

Key Stage 4 (Yr10/11)

Y9 Transition Evening 2025-2027

**Mrs Rudd
(Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum)**

Year 9 KS4 Transition Evening – our aims:

- To prepare you for the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4
- Share practical guidance about how you can best support your child
- To inform you about the careers and pastoral support available

Why is KS4 different to KS3?

- Focused subject choices alongside the Core Curriculum
- Increased academic demands
- Ongoing assessments (Coursework, Mock exams etc)
- Grades achieved are often used as a benchmark for sixth form or college admissions, with many requiring a minimum grade or number of GCSEs for entry.
- Preparation for life Post 16

The Curriculum

- English (2 GCSEs: Language & Literature, 8hrs a fortnight)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE, 8hrs a fortnight)
- Science (2 GCSEs, 8hrs a fortnight)
- Physical Education* (No qualification, 3hrs a fortnight)
- RE* (No qualification, 1hr a fortnight)
- PSHCE, Careers & Citizenship (no qualification, delivered via Learning for Life)

+

- 4 Option Subjects

GCSE Qualifications

- An essential step for students as they provide a foundation for higher education and career development.
- Graded from 9-1
- Two-year course
- Little/no coursework
- Examinations at the end of Y11
- Entry requirements for most Post 16 courses, providers and apprenticeships

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above

Colleges & employers will look for a Level 4 pass

Some colleges and courses will require at least a Level 5 or higher depending on the course and college.
e.g. Physics at A Level requires a Grade 6 in Science and a Grade 7 in Maths

Technical Awards (BTECs)

- Qualifications that help learners gain knowledge and understanding of a specific vocational sector.
- Combine theory and practical learning
- Typically, 40% Exam and 60% Coursework
- Completed in both Y10 & Y11
- Strict deadlines set by the Awarding body
- Must be students own work
- All tasks must be completed, or a student will be withdrawn

Level 2 Tech Award qualifications are equivalent to 1 GCSE at grade A*-C:

	New GCSE Grade Equivalent	Old GCSE Grade Equivalent
Pass	5	C
Merit	6	B
Distinction	7	A
Distinction*	8/9	A*

Welcome 😊

Supporting English

Learn about supporting English - how to revise and how to help your
child

Director of English

Emma McInerney

emma.mcinerney@sharemat.co.uk



Your child's GCSE in English

English Language

Grade 1-9

English Literature

Grade 1-9

Spoken language
qualification

Pass/Merit/Distinction
(in class assessment)

***There are no tiers of entry for English.
Every student sits the same paper.***

English Language: 100% exam

Paper 1: Fiction paper (1 hour 45 minutes)

Section A (1 hour):

Read an extract of fiction and answer 5 questions

Section B (45 minutes):

Choose one of 4 titles and write a narrative

Paper 2: Non-fiction paper (2 hours)

Section A (1 hour):

Read two examples of non-fiction and answer 6 questions

Section B (1 hour):

Write two transactional writing tasks. This could be: article, letter, speech, guide review or report

How to revise for English Language

Revision strategy	Benefits
Read fiction and short stories	<p>Students can improve their literacy levels.</p> <p>Students will be exposed to a wide range of vocabulary</p> <p>Students will gain inspiration for their own writing</p>
Read non-fiction and news articles	<p>Students can improve their literacy levels.</p> <p>Students will be exposed to a wide range of vocabulary</p> <p>Students will gain an insight into the world around them, which helps them with ideas.</p>
Practise writing narratives in timed conditions	<p>Students can perfect a few storylines</p> <p>Students will get used to writing an extended piece of writing in a short time</p>
Practise papers	<p>Students can practise timings</p> <p>Please DON'T look at AQA English Language papers. They are very different to EDUQAS!</p>

English Literature: 100% exam

Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes)

Section A:

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

Section B:

Macbeth

William Shakespeare

Paper 2 (2 hours 15 minutes)

Section A:

An Inspector Calls

J.B Priestley

Section B:

Power and conflict poetry

Section C:

Unseen poetry

How to revise for English Literature

Revision strategy	Benefits
Re-reading the texts so they know the stories really well	Knowing the text really well helps students write better responses.
Use SNAP revision guides	Students will be provided with a SNAP revision guide for each of the texts. Students can use the quiz questions and key quotes to revise.
Planning practise questions	Students can access a wide range of practise papers from their English teacher, or from the internet (AQA) Planning them thoroughly helps students prepare for any potential question and helps them cover a wide range of themes and characters
Writing responses	Students can use their plans to write their answers, making sure they hit all the Assessment Objectives.

