir Club - Main Hall Year 11&13 Business & Economics Support Club - 38 Year 11-13 RE Revision - 22 Year 12&13 Sociology Support - 40 Year 7-13 Debate Club - B4 ALL Years SEND Homework Club - Hub Year 10&11 KS4 Geography Club - 10	See Verulam Sports Clubs Posters
Friday	Year 7-13 Friday Players - Drama Studio Year 7-12 O&O Club - B3 ALL Years Homework/Coding/Robotics Club - 40 Year 11 Maths Revision - 34	Year 10&11 Music Revision Club - M1	See Verulam Sports Clubs Posters



To be active and connect:

We have a range of different clubs and after school activities.



Clubs are advertised on the Website.



Miss G Perry

Deputy Headteacher

Home - School partnership - e-safety

1. Parental controls and guidance
2. Impact on school life
3. Where to find support



What rules do you set around online usage at home?

While parental concerns in some areas have increased considerably, their enforcement of rules appears to be diminishing, partly because of **resignation** about their **ability to intervene** in their children's online lives.

Spending money online (52%)

Information their child can share online (49%)

Video content their children are allowed to watch online (67%)

Types of websites and apps they can use
(41%)

Source: Children and parents: media use
and attitudes report 2024

Parental controls:

- Controls have to be set up on both the broadband connection AND each individual device
- These do not come as standard so it's worth checking
- They are important because they allow you to:
 - **Block and filter** upsetting or inappropriate content or sites
 - **Plan what time and how long** your child can go online for



Visit www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/ to find out how to set controls on devices:



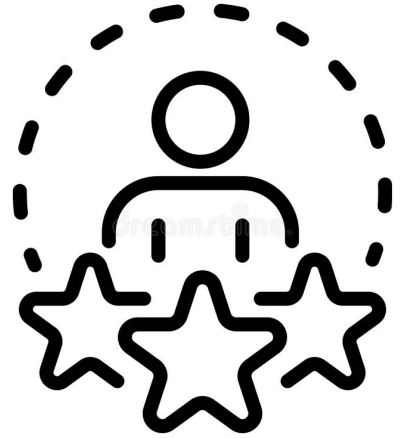
Set up devices safely

Set parental controls on a range of devices, apps, and platforms with our how-to guides.

Smartphones & other devices Select the smartphone, other device or OS from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL	Broadband & mobile networks Select your network provider from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL
Social media Select the social media app or platform from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL	Video games & consoles Select the video game or console from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL

Impact on school life:

- Fatigue and difficulty concentrating in lessons, addictive traits develop.
- Exposure to inappropriate online content - potential of concerning language being used, violence, harmful world-views.
- Potential of increased 'unkind' behaviours between peers - large whatsapp groups are harmful and impact social relationships in school.
- Mental health - feelings of isolation, anxiety and disconnect.



Where to find support:

- Form Tutors
- HOY
- School Safeguarding Team



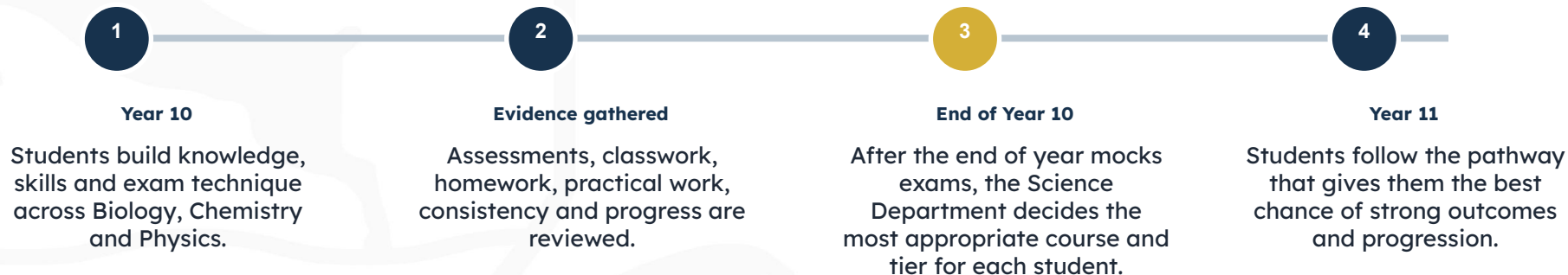


Mr L Charmokly

Director of Science

How GCSE Science decisions are made

Triple Science and exam tiers are not fixed at the start of Year 10.



