

Welcome to Key Stage 4 Evening



Thursday 16th September 2026

Purpose of this evening

- GCSE content
- Academy support
- Student expectations
- How Parents can help and support their child
- Implications for the future
- Opportunity to ask staff any questions you may still have



How have the grades changed?

9-1 new GCSEs	A*-G old GCSEs	Distinction*- Pass BTEC
9	Top A*	
8	A*	L2 Distinction *
7	A	L2 Distinction
6	High B	Level 2 Merit
5	Low B High C	
4	Lower C	Level 2 Pass
3	D	
2	E	Level 1 Pass
1	F G	
U	U	U





Subject Support Guide

Year 10
2026 – 2028

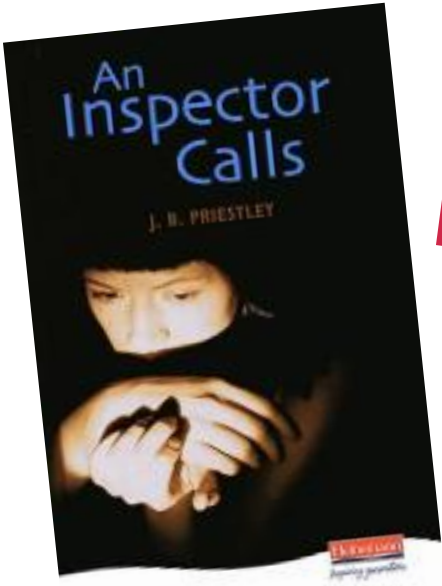
*'Success is the sum of small efforts repeated
day in and day out'*



Course content: English

GCSE English Literature

Exam board: AQA	Course code: 8702
Course outline: Students study a mix of classic and modern texts: <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>An Inspector Calls</i> , <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , and the Power & Conflict poetry anthology. They explore big themes such as ambition, responsibility, social justice, war, and human experience. The course develops skills in analysing language, comparing texts, and understanding the influence of context.	Assessment elements: Paper 1: <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (40%). Paper 2: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> , Power & Conflict Poetry (including unseen poems), and comparison (60%).
Useful websites: BBC Bitesize (AQA English Language & Literature) – Free notes, videos, and quizzes. Seneca Learning – Free interactive revision courses for both Language and Literature. Mr Bruff (YouTube & Website) – Free video tutorials and exam technique tips.	Useful revision guides: CGP AQA English Literature Text Guides (<i>Macbeth</i> , <i>An Inspector Calls</i> , <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , <i>Poetry Anthology</i>) – Focused notes on each text with sample answers.
Independent learning expectations: Complete homework set my teacher. Also keep independent notes on key plot points, characters, quotes and themes for each text. Completing practice questions is a great way to revise.	Key Dates: Practice papers will be sat at the end of each half term as well as mock exams in line with whole school timetable.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1- Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing 80 marks, 50%, 1 hour 45 minute exam

Section A- Reading a Literature fiction text
One text to read

- 1 short form question (4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (20 marks)

Section B- Descriptive or narrative writing

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 80 marks, 50%, 1 hour 45 minute exam

Section A- Reading 1 non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
The 2 texts will be linked.

- One short form question (4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (8 marks + 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (16 marks)

Section B- Writing to present a viewpoint linked to the theme of Section A with a specific PAF.

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel 64 marks, 40%, 1 hour 45 minute exam

Section A- Shakespeare
1 question (extract and whole play)

Section B- 19th century novel (extract and whole novel)

Paper 2- Modern texts and poetry 96 marks, 60%, 2 hours 5 minute exam

Section A – Modern texts
1 essay question from a choice of 2.