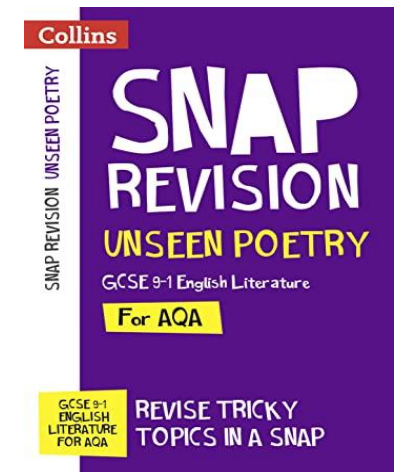
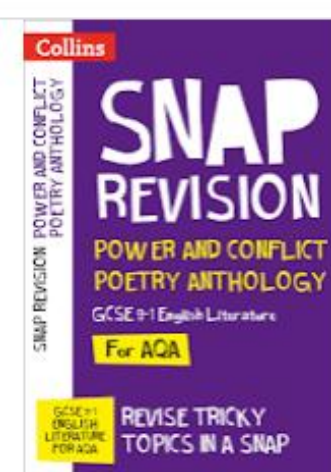
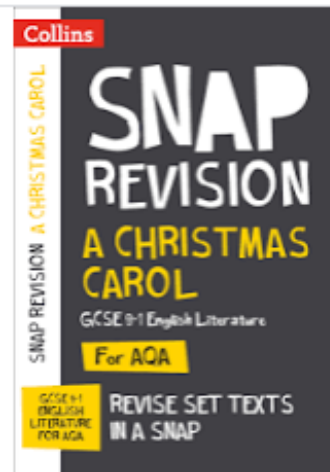
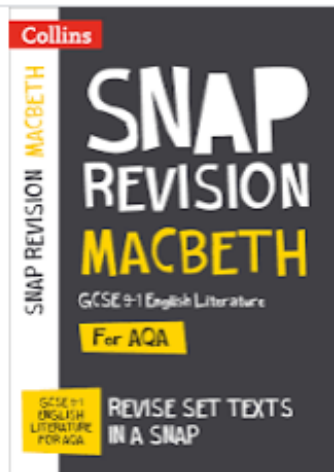
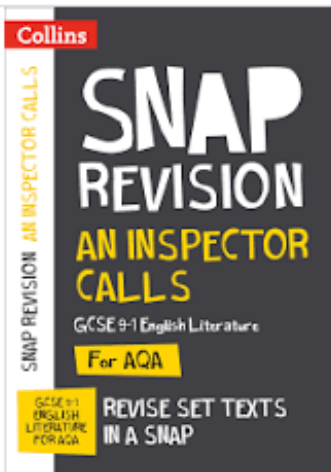
SNAP REVISION GUIDES

Use SNAP revision guides

Students will be provided with a SNAP revision guide for each of the texts.

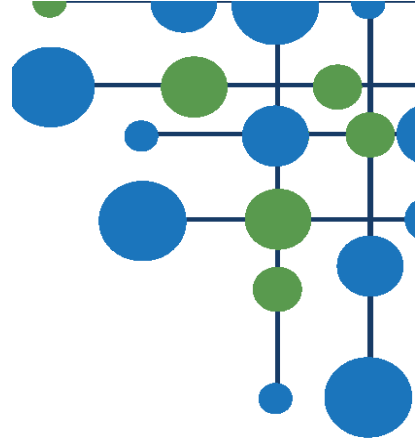
Students can use the quiz questions and key quotes to revise.

QR codes in the back link to videos.



What will we do?

- As part of the transition from Y9 to Y10, we will have lessons that are focused on how to revise for English.
- This will cover basics like: how to create a revision card properly, how to use the SNAP revision guides effectively, alongside other techniques like rev
- Homework will be recall based to support them in retaining the plot, characters and themes of the text
- They will receive a reading list from us over the summer.



Science

M Ward / N Stiff



Combined Science

- Exam board: **AQA - GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy.**
- **No coursework:** There are **six exam papers** at the end of Year 11 – Two exams for each science. All three sciences are taught in equal measure.
- **Required Practicals:** There are 21 required practicals embedded within the course. These are tested in the **exams** and develop hands-on scientific skills.
- Double award: Worth **two GCSEs.**
- Two tiers of entry: **Higher Tier** - grades 9-9 to 4-3 (U) and **Foundation Tier** - grades 5-5 to 1-1 (U).

GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE

DOUBLE AWARD GRADE COMBINATIONS

9	9	9	8
8	8	8	7
7	7	7	6
6	6	6	5
5	5	5	4
4	4	4	3
3	3	3	2
2	2	2	1
1	1		U

Separate Sciences (Triple Science)

- **Three Separate GCSEs:** Students study Biology, Chemistry, and Physics as individual subjects, leading to three separate GCSE qualifications.
- **More Depth & Challenge:** The course covers more content than Combined Science, with **greater depth and detail**, preparing students well for A-level Sciences.
- **Six Exam Papers:** Students sit two exams for each science at the end of Year 11 – Biology x2, Chemistry x2, Physics x2. each exam is worth 100 marks and is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.
- **No Coursework:** The course is 100% exam-assessed but includes required practicals that are tested in the exams.
- **Higher and Foundation Tiers:** Students are entered at either Foundation (grades 1–5) or Higher Tier (grades 4–9) for each science individually.