Key message =

The final decision is made by the Science Department, using a broad evidence base supported by the end of year mock exams

Best-fit pathway — not a label

Combined Science: what it does and does not mean

Combined Science is a full GCSE pathway, not a “lower” qualification.

COMBINED SCIENCE

Worth 2 GCSEs

- Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Higher tier can award grades up to 9–9, including 6–6, 7–7, 8–8 and above.
- It can lead to A-level Biology, Chemistry and Physics, subject to the sixth form's normal entry requirements
- It does not prevent applications to Medicine, Engineering or other STEM degrees.

TRIPLE SCIENCE

Worth 3 GCSEs

- Separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Includes additional subject content in each science.
- Can make the step to A-level science feel more familiar because more content has already been encountered.
- Best suited to students who are secure, consistent and able to manage the extra content.

MYTH → REALITY

“Combined caps grades.”

No — Higher Combined reaches 9–9.

“You need Triple for A-levels in Science.”

No — entry is based on grades and sixth-form criteria.

“Top STEM courses require Triple.”

Generally no. Universities focus much more on post-16 subjects and grades; Oxford Medicine explicitly accepts GCSE Dual Award Combined Science.

The real advantage of Triple is extra depth and an additional GCSE — not exclusive access to university STEM routes.



Mrs P Avery

Assistant Headteacher & Head of English

English Language GCSE

Everyone sits the same papers.

20% of the marks for English Language are for technical accuracy

Paper 1: Fiction

Section A:

Read a fiction extract (with a reading age of 16 years) and respond to 4 questions linked to the extract.
(40 marks)

Section B:

Complete one creative writing task.
(40 marks)

Paper 2: Non-fiction

Section A:

Read two shorter non-fiction extracts and respond to 4 questions linked to the extracts.
(40 marks)

Section B:

Complete one non-fiction writing task.
(40 marks)

English Literature

Everyone sits the same papers.

6% of the
marks for
this exam
are for
technical
accuracy

**Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th
Century novel**

Section A

**Essay on Macbeth 30 marks (plus 4
marks for technical accuracy)**

Section B

Essay on 'A Christmas Carol' 30 marks

Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry

Section A

**Essay on An Inspector Calls 30 marks (plus 4
marks for technical accuracy)**

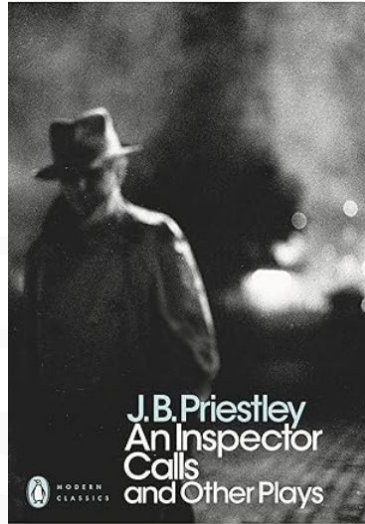
Section B

**Essay based comparing two poems from the
Power and Conflict anthology 30 marks**

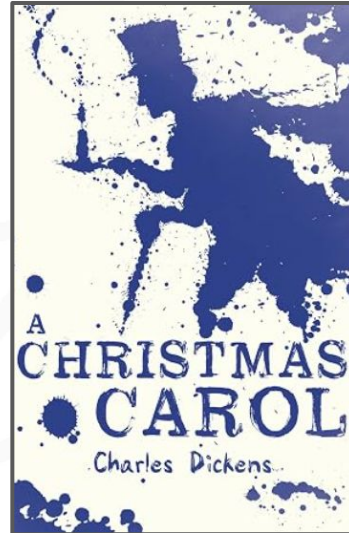
Section C

**Unseen poetry analysis 24 marks
Unseen poetry comparison 8 marks**

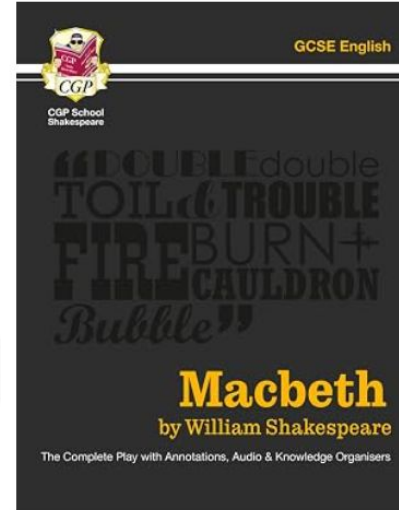
English Literature texts



[Link](#)