Section B- Poetry
1 comparison question on 1 named and 1 other from the anthology

Section C- Unseen poetry
1 question on unseen and n1 comparing this to a second unseen

Course content: Maths

GCSE Mathematics

Exam board: Edexcel	Course code: 1MA1
Course outline: The course develops skills in fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving across six key areas: 1. Number - Integers, fractions, decimals, percentages - Powers, roots, indices & surds - Standard form - Ratio and proportion - Recurring decimals & error intervals 2. Algebra - Simplifying, expanding, factorising expressions - Solving linear, quadratic and simultaneous equations - Inequalities & regions - Sequences (arithmetic, geometric, quadratic) - Functions, graphs & transformations - Algebraic fractions 3. Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change - Direct & inverse proportion - Compound measures (speed, density, pressure) - Growth & decay problems - Gradients, tangents & areas under curves 4. Geometry & Measures - Properties of 2D & 3D shapes - Angles, parallel lines & polygons - Transformations (reflection, rotation, enlargement, translation) - Pythagoras' theorem & trigonometry (including sine/cosine rule & 3D problems) - Vectors & vector proofs - Circle theorems - Perimeter, area, surface area & volume 5. Probability - Frequency trees, Venn diagrams, tree diagrams	Assessment elements: 3 written exams at the end of Year 11 (Foundation or Higher tier): - Paper 1 (non-calculator): 1h 30m, 80 marks - Paper 2 (Calculator): 1h 30m, 80 marks - Paper 3 (Calculator): 1h 30m, 80 marks Each paper is worth 33.3% of the final grade. Question types include: - Short one-mark answers (recall/fluency) - Structured multi-step problems - Extended problem-solving and reasoning questions

CASIO FX83GTCW+ SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR



Course content: Science

GCSE Science (Combined Science)

Exam board: AQA	Course code: 8464
Course outline: A double award qualification (counts as 2 GCSEs). Covers Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Students study: Biology topics - Cells, - Organisation, - Infection & Response, - Bioenergetics, - Homeostasis, Inheritance, - Ecology. Chemistry topics: - Atomic structure & periodic table, - Bonding, - Quantitative chemistry, - Chemical changes, - Energy changes, - Rates & equilibrium, - Organic chemistry, - Chemical analysis, - Chemistry of the atmosphere, Using resources. Physics topics: - Energy, - Electricity, - Particle model of matter, - Atomic structure, - Forces, - Waves, - Magnetism & electromagnetism.	Assessment elements: - Six written exams (two each for Biology, Chemistry, Physics). - Each paper is 1 hr 15 mins, for Foundation or Higher tier. - Foundation tier exams cover grades 1-1 to 5-5 - Higher tier exams cover <u>grades 5-5</u> to 9-9. 21 required practicals across the sciences, assessed in the written papers. - Includes multiple-choice, structured, short-answer, and extended-response questions. - Awarded a double grade (e.g. 6-6, 6-5, 5-5, 5-4, etc.).
Useful websites: GCSE Combined Science - AQA Trilogy - BBC Bitesize BBC Bitesize contains guides, videos, quizzes, exam practice questions and podcasts. Freesciencellessons - YouTube	Useful revision guides: CGP Books CGP revision guides, workbooks and flash cards. Please ensure you buy the appropriate tier of book for your child.

CASIO FX83GTCW+ SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR



Course content: Option subjects

GCSE Business

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel	Course code: 1BSO
Course outline: The course develops students' understanding of how businesses operate and make decisions. Students study enterprise, marketing, finance, operations, human resources, and the external business environment. They will explore real business situations and apply their knowledge to current business issues. Topics Studied 1. Enterprise and Entrepreneurship 2. Spotting a Business Opportunity 3. Putting a Business Idea into Practice 4. Making the Business Effective 5. Understanding External Influences on Business 6. Growing the Business 7. Making Marketing Decisions 8. Making Operational Decisions 9. Making Financial Decisions 10. Making Human Resource Decisions	Assessment elements: Paper 1: Investigating Small Business (50% of GCSE, 1 hour 30 mins, 90 marks) Topics 1 to 5. Paper 2: Building a Business (50% of GCSE, 1 hour 30 mins, 90 marks) Topics 1 to 10. Both papers include multiple-choice, calculation, short-answer and extended-writing questions.
Useful websites: Pearson Edexcel Business Qualification Page • BBC Bitesize GCSE Business • Tutor2u Business • Seneca Learning • BusinessEd	Useful revision guides: Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business Student Book • CGP GCSE Business Edexcel Complete Revision & Practice • Pearson Edexcel GCSE Business Revision Guide • Knowledge Organisers provided by the department
Independent learning expectations: Complete all homework by deadlines. • Revise key terminology regularly. • Read business news and relate it to topics covered in lessons. • Use Seneca Learning and revision guides to consolidate learning. • Create flashcards and practice exam-style questions weekly. • Attend intervention sessions when required.	Key Dates: Year 10: Mock Examination Summer. Year 11: Mock examinations (Autumn and Spring). Summer 2028: GCSE examinations. Exact examination dates will be confirmed by Pearson Edexcel and the Exams Office.