How can parents support?

- **Encourage little and often revision** – not last-minute cramming
- **Use the AQA specification** to check topics covered
- **Help them stay organised** with a timetable or checklist
- **Talk through practicals** – they're tested in exams
- **Use free online tools** – BBC Bitesize, Seneca, YouTube
- **Make science real** – link to everyday life
- **Be positive** – praise effort and progress
- **Stay in touch with teachers** – ask for support or advice.

Study skills and effective revision techniques

N Stiff

Maths

Director of Maths

Hannah Bullas

hannah.bullas@sharemat.co.uk



Maths Exams

Exam Papers

- Edexcel Exam Board
- 3 papers
 - Each paper has 80 marks
 - Each paper is 90 mins (1 ½ hours)
 - Paper 1 – Non-Calculator
 - Paper 2 – Calculator
 - Paper 3 – Calculator

Tiers

- Two tiers that students can take.
 - Foundation or Higher tier
 - Foundation grades 1-5
 - Higher grades 1-9

There is quite a significant jump of amount of content and level of challenge between the two tiers and this will be selected for pupils in year 11.

Topics for tests

Year 10 Half Term 2 (F)	<p>What is it important to know before I start (prior learning)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will need to be able to link this unit back to when you did square numbers and square roots in unit 1. You will need to be able to link this unit back to when you did substitution in unit 5. You will need to be able to link this unit back to when you rearranged formulae in unit 16.
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Unit 16 Formulas, equations, and identities	Sparx	End	Unit 17 Pythagoras Theorem	Sparx	End
You will know the difference between a formula, equations and identity.	U613		You will use Pythagoras' theorem to find the length of the hypotenuse.	U385	
You will rearrange simple formulae.	U556		You will use Pythagoras' theorem to find the length of a shorter side.	U385	
You will substitute positive values into expressions.	U556		You will find length of a line segment given coordinates.	U385	
You will substitute negative values into expressions.	U201 U585		You will be able to use Pythagoras in contextual problems such as ladder against a wall, frames, ramps		
You will substitute fractions and decimals into expressions.	U201 U585		Unit 18 Calculations	Sparx	End
<p>What is the important vocabulary for this unit? Where will I use this knowledge in the future, and when will it be revisited?</p>			You will do estimation to evaluate approximations to numerical calculations.	U225	
<p>Formula, equation, identity, expand, simplify, rearrange, co-efficient, expression, <u>Pythagoras</u>, Estimate, Round, Decimal place, Significant figures, Decimal point, Bounds Upper, Lower, Calculation, Best buy, Value</p> <p>You will revisit these skills further in your learning journey when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You use calculator for the units that require a calculator. You further develop your analysis when you work with multipliers on percentages. <p>This unit links specifically to the following careers: Technicians, machinists, supermarkets, shops.</p>			You will give upper and lower bounds.	U657 U301 U587	
			You will add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals.	U487 U293 U868	
			You will solve best buy problems.	U357 U256	
			You will use a calculator to solve problems	U926	

Test Feedback

On average you are working at a grade 6c

Well done this is above your target grade

Your grade has improved over the last year. Well done

Based on your Latest Test your areas of weakness are below

It is essential for you to achieve your true potential that you search these clips on