[Link](#)

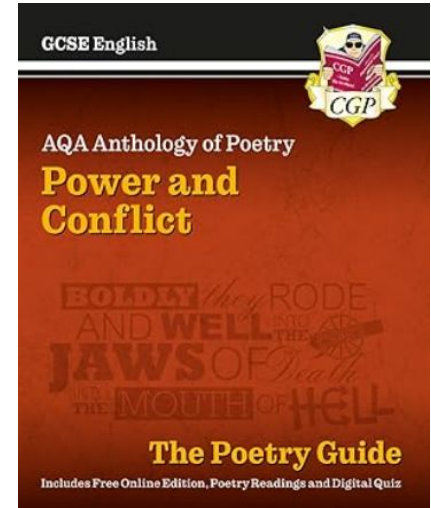
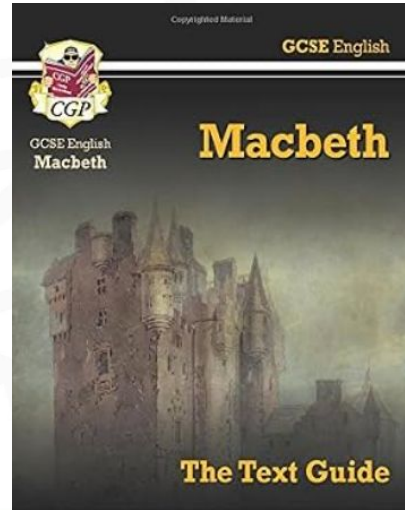
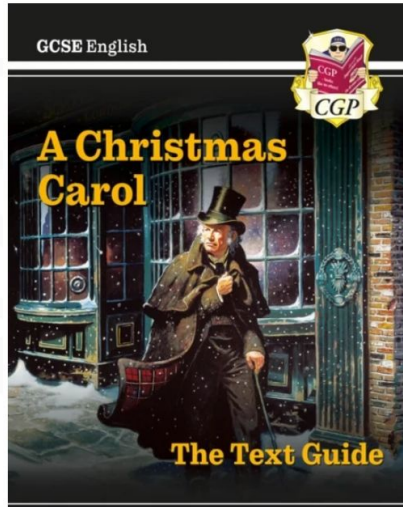
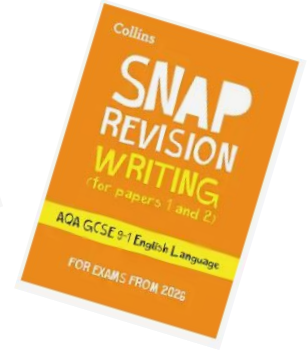
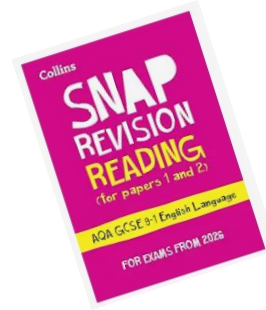


[Link](#)

We will provide a booklet that includes all of the Power & Conflict poems

English revision support

These guides are very useful:



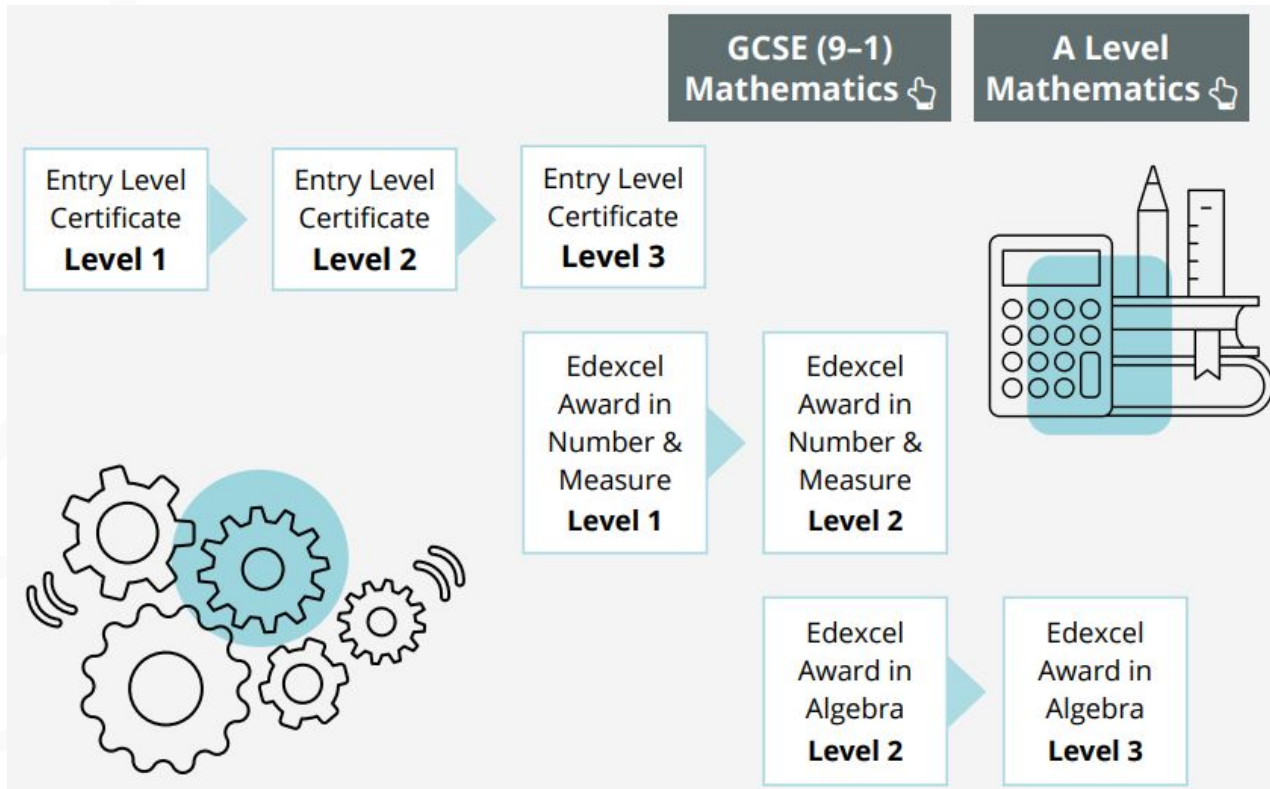


Mr P Hardy

Director of Maths

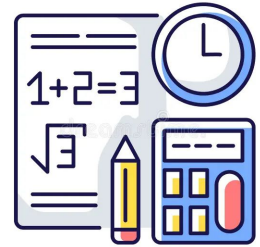
EDEXCEL Awards in Mathematics

- Number and Measure for our foundation students
- Algebra award level 2 for our Higher students
- AA level 3 for our A level candidates



EDEXCEL Awards in Mathematics

- Public Exam sat in January
- Extra qualification separate to the GCSE
- Algebra or Number and Measure
 - Edexcel Awards in mathematics focus on key concepts and techniques to help students prepare for GCSE and A level Maths, for further study in other subjects, or for the workplace.



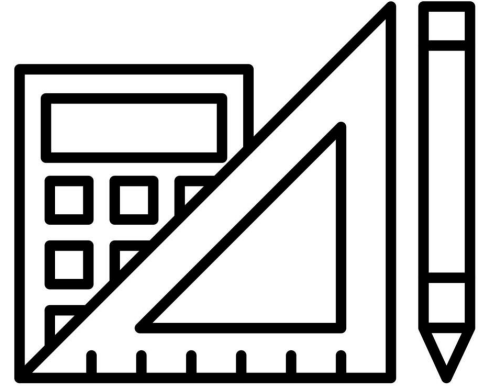
Tiering in Mathematics

Grades in “Old Money”

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
4 = C and above and above ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above. ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above. ■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.									
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	

