

YEAR 10

Course Information Evening

2025





The school of choice for parents in Reading: where success is **desirable, demanded** and **achieved**.



ASPIRATION RESPECT EXCELLENCE



KS4 COURSE INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

For September 2025



Headteacher: Ms Louise Matthews (01189 015800)

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PASTORAL CARE AT HIGHDOWN



ASPIRATION RESPECT EXCELLENCE

Year 10 Team

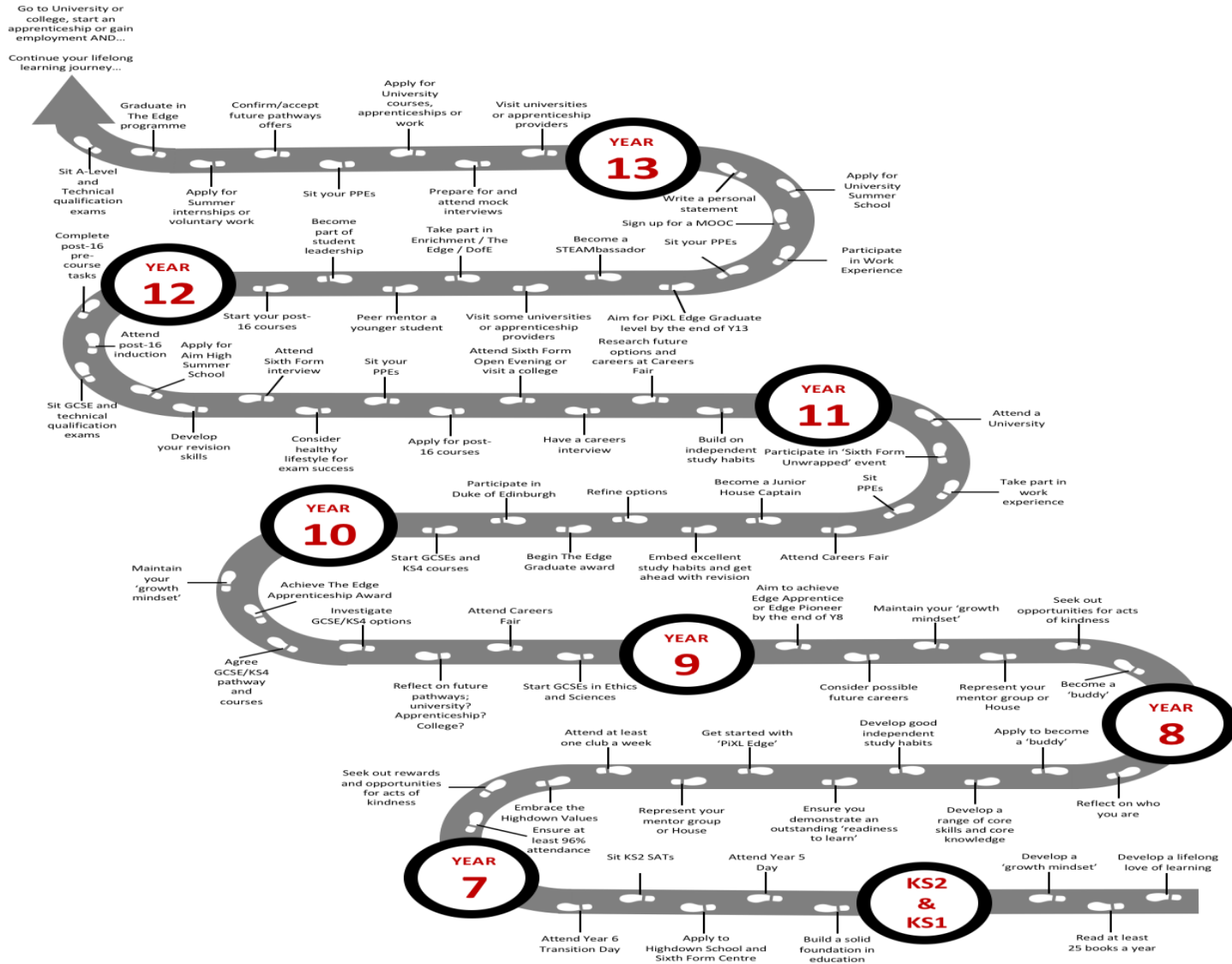
- Mentors: 10C – Miss Brown
embrown@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10D – Mr Humble
johumble@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10E – Mrs Lake
hsm@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10F – Ms Marshall
romarshall@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10G – Mr Ellison
jaellison@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10H – Mrs Larbey
hpl@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10J – Mr Colvin and Mr Dhandia
stcolvin@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10K – Mr Aldous edaldous@highdown.reading.sch.uk
10L – Mrs Guianvarch and Mrs Mahajan
loguianvarch@highdown.reading.sch.uk