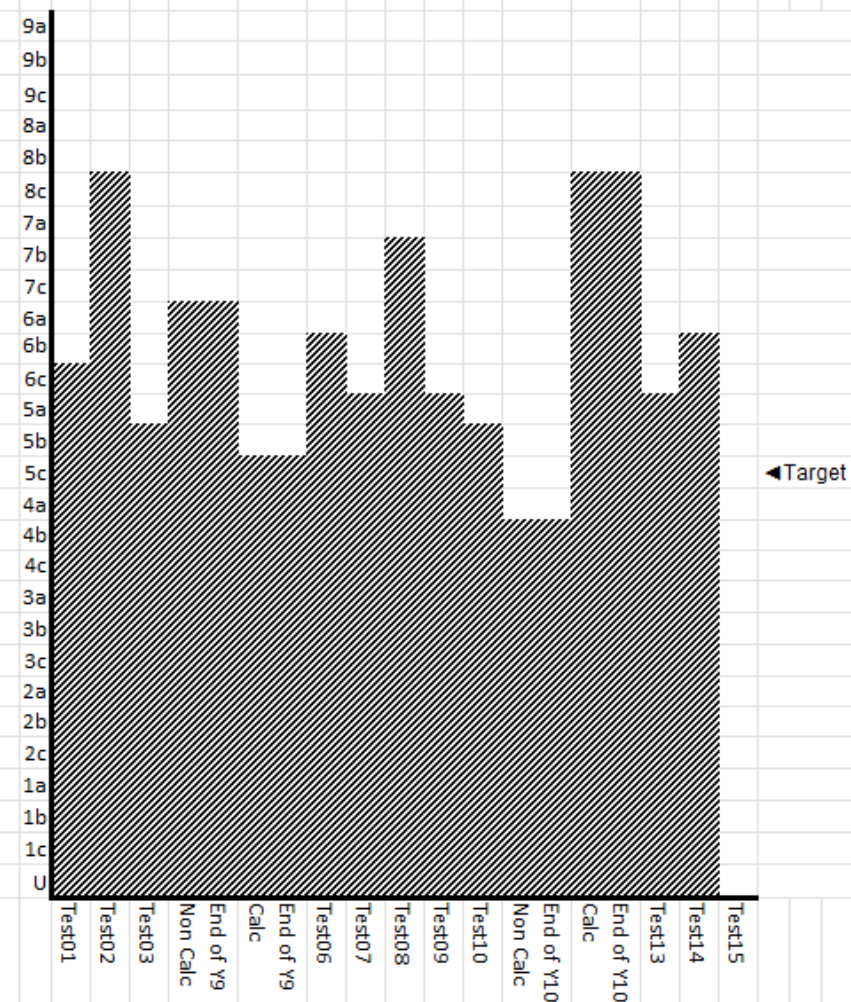
Sparx

Areas of weakness and how to improve	
EBI 1	Geometric sequences
Please ensure you watch the clips and complete the linked worksheets	
EBI 2	Transforming graphs
Please ensure you watch the clips and complete the linked worksheets	
EBI 3	Functions
Please ensure you watch the clips and complete the linked worksheets	

Remember To help to continue to improve your grades and performance in the next test watching the daily clips will help to ensure you really understand what is being taught in lessons. Watching them a few weeks after will also help you remember the skills.

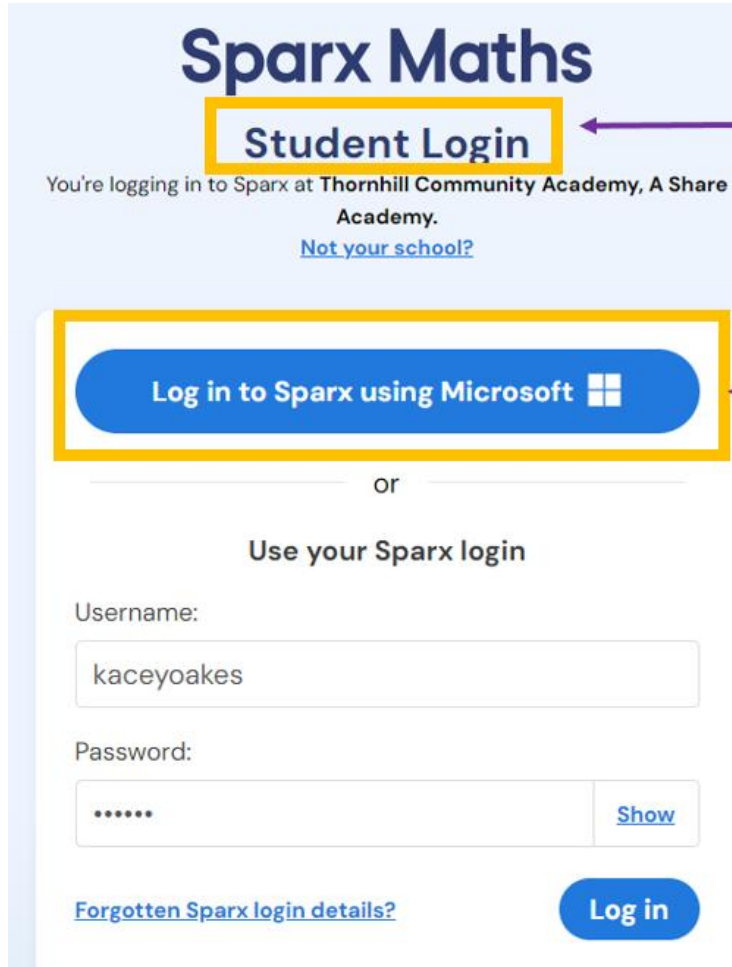
Username: Your normal school login

Password: Your password for school



Homework and Revision

Sparx



Sparx Maths

Student Login

You're logging in to Sparx at Thornhill Community Academy, A Share Academy.
[Not your school?](#)

Log in to Sparx using Microsoft

or

Use your Sparx login

Username:
kaceyoakes

Password:
..... [Show](#)

[Forgotten Sparx login details?](#) **Log in**

It is their normal school login
e.g. T24-hbullas@sharemat.co.uk
Password: school password

Revision guides and workbooks
The workbooks are the most useful part of revision. Practice helps students recognise questions and skills that commonly come up in the exams.