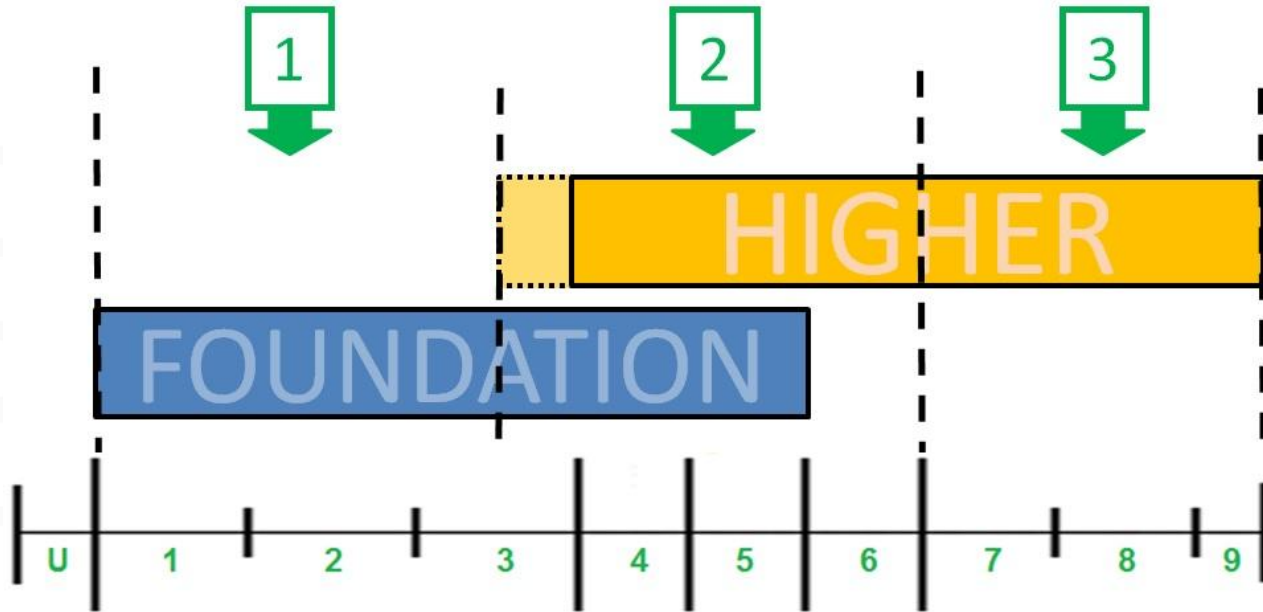
Tiering in Mathematics

- Final Decision is made after Year 11 Mock Exams
- Decision is made by professional judgement and is supported by robust data. This includes the recommendation of the Classroom teacher/HOD as well as the parent / carer and student.
- Students are set with fluidity in Higher or Foundation with ample opportunity to move in year 10 and, in rarer cases, year 11.