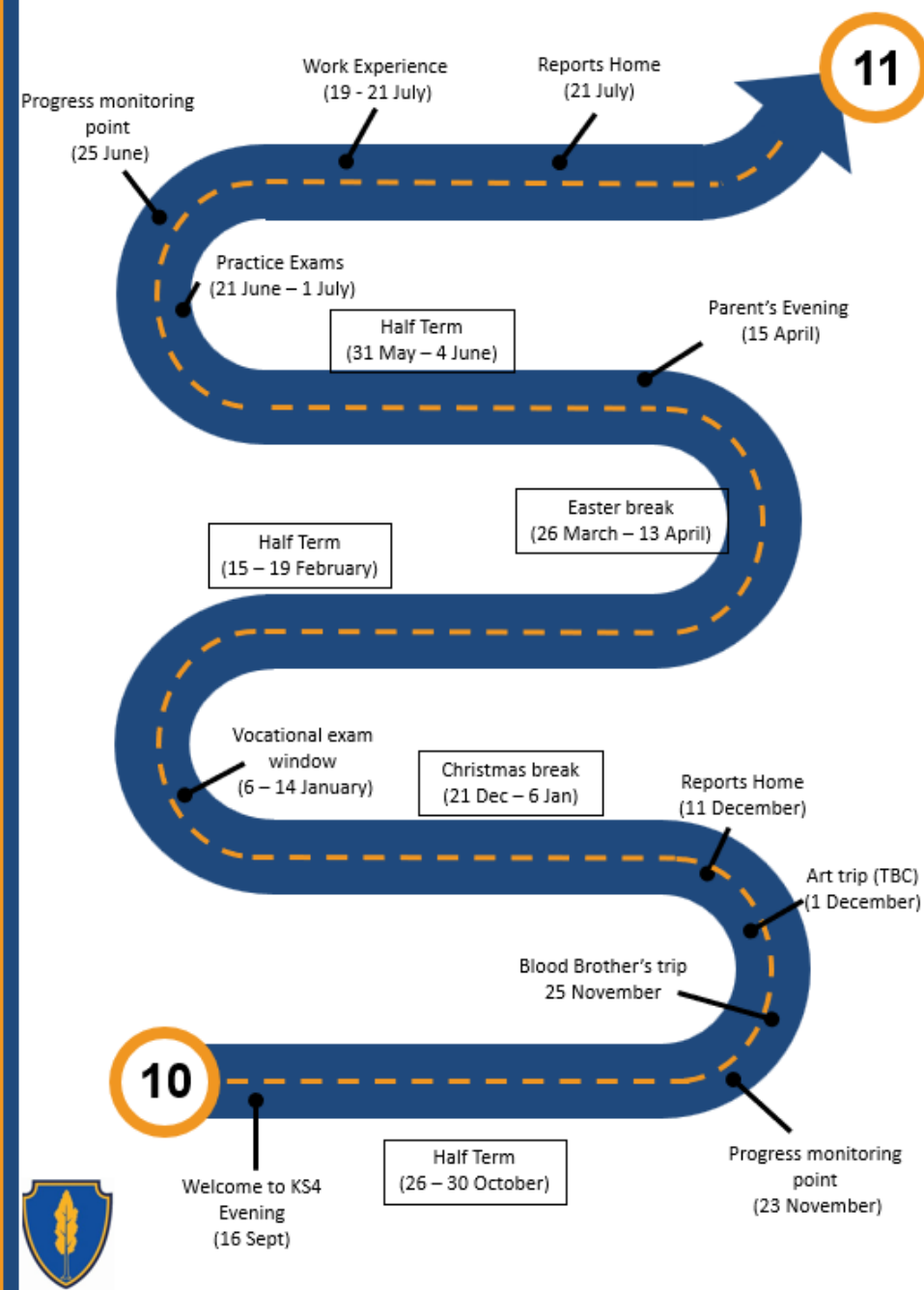
GCSE Geography

Exam board: AQA	Course code: 8035
Course outline: Living with the physical environment Paper 1 – 35% of GCSE Challenges in the human environment Paper 2 – 35% of GCSE Geographical applications Paper 3 – 30% of GCSE Inc. Fieldwork with cost of up to £50	Assessment elements: 100% Exams Papers 1, 2 and 3 in June 2027
Useful websites: BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc Seneca https://app.senecalearning.com/ Wayground https://wayground.com/admin Sharepoint (Manor Drive) https://arthurmellows.sharepoint.com/	Useful revision guides: https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-9-1-Geography-AQA-Student/dp/1382029128/ref=asc_df_1382029128?tag=bingshoppinga-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=80401908435598&hvnetw=o&hvqmt=e&hvbmt=be&hvdev=c&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=41675&hvtargid=pla-4584001433557827&psc=1 https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/humanities/geography/gar46-gcse-geography-aqa-revision-guide