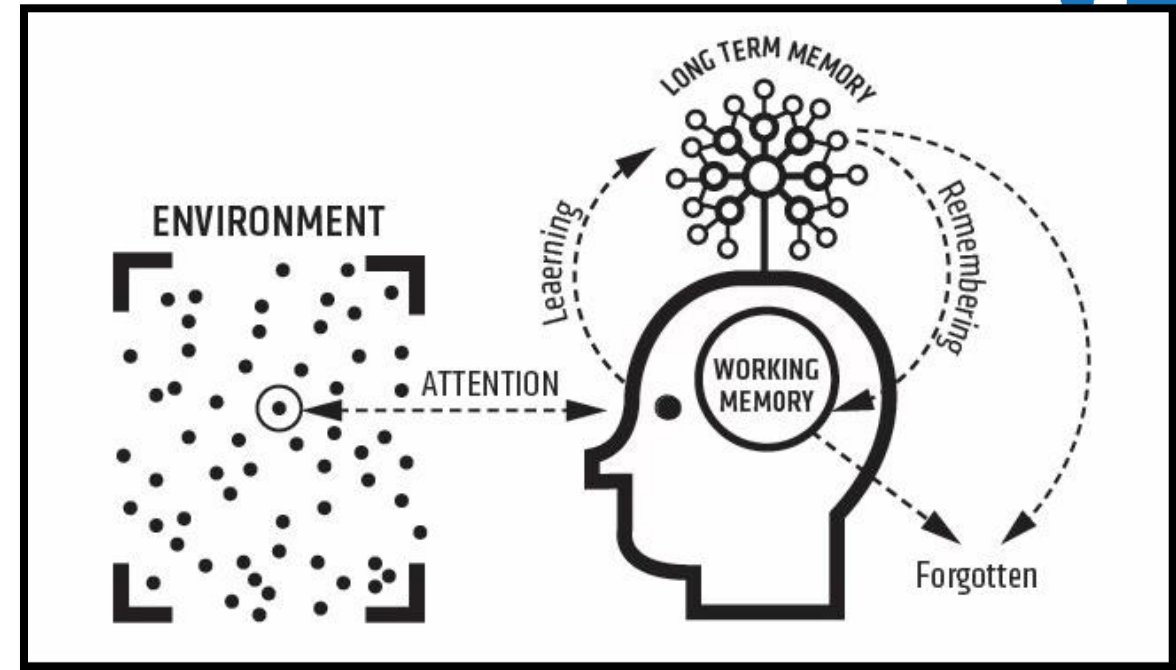
Why are Study Skills Important?

- Not just for exams — for life!
- Builds confidence, independence, and resilience
- Helps reduce stress and increase motivation
- Lays foundations for future learning and work

Tip for parents: Talk about the long-term benefits of learning well — not just passing exams.

The Science of Memory

- Short-term memory holds a **few items briefly** (3-5 pieces of information at any one time)
- Long-term memory needs **repetition** and **connections**
- Attention is crucial – **distractions block learning**
- Forgetting is normal – **revisiting helps it stick**



Tip for parents: Create a quiet study space and reduce distractions like phones and TV.

Our Core Four Revision Techniques

1. Look-Cover-Write-Check
2. Flashcards (Q&A style)
3. Mind Maps
4. Brain Dumps

Tip for parents: Ask them to show you how they use one of these – it helps with recall and boosts their confidence!

Time Management Matters

- Plan ahead with a **revision timetable**
- Use **short, focused study blocks** with breaks
- **Prioritise** tricky topics and upcoming deadlines
- Avoid last-minute cramming

Tip for parents: Help them break big tasks into smaller ones and praise progress, not just outcomes.

WEEKLY REVISION PLANNER

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TIME	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:30AM -4PM	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	9AM- 10AM	BREAKFAST/ SHOWER	BREAKFAST/ SHOWER
4PM- 5PM	HOMEWORK	TV/ GAMING/ SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	TV/ GAMING/ SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	10AM- 11AM	REVISION - ENGLISH	REVISION - SCIENCE
5PM- 6PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	11AM- 1PM	SEEING FRIENDS/ LUNCH	SPORT/ LUNCH
6PM- 7PM	REVISION - GEOGRAPHY	HOMEWORK	REVISION - HISTORY	REVISION - FRENCH	REVISION - SCIENCE	1PM- 3PM	REVISION - MATHS	REVISION - FLASH CARDS
7PM- 8PM	REVISION - MATHS	REVISION - ENGLISH	FREE TIME	HOMEWORK	FREE TIME	3PM- 5PM	OUT WITH FAMILY	SPORT/ TV/ GAMING
8PM- 9PM	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	6PM- 8PM	DINNER/ FREE TIME	DINNER/ FREE TIME

How You Can Support at Home?