Tiering in Mathematics

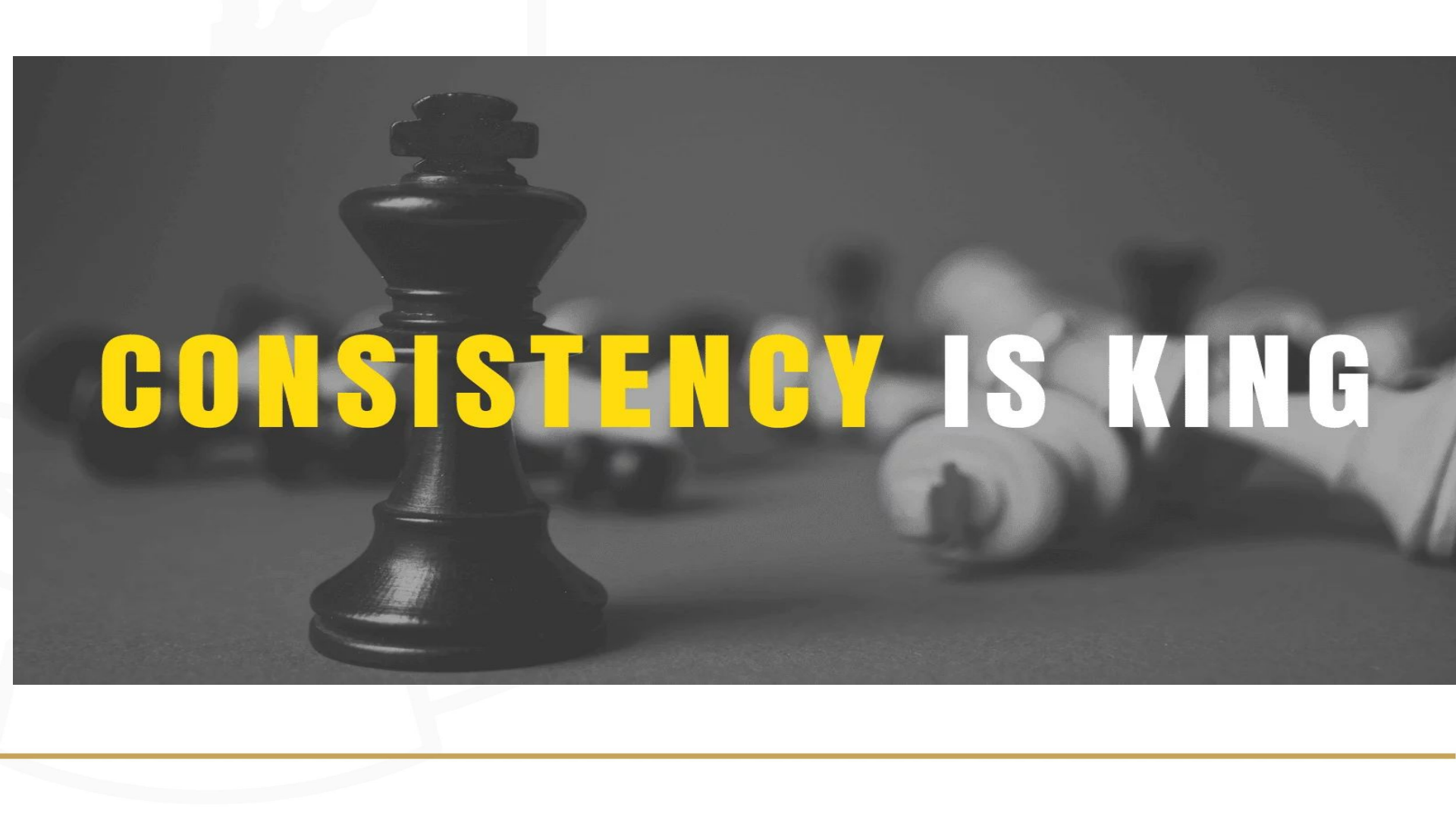
FAQ - What grade can my child get in their tier?





Mr F Moane

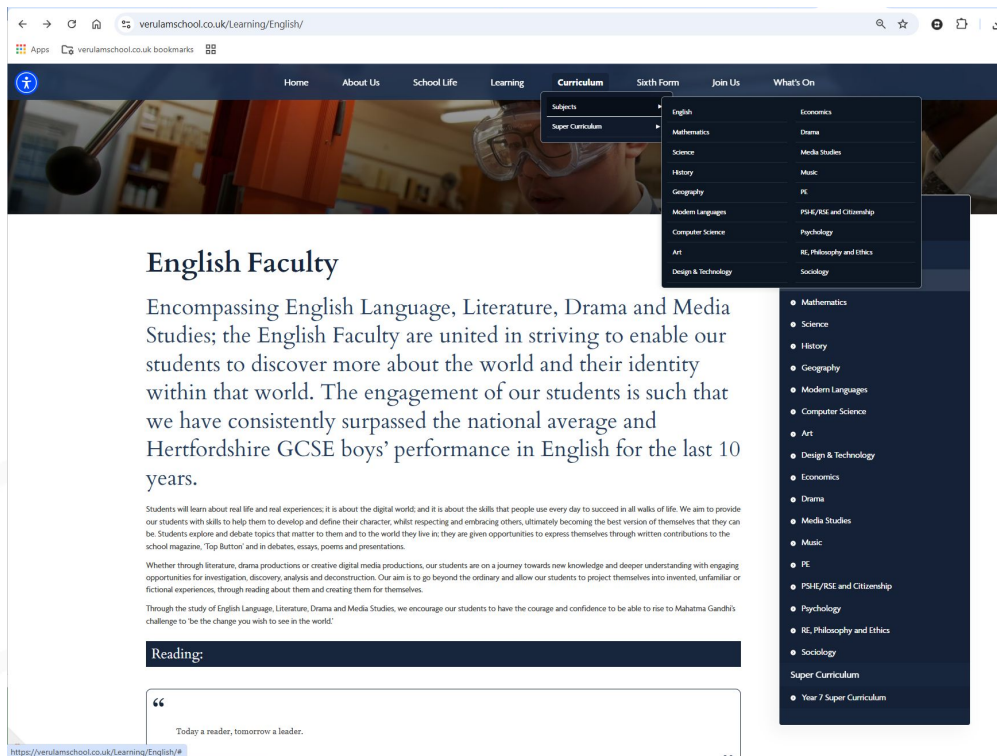
Headteacher



CONSISTENCY IS KING

What is my son learning this year?