Independent learning expectations: Homework set by teacher in form of SENECA to begin with. Once per fortnight	Key Dates: Mock Exams June 2027/January 2028 Real Exams – June 2028



- High Quality teaching
- Rigorous progress checks
- Individual feedback
- Pastoral care
- Tutor time interventions
- Practice exam programme
- Revision guidance





Form and Session 7 Plan

Monday:

Study Skills

Tuesday:

Maths and English

Mind, Body, Goal

Wednesday:

Science small group interventions

Thursday:

ICT

Friday:

Wellness/ assembly



Subjects YOU Struggled With

Information for parents and carers



Did you know?



Research suggests that parents are critical to how well children perform at school. Children need to feel secure and happy so they are ready to learn. If children are feeling stressed, intimidated or if something has upset them, they will not be in any state to learn anything.

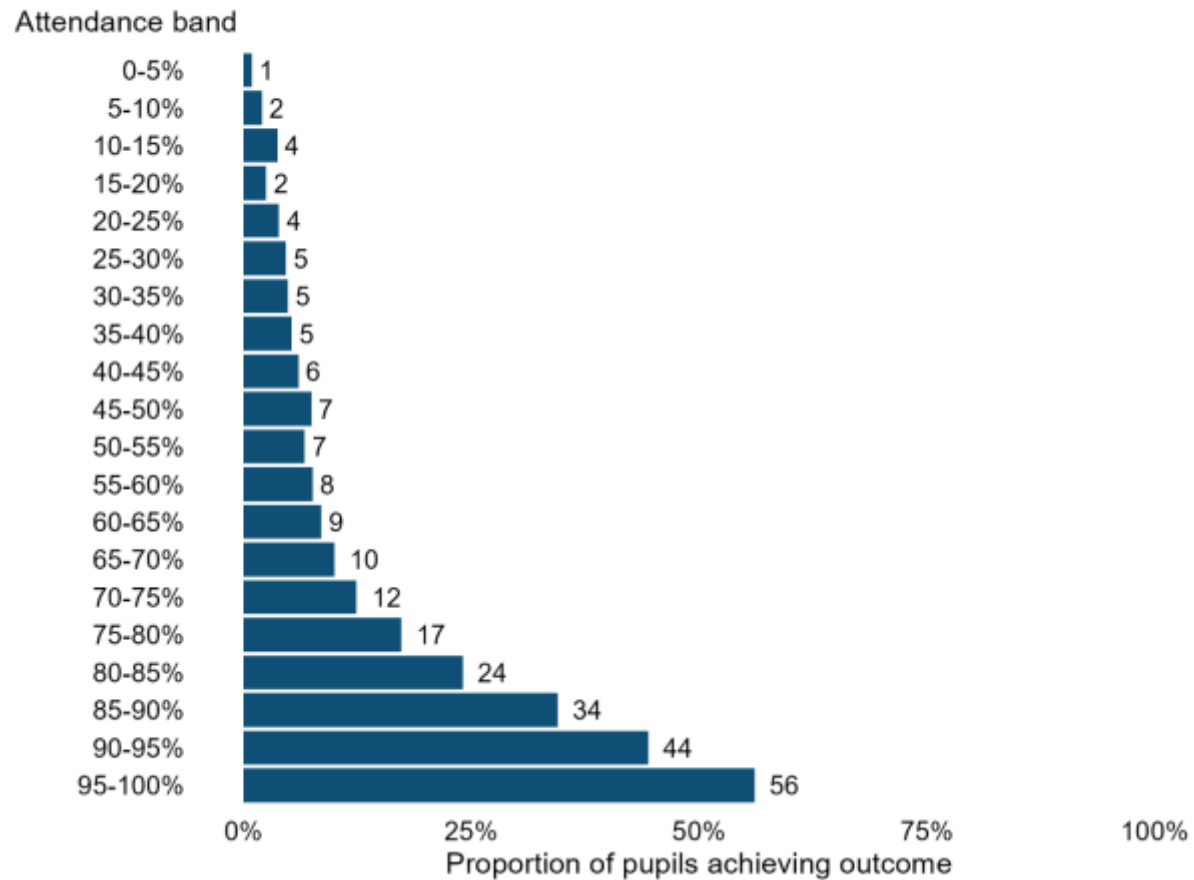
Studies have shown that parents' negative attitudes or beliefs have the potential to negatively influence their children. Negative attitudes can impact on the subjects which your children succeed at. The learning attitude that you or your child has can directly improve their performance.