- Encourage regular routines and enough sleep
- Ask questions about what they're revising
- Offer positive encouragement — effort matters!
- Help limit distractions (e.g. phones, gaming)
- Celebrate small wins and build confidence

Final Thoughts

- Study skills are tools for life
- Every student can improve with the right strategies
- Small changes make a big difference
- **Thank you** for supporting your child's learning journey!

C+K=

High quality careers services
for schools and colleges

Your options after Year 11



+ MY
DIRECTIONS
.CO.UK

Your Careers Adviser is...

Rob Crookes

M: 07884 868264

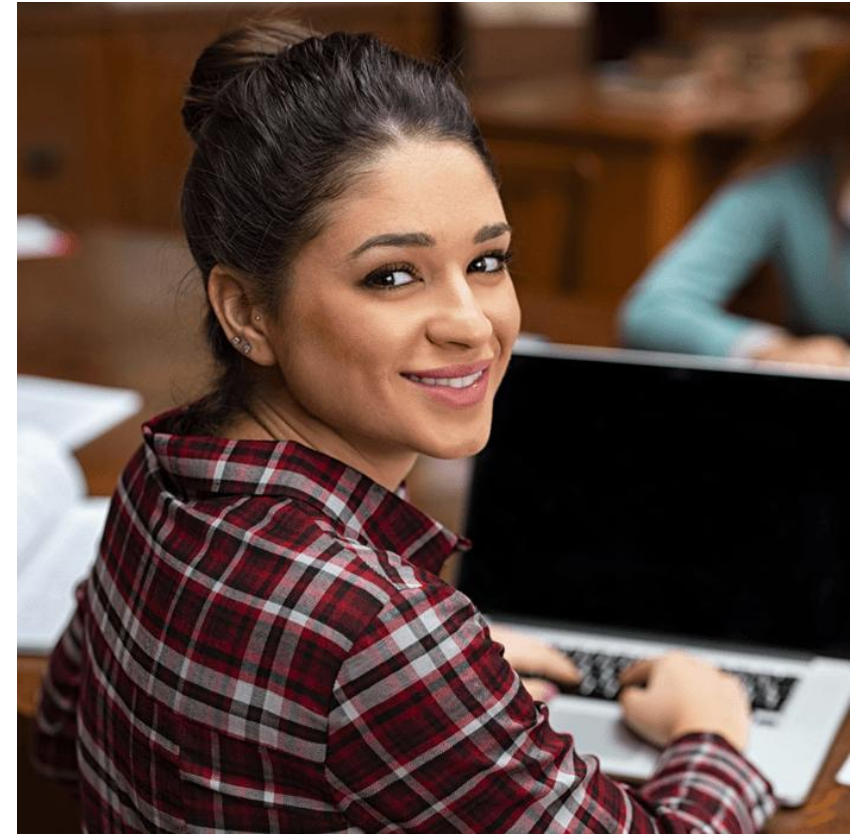
T: 01484 213207

E: robert.crookes@ckcareers.org.uk

Your options after Year 11

What can you do next?

- Study full-time at sixth form school, sixth form college or, FE College
- Start an apprenticeship
- Spend 20 hours or more a week, working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training



16+ qualifications

A levels

Vocational qualifications

T levels and T level foundation year

Qualifications

Here are some examples of qualifications at different levels - check colleges prospectuses/websites for more information

Minimum of four or five
GCSEs at grade 9 - 4

LEVEL 3

A levels (subjects may need specific grades)
BTEC L3 certs./diplomas etc. and other vocational qualifications
T levels
Level 3 (advanced) apprenticeship

Usually 2 years

Mostly GCSE grades
9 - 3
Not passing maths and/or
English?

LEVEL 2

BTEC level 2 certificates and diplomas etc and other vocational
qualifications
T level foundation year
Level 2 (intermediate) apprenticeship

Usually 1 year

GCSE grades 2

LEVEL 1

BTEC Level 1 awards, certificates and diplomas
Entry levels 3, 2 and 1 awards, certificates and diplomas

Usually 1 year

Your careers adviser

- Can help you decide what's right for you and tell you about your options are locally.
- We will see you for an individual guidance meeting during Year 10/11.
- Also check out our website at:

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DIRECTIONS
.CO.UK**



Year 11 Careers Countdown

September	October	November	December
Careers interviews	Careers interviews Attend open days Get Inspired events in Huddersfield, Batley and Halifax	Careers interviews Attend open days Start applying for courses	Careers interviews Attend open days Apply for courses - watch out for deadlines! Start looking for an apprenticeship
January	February	March	April
Careers Interviews Apply for courses - watch out for deadlines! Go to open days Continue looking for an apprenticeship	Watch out for deadlines! Course interviews Continue looking for an apprenticeship Attend apprenticeship events	Watch out for deadlines! Course interviews Continue looking for an apprenticeship	If you are not yet sorted help is still available Continue looking for an apprenticeship (August = GCSE Results Day)

Some Points to Remember

- **The government expect you to remain in learning in Year 12 and 13 (up to 19 yoa) e.g. college or apprenticeship & certified training.**
- Colleges will see a report from school about your attendance, punctuality, attitude to learning and your mock exam results.
- Some colleges have higher entry requirements on grades, attendance (often it's 95% +). Check them before you apply.
- 75% of employers want to see a grade 4 or higher in maths and English, for apprenticeships.
- Research your long-term plans. What do you need to do to get there?
- You will have to continue to study English and maths if you do not get a grade 9-4 in the subject at GCSE ay school.