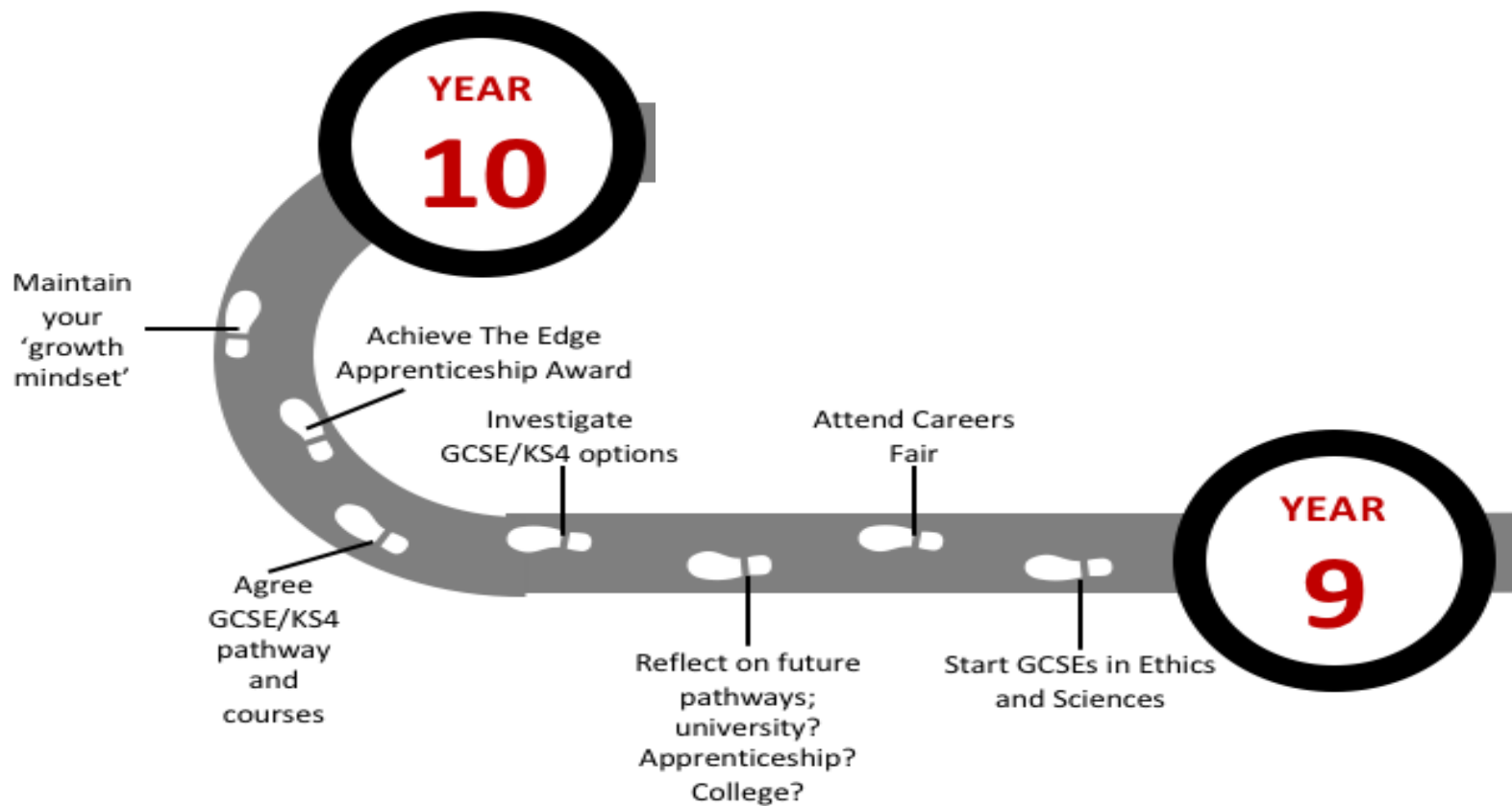
Year 10 Team

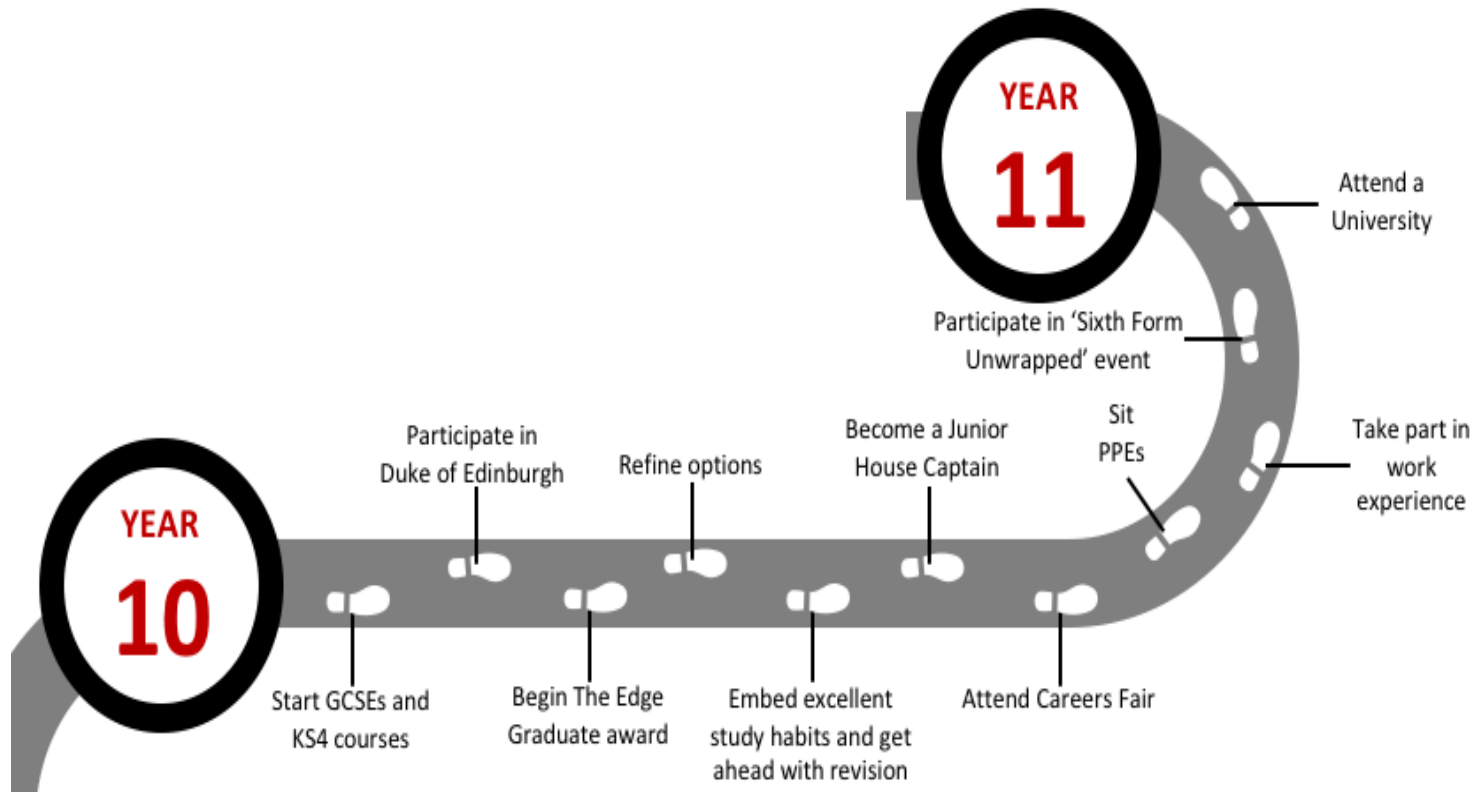
- Assistant Heads of Achievement –
Mrs Richter elrichter@highdown.reading.sch.uk
and Miss Harrison-Smith
saharrisonsmith@highdown.reading.sch.uk
- Head of Achievement – Mr Arnold
paarnold@highdown.reading.sch.uk





THE HIGHDOWN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY





- CCC this year will take place each week A on a Monday period 4. Students stay in their mentor groups for this.
- Each half term is focused on a theme
 1. Financial Decision Making
 2. Healthy Habits
 3. Independence
 4. Communities
 5. Keeping safe
 6. Future Leaders



Quick Mindset Quiz

	Strongly agree=1	Agree= 2	Mostly agree = 3	Mostly disagree = 4	Disagree = 5	Strongly disagree = 6
Your intelligence is something very basic that you can't change much	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You can learn new things but you can't really change how intelligent you are	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You have a certain amount of intelligence, and you can't really do much to change it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Now add up your score and divide the total by 3 to get your mean.