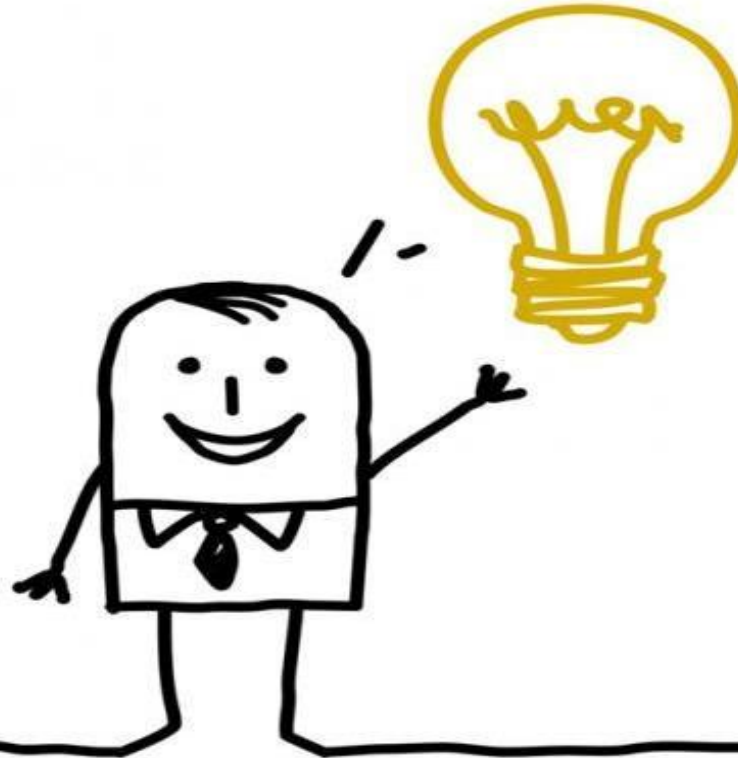
When children struggle with subjects it can make them have feelings of anxiety, helplessness, fear and guilt. Your child's potential can easily be developed and nurtured through simple everyday attitudes passed down from parents and family.



Impact of attendance on attainment

Figure 6 Proportion of pupils in each 5% attendance band for Year 11 achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE at the end of KS4





Top 10 tips to support your child through their exams



THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP

Teenagers go through biological changes meaning they are more likely to release the sleep hormone melatonin later at night-time. It is this hormone that makes us feel drowsy. During adolescence this is not released until later which means young people can find it hard to nod off. It also means that they can find it hard to wake up the next morning for school or college!