+ MY DIRECTIONS

MyDirections.co.uk

C+K

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West Yorkshire
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T: 01484 213856
E: chat@ckcareers.co.uk

Chat

Support, advice and guidance
for young people in
Calderdale and Kirklees



01484 213856



chat@ckcareers.org.uk



Facebook messenger



Key focus into Year 10

Building independence

By gradually taking on more responsibility, making thoughtful decisions, and building confidence, teenagers can become more independent and prepare themselves **for adulthood.**

Mr Young- Y10 Student Manager

1. Embrace Responsibility:

- Why do I need to go to form?
- Why does it matter if I am 10 minutes late?
- “That coursework deadline is weeks away; I’ll do it later”

2. Decision-Making:

- “Can't you just decide for me?”
- “I don’t know what to do”
- “I am not bothered anyway”

4. Open Communication with Parents/carers

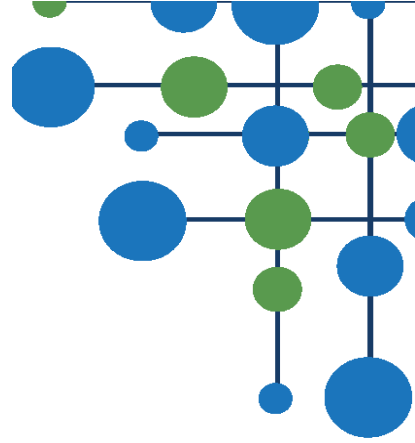
- “my parents are not bothered”
- “They don’t understand”
- “they are too busy”

3. Build Confidence and Self-Reliance:

- “I cannot do it”
- “It is too hard”
- “I’d rather just not come to school”

5. Seek Guidance:

- “I don’t need any help”
- “why are you bothered about me anyway”



1. Embrace Responsibility:

- **Household tasks**
- **Schoolwork**
- **Finances**
- **Time management**

2. Decision-Making:

- **Make choices**
- **Consider consequences: Seek advice**
- **Learn from mistakes**

4. Open Communication with Parents/carers

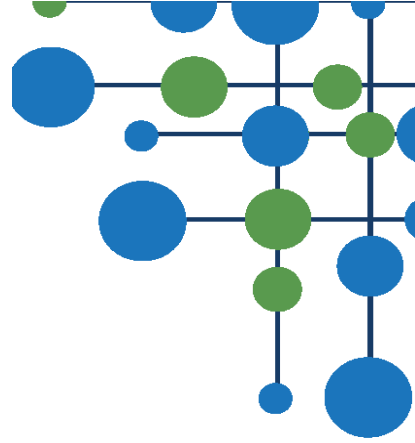
- **Be honest**
- **Respect their perspective**
- **Ask questions**