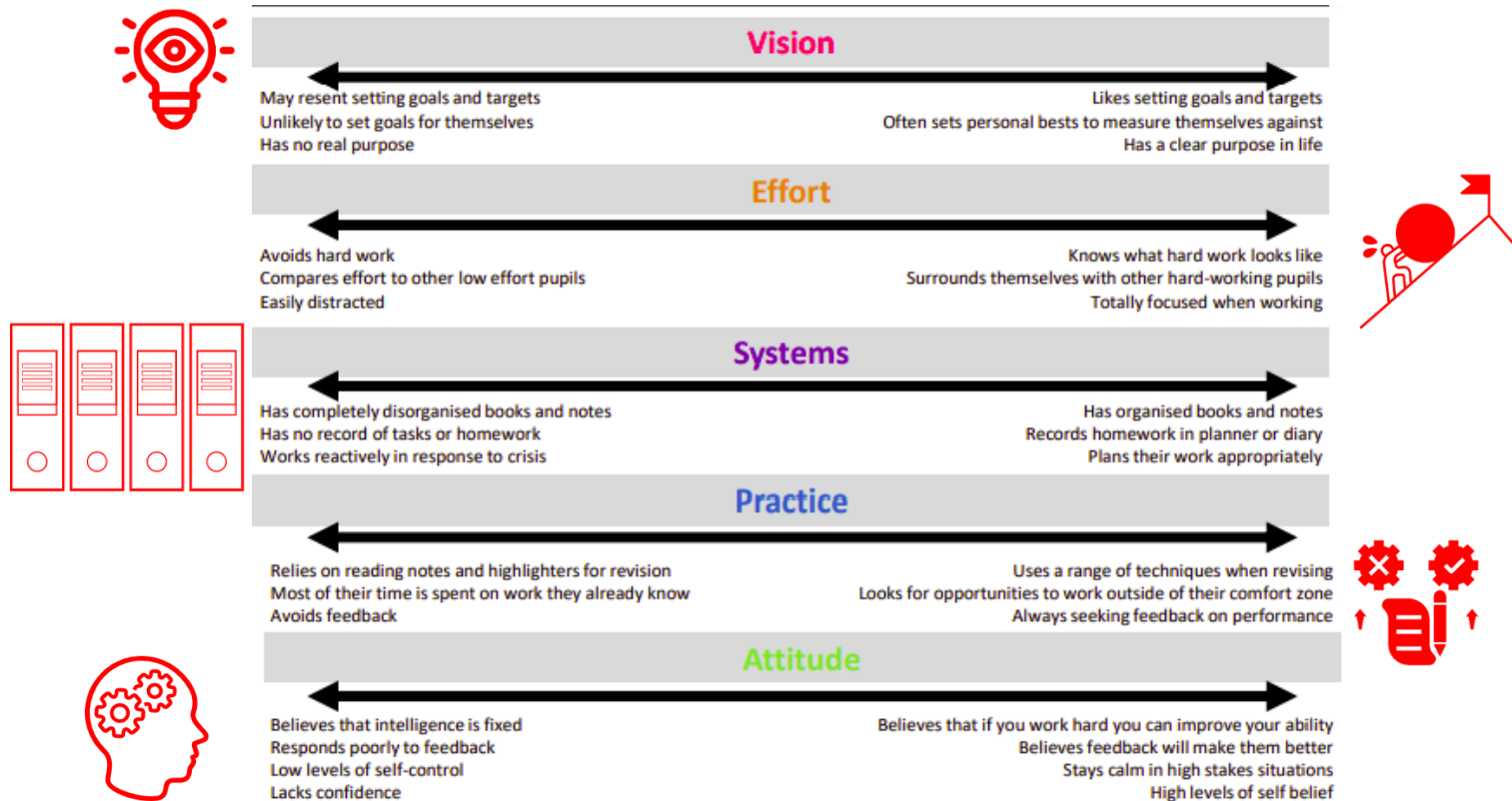


Quick Mindset Quiz Results

- If you scored 1 or 2 then you believe that intelligence is fixed and there is little we can do about it
- If you scored 5 or 6 then you believe that we can work to improve our intelligence.
- If you scored 3 or 4 then you haven't quite decided yet so let's hope these lessons will persuade you to have a GROWTH mindset!