Our body clocks help to regulate appetite and body temperature. We rely on environmental cues to keep it on track such as alarm clocks and getting up roughly the same time each day. We need routine in order to keep our body clocks on schedule and this is why we stress the importance of regular sleep and wake times – even at the weekend!

Light and dark play an important role in our body clocks. Darkness helps us to produce melatonin and light suppresses it. This is why we should avoid light sources in the run up to sleep time – screen activities are best avoided.

We also build up a sleep drive during the day. We wake up (hopefully) feeling refreshed and as the day progresses get more and more tired until bedtime comes and we are ready for sleep. If we have a nap earlier in the day this may reduce this need for sleep. Many young people have a nap in the afternoon, reducing their sleep drive at night or they have lengthy weekend lie ins which again reduces the sleep drive!

teensleephub.org.uk | Teen Sleep Matters



Teen Sleep Matters | teensleephub.org.uk

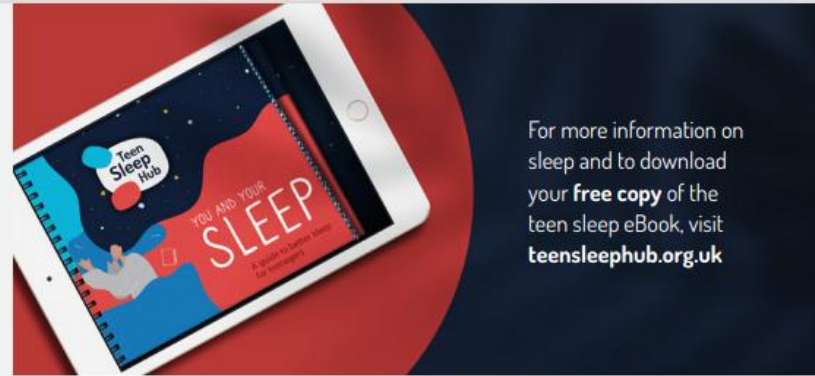


PARENT INFORMATION ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S SLEEP TOP TIPS

- 1 If your child has a sleep issue listen to them without judgment. You can't force sleep so no matter how many times you tell them to 'just go to sleep', they can't!
- 2 Educate yourself about sleep. We have information on our website (www.thesleepcharity.org.uk) and have a website that is designed for young people too (www.teensleephub.org.uk).
- 3 Encourage them to have regular sleep and wake up times – even at the weekend!
- 4 Open the curtains and let natural daylight flood the room first thing in the morning to re-set their body clock.
- 5 Consider their diet, sugary snacks are best avoided. Provide healthier options such as low sugar cereal or crackers and cheese for those evening munchies.



teensleephub.org.uk | Teen Sleep Matters



For more information on sleep and to download your **free copy** of the teen sleep eBook, visit teensleephub.org.uk

- 6 Make the bedroom a relaxing place to be, discourage doing school work in bed.
- 7 Work with your child to establish an appropriate time to switch off devices before bed. Ideally they would avoid screen activity an hour before bed.
- 8 Encourage them to dim the lights or use a lamp in the evening to help produce melatonin.
- 9 Talk to your Sleep Champion in school for further information.



Teen Sleep Matters | teensleephub.org.uk



More evidence to ban energy drinks for children, study finds

🕒 16 January 2024



GETTY IMAGES

Philippa Roxby
Health reporter



Impact on Learning and Behavior

•**Poor Concentration:**

- High caffeine intake can make it harder for learners to concentrate in class, impacting their overall educational well-being.

•**Increased Anxiety and Stress:**

- Energy drinks are linked to heightened levels of anxiety, stress, and even depression and suicidal thoughts in young people.

•**Sleep Problems:**

- Caffeine interferes with sleep, leading to sleeplessness and insomnia, which directly impacts a learner's ability to function effectively at school.

•**Risky Behaviors:**

- Studies have shown a connection between energy drink consumption and involvement in risky behaviors, including violence, unsafe sex, alcohol use, and smoking.





A BALANCING ACT

Keep your sugar levels under control.