3. Build Confidence and Self-Reliance:

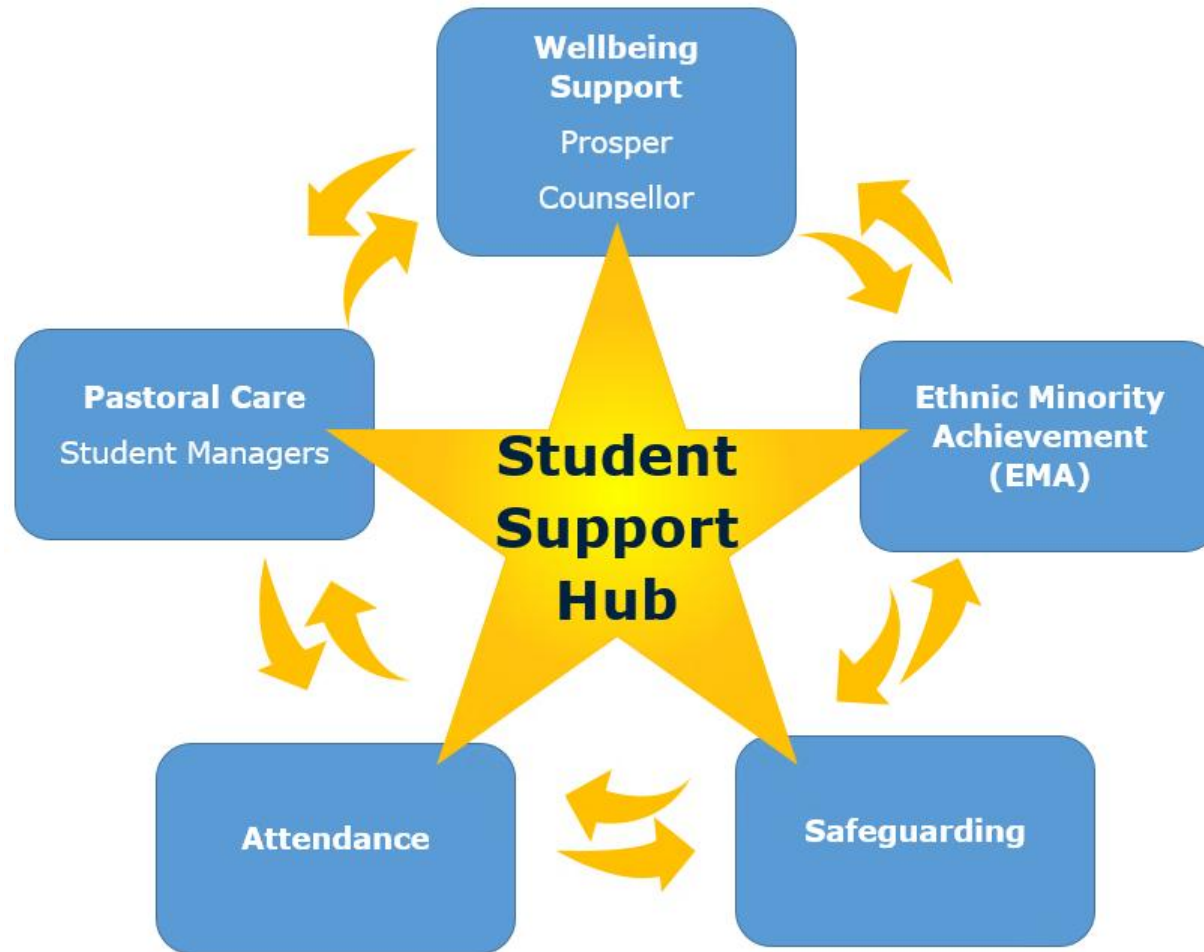
- **Try new things**
- **Seek support**
- **Set boundaries**

5. Seek Guidance:

- **Find mentors**
- **Use resources**



Student Support Hub



Attendance Matters

Attendance = Progress = Achievement

**89% and below
INADEQUATE**

A student with 80% attendance every year at secondary school will have missed a whole year overall

**90-96%
REQUIRES
IMPROVEMENT**

A student with 90% attendance every year at secondary school will have missed a half a year

**97-99%
GOOD**

The Academy target is 97% attendance

**100%
OUTSTANDING**
An excellent achievement,
well done!

Good attendance is linked to better results in GCSEs and improved career opportunities and life chances.

To achieve 97%
Students must
miss no more than
5 days this year

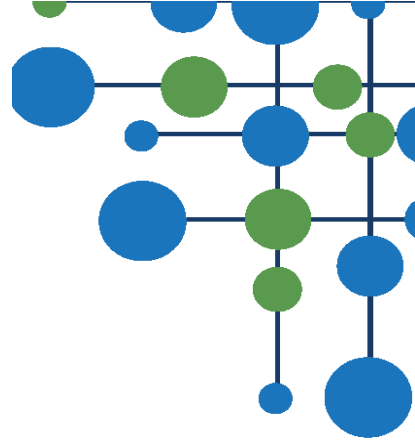
Key points to pass on to students at home:

- Embrace KS4 – It is the start of the next chapter
- Listen to advice and don't be scared to ask questions
- Speak to parents/carers at home – communication is key
- Poor attendance WILL impact on POST 16 placements
- Students have been in a school setting for 11/12 years – these next 2 years are the final leg before adulthood – take every opportunity before you stand on your own two feet
- Parents if you are ever unsure or need support, please contact Mr Young

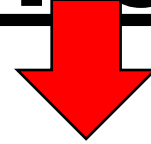
Jamie.young@sharemat.co.uk

Alexa Dilnot (Head Girl)

Mohammed Ali (Head Boy)



Sources of information



BRITISH VALUES

CAREERS
EDUCATION,
INFORMATION &
GUIDANCE

CURRICULUM
PLANS

DUKE OF
EDINBURGH
AWARD

EXAMINATIONS &
REVISION

EXTRA
CURRICULAR
CLUBS

HOME LEARNING

KNOWLEDGE
ORGANISERS

LIBRARY

READING AT
THORNHILL
COMMUNITY
ACADEMY

Curriculum

Curriculum Intent:

...

Key documents

- KS4 Handbook
- Options confirmation letter
- Summer reading/study tasks

Thank you

1

Thank you for
joining us

2

Enjoy your
evening

3

Ask as many
questions as you
need

4

Remember that
we are here to
support and
advise