VESPA Mindset



My Personal Excellence Plan

Look at all your feedback and answer the following questions:

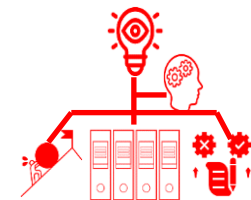
What's Working Well?	
Learning in school and at home	
Progress in subjects	
Personal development	
Conduct	

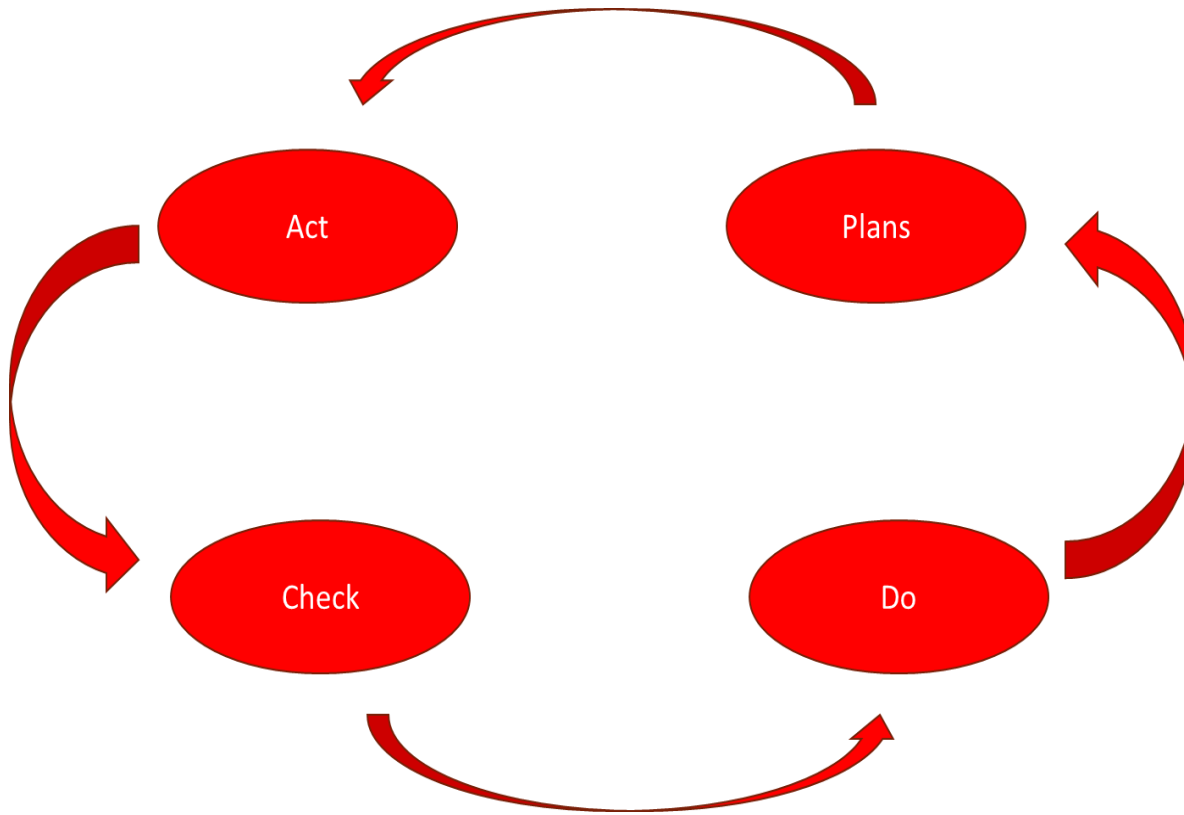
What do I want to improve? What will better look like?	
1	
2	
3	

Three habits I need for success	
1	
2	
3	

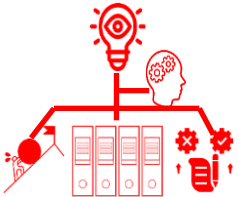
Who will help me? Do I need any other support?	
1	

Aspiration
Respect
Excellence





Continual Improvement



“If we create a culture where everyone believes they need to improve, not because they are not good enough but because they can be even better, there is no limit to what we can achieve.”