Carbohydrates		Macro Cheat Sheet	
- Breads - Rice - Couscous - Cereals - Bran - Potatoes - Pasta - Oats - Cream of Wheat - Corn - English Muffins - Pancakes - Whole Wheat/ - Whole Grains - Vegetables - Squash - Pumpkin - Berries - Fruits - Sugars	- Beans - Sprouted - Grains - Quinoa - Most Yogurts - Skim Milk - Peas	Proteins - Chicken - Turkey - Egg Whites - Fish - Buffalo - Bison - Whey Protein - Turkey Bacon - Lean Beef - Low/Non-fat cottage cheese - Low/Non-fat greek yogurt	- Eggs - Salmon - Bacon - Chia Seeds - Cottage Cheese - Whole Fat Milk - Duck - Whole-Fat Yogurt
			- Acocado - Nut Butters - Egg Yolks - Nuts - Oils - Olives - Flaxseed
			Fats

MIGHTY MAGNESIUM

Magnesium is involved in over 1000 enzymatic reactions in the body. It's vitally important in providing our cells with energy

Green vegetables
Nuts
Pulses
Fish
Bananas

UP THE B'S & OMEGA 3'S

B vitamins are directly involved in creating energy at a cellular level & will give you an energy boost

Green vegetables
Asparagus / Spinach
Broccoli
Yoghurt
Chicken / Salmon
Whole Grains / Brown rice
Almonds / Pecans
Eggs



Parental Support

- Take an interest
- Monitor independent work
- Attend parent evenings
- Encourage excellent attendance and punctuality
- Keep holidays free
- Ensure good sleep and eating patterns
- Stress free!



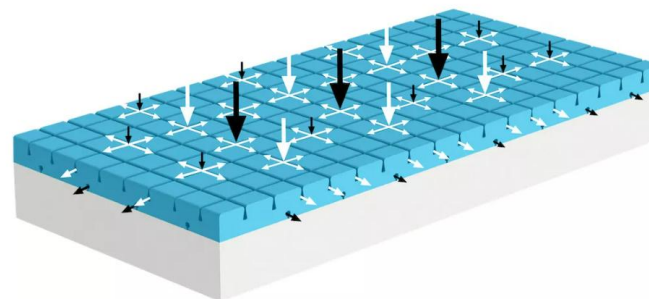
Student expectations

- Excellent attendance.
- Try your best in lessons.
- Engage in tutor time interventions.
- Use all the resources available.
- Attend after school study support.
- Do work at home.
- Start revision now.
- Ensure you know your exam information.



Marginal Gains







Marginal Gains

**"WE ARE ALWAYS
STRIVING FOR
IMPROVEMENT,
FOR THOSE 1%
GAINS, IN
ABSOLUTELY
EVERY SINGLE
THING WE DO."**

Dave Brailsford



What could a marginal gain at school or home look like?



Marginal Gains

Impact: 5 minutes off task/ 5 minutes late to a lesson



Marginal Gains

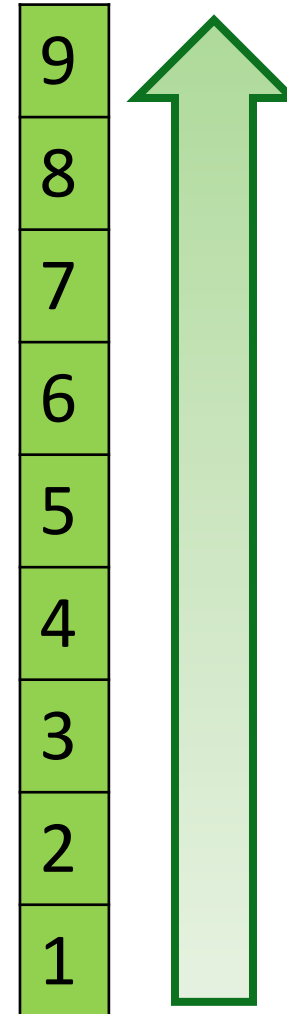
Be on time for all lessons	Eat breakfast	Do my homework.	Sleep well.	Staying on task.
Getting some exercise.	Going to an after-school intervention session.	30 minutes of revision a day after school.	Having all the equipment I need for school.	Attending school every day
				