- The school website has a page for every subject
- This includes a curriculum map that shows what is being studied term-by-term



The screenshot shows the Verulam School website. The browser address bar displays verulamschool.co.uk/Learning/English/. The website has a dark blue header with navigation links: Home, About Us, School Life, Learning, Curriculum, Sixth Form, Join Us, and What's On. A dropdown menu is open under the 'Curriculum' link, showing a list of subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Modern Languages, Computer Science, Art, and Design & Technology. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical list of subjects with circular icons: Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Modern Languages, Computer Science, Art, Design & Technology, Economics, Drama, Media Studies, Music, PE, PSHE/RSE and Citizenship, Psychology, RE, Philosophy and Ethics, and Sociology. The main content area is titled 'English Faculty' and contains a paragraph about the faculty's mission: 'Encompassing English Language, Literature, Drama and Media Studies; the English Faculty are united in striving to enable our students to discover more about the world and their identity within that world. The engagement of our students is such that we have consistently surpassed the national average and Hertfordshire GCSE boys' performance in English for the last 10 years.' Below this paragraph, there is a 'Reading:' section with a quote: 'Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.'

<https://verulamschool.co.uk/Learning/English/>

Revision website

- Mostly geared towards year 11, but still very useful resources on each subject, building a revision timetable etc.
- Under the 'Learning' menu on our main website
- Don't forget that it is never too early to start using resources such as GCSEPod, Seneca, BBC Bitesize

<https://sites.google.com/verulam.aetrust.uk/year11revision/home>

Verulam School

Home · Revision Support · Parental/Carer Support · Staff contact · English · Maths · Science · **Geography** · History · MFL · More

Geography

access GCSEPod

Login to access GCSEPod

Student

Login as a student

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GCSE Geography - AQA - BBC Bitesize

Easy-to-understand homework and revision materials for your GCSE Geography AQA 9-1 studies and exams

Week 1
Pod 108008 50001
Revision Book P1-5
Exam Questions 2

Week 2
Pod 48001 48005
Revision Book P6-10
Exam Questions 2

Week 3

Verulam School

Home · Revision Support · **Parental/Carer Support** · Staff contact · English · Maths · Science · Geography · History · MFL · More

Parental/Carer Support

How to help your child with their revision - five proven strategies

We want our children to do well in exams and effective revision plays a crucial role. While you can't revise for your child, there are lots of ways you can help them revise for themselves. Here are some ideas: 1. Practice and repetition! You have the time and it's something they'll find helpful, give them the chance to revise, repeat and practise what they're

Revision timetables

A revision timetable is a plan for how your teen is going to cover all of their revision in time for their exams. There's no one-size-fits-all to revision timetables. Help your teen figure out what works best for them. They might want to use their school diary, make a checklist, create a personalised timetable (you can download an editable version of the example below) or use an app on their phone. Sit with your child and help them create their own revision timetable, planning months ahead of

This presentation
already available
on our website,
under Learning->
Parents'
Information
Evenings



Parents' Information Evenings

This page gathers the presentations given at the year group information evenings.

The dates for the 2026/27 academic year are below, alongside the parent teacher consultations where appointments can be booked with teachers via the My Child At School platform.

Year group information evenings		Parents' Consultation Evenings	
Year 7	Settling In - Thursday 15th October	Year 7	Thursday 17th June
Year 8	Wednesday 14th October	Year 8	Thursday 22nd April
Year 9	Wednesday 7th October	Year 9	Thursday 4th February
Year 10	Thursday 1st October	Year 10	Thursday 3rd December
Year 11	Thursday 24th September	Year 11	Thursday 21st January
Year 12	Thursday 17th September	Year 12	Thursday 19th November
Year 13	Thursday 22nd October	Year 13	Thursday 25th February

Learning

[Curriculum Overview](#)

[KS4 Pathways](#)

[Assessment for Learning](#)

[Verulam Learning](#)

[Equipped for Learning](#)

[Literacy and Reading](#)

[Exams](#)

[Curriculum Enrichment Days](#)

[Parents' Information Evenings](#)

[Personal Development](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Year 11 Revision Microsite](#)