- Dylan Wiliam



Reporting an Absence



Ack to parent/carer



Pupil

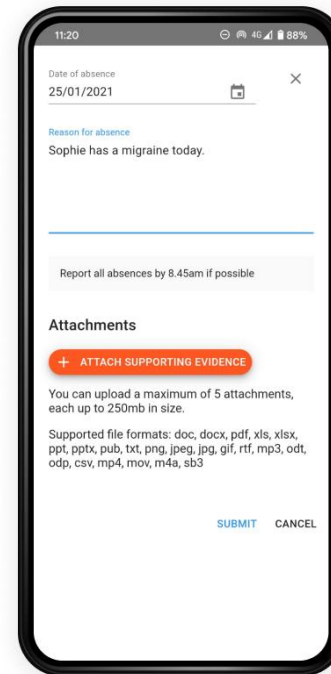
Sophie

Reason for absence

Sophie has a
migraine today.

Attendance

Set



Careers and Pathways Information, Advice and Guidance

- Careers Advisor – Lorna Glass
- CareerPilot – Helps to research careers
- The Hive – Mrs Robinson – careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk
- Mrs Richter & Miss Harrison Smith



FUTURE AND SIXTH FORM

- Entry criteria for Sixth Form:
 - 5 or more GCSE grades at 9-4, including at least a grade 4 in both English and Maths
 - Individual subjects will have their own entry criteria, e.g. Maths A level - students must achieve a grade 7 (or higher) in Maths at GCSE.



Key Dates for you:

Wednesday 22nd October	Year 10 'Setting in Review' issued
Friday 6th February	Year 10 'Progress Report 1' issued
w/c 14th April	Year 10 PPEs begin (written papers)
Friday 22nd May	Year 10 'Progress Report 2' issued
Thursday 11th June	Learning Review Meetings [virtual, 4-6.30pm]



ACTING CURRICULUM LEADER: **MRS S LAKE**
KEY STAGE 4 COORDINATOR: **MRS E BLISS**

**GCSE English Language and
GCSE English Literature**



AQA English Language (8700)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)

Section A (Q1-4): 40 marks

Section B (Q5): 40 marks

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

Section A (Q1-4): 40 marks

Section B (Q5): 40 marks

+ Spoken Language Assessment



AQA English Literature (8702)

Paper 1: Shakespeare
and 19th Century Novel
(40%)

A Christmas Carol (32
marks)

The Merchant of Venice
(32 marks + 4 SPaG)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
(60%)

An Inspector Calls (32 marks + 4
SPaG)

Poetry Anthology Comparison (32
marks)

Unseen Poetry (24 marks)

Unseen Poetry Comparison (8 marks)



COURSE CONTENT

Year 10 English	Year 11 English
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19th Century Text<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A Christmas Carol • Shakespeare Play<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Merchant of Venice • Language Paper 1<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 19th Century Literary Fiction Extracts (language and structure analysis, evaluation of ideas)- Descriptive and Narrative Writing • Language Paper 2<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 19th Century – 21st Century Non-Fiction Extracts (comparison, language analysis, comparative evaluation)- Non-fiction Writing • Poetry<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Power and Conflict Poetry- Unseen Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern Text<ul style="list-style-type: none">- An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley • Revision, revisiting and embedding of Literature and Language



- Fortnightly Language Lessons
- Weekly Home Learning
- Massolit
- GCSE Pod
- Mr Bruff YouTube Videos
- BBC Bitesize
- Oxford Revise Revision Guide



- TEAMS!
- Small group intervention
- After school revision sessions
- Padlets for Literature and Language
- Independence booklets for all set texts
- Knowledge Organisers
- Academic Writing Resources

English Lit: <https://padlet.com/elbliss/english-literature-ccyqye75xlyt6148>

English Lang: <https://padlet.com/elbliss/english-language-x7wwsntf01h4k5no>



- English is a linear exam! This means all students of all levels will sit the same paper, for both Language and Literature.
- All English groupings are focussed on "teaching to the top"
- There are many different routes students can take to achieve their GCSE: Y11 examinations, taking GCSE English Language in Y10, or completing Functional Skills- the first two terms of Year 10 is all about getting to know students and finding the best pathway for them
- The majority of students will sit the GCSEs at the end of Year 11



GCSE Mathematics

Curriculum Leader – Mr W Dineley

KS4 Coordinator – Mr M Hutchinson

(Email: mhutchinson1@glfschools.org)



Tiered Entry

Foundation Tier (Sets 3 & 4)



Higher Tier (Sets 1 & 2)

Exam Board: AQA
Scheme of Learning: White Rose Maths
(Y10 Version 3)