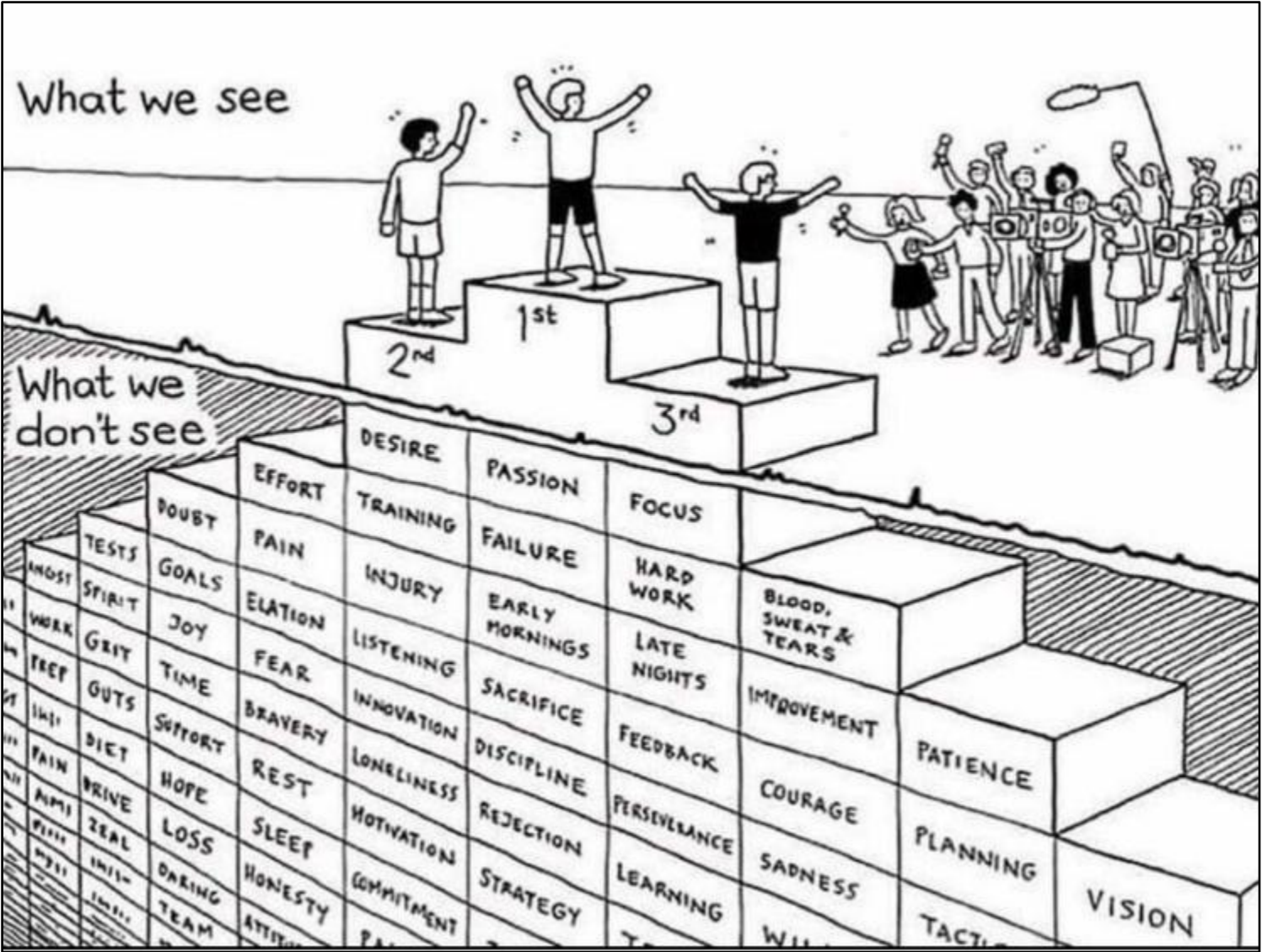
Know your Targets – What could your marginal gains be?

Have a clear idea about where you are now and where you would like to be

- **What level am I working at now?**
- **What am I aiming for by the end of this year?**
- **What am I aiming for by the end of Year 11?**
- **What is the difference?**



Success



Welcome to KS4 Evening: Post-event feedback survey 2026