**Further
Maths**



The Exam

Paper 1

Non-Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks

Any content

Paper 2

Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks

Any content

Paper 3

Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks

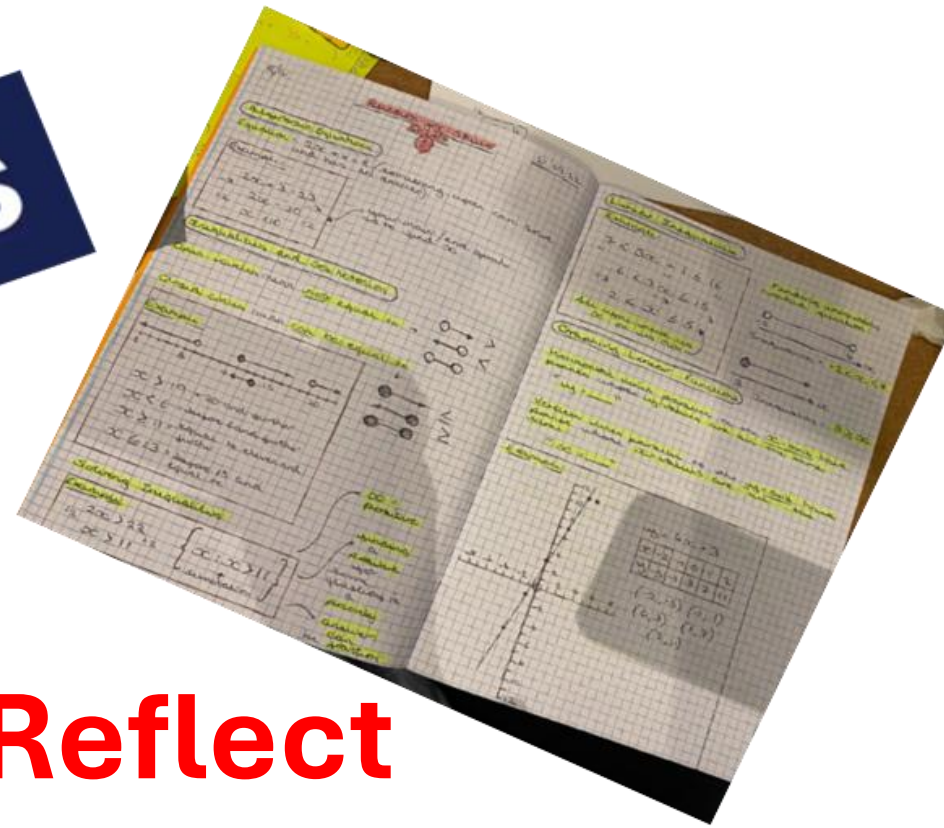
Any content

All sat in May and June 2027



Homework and Assessment: Weekly Sparx and Fortnightly Skills Checks

Sparx Maths



Review, Recall, Reflect



Calculators

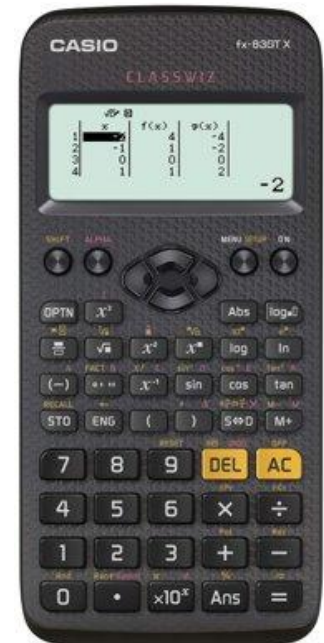
Casio fx-991CW

- Suitable for A Level
- £25-30



Casio fx-83GTCW

- Suitable for GCSE
- £10-£12



Support and Stretch

- **Intervention**
- **Effective Revision**
 - Fortnightly Skills Checks
 - Y11 Revision Sessions
- **Resources**
 - Sparx Platform
 - Maths Genie Revision
 - Past Papers (Physics and Maths Tutor)
- **The Maths Team (Sparx Club Mondays MH9)**
- **Intermediate Maths Challenge** for Y10 and Y11
- **Further Maths GCSE** optional after school qualification offered in Year 11



When setting the skills checks on Class Charts I will send links to relevant topics.

https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.php

A¹

Maths Genie

GCSE

A Level Maths

A Level Papers

KS2 Revision

GCSE Revision

🔍 Search for topics...

Grade 1

#	Videos	Exam Questions	Exam Questions Booklet	Solutions
1.1	Addition and Subtraction	Exam Questions	Addition and Subtraction	Solutions
1.2	Multiplication and Division	Exam Questions	Multiplication and Division	Solutions
1.3	Time	Exam Questions	Time	Solutions
1.4	Metric Conversions	Exam Questions	Metric Conversions	Solutions
1.5	Writing, Simplifying and Ordering Fractions	Exam Questions	Writing, Simplifying and Ordering Fractions	Solutions
1.6	Place Value	Exam Questions	Place Value	Solutions
1.7	Rounding	Exam Questions	Rounding	Solutions
1.8	Negative Numbers	Exam Questions	Negative Numbers	Solutions

GCSE / IGCSE Maths Papers



George S.

University of Sussex - PhD Maths

PhD-Level Online Maths Tutor Specialising in Pure Maths & Statistics - Patient, Detail-Oriented Approach for All Levels.

£25 / hour

- ✓ SEND
- ✓ Graduate

Book Tutor



Here you will find past exam papers and mark schemes for each of the modules below.

AQA	CAIE	Edexcel	OCR	Eduqas
		GCSE		
Paper 1	Paper 1	Paper 1	Paper 1	Component 1
Paper 2	Paper 2	Paper 2	Paper 2	Component 2
Paper 3	Paper 3	Paper 3	Paper 3	
Further	Paper 4	Paper 3	Paper 4	WJEC
	Further	IGCSE A		Unit 1
Paper 1		Paper 1	Paper 5	Unit 2
Paper 2	Paper 1		Paper 6	

AQA Paper 1 (8300/1)



Shihabul B.

**University of Manchester - MEng
Electrical & Electronic Engineering**

Maths & Physics GCSE/IGCSE Candidates - Exam
Preparations, Revision Notes and Review
Exercises

£65 / hour

✓ Graduate

Book Tutor



You can find all AQA Maths GCSE (8300) Paper 1 past papers and mark schemes, as well as selected model answers, below:

Foundation

Question Papers

- [June 2017 QP](#)
- [June 2018 QP](#)
- [June 2019 QP](#)
- [June 2020 QP](#)
- [June 2021 QP](#)
- [June 2022 QP](#)
- [June 2023 QP](#)
- [June 2024 QP](#)
- [November 2017 QP](#)
- [November 2018 QP](#)
- [November 2019 QP](#)
- [November 2022 QP](#)
- [November 2023 QP](#)
- [Specimen QP](#)

Mark Schemes

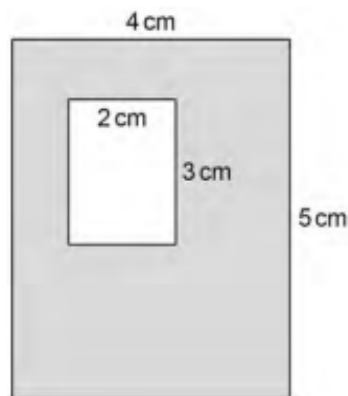
- [June 2017 MS](#)
- [June 2018 MS](#)
- [June 2019 MS](#)
- [June 2020 MS](#)
- [June 2021 MS](#)
- [June 2022 MS](#)
- [June 2023 MS](#)
- [June 2024 MS](#)
- [November 2017 MS](#)
- [November 2018 MS](#)
- [November 2019 MS](#)
- [November 2022 MS](#)
- [November 2023 MS](#)
- [Specimen MS](#)

Model Answers

- [June 2017 MA](#)
- [June 2018 MA](#)
- [June 2019 MA](#)
- [June 2020 MA](#)
- [June 2021 MA](#)
- [June 2022 MA](#)
- [June 2023 MA](#)
- [June 2024 MA](#)
- [November 2017 MA](#)
- [November 2018 MA](#)
- [November 2019 MA](#)
- [November 2022 MA](#)
- [Specimen MA](#)

15

A large rectangle has a rectangular hole cut out.



Not drawn accurately

Work out the percentage of the large rectangle that is shaded.

[3 marks]

$$\text{Area of large rectangle} : 4 \times 5 = 20 \text{ cm}^2 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Area of small rectangle} : 2 \times 3 = 6 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$\text{shaded area} : 20 - 6 = 14 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{14}{20} \times 100\% = 70 \quad (1)$$

Answer 70 %

16

Liz travels 18 miles in 20 minutes.

Work out her average speed in miles per hour.

[3 marks]

$$\frac{18 \text{ miles}}{20 \text{ mins}} = 0.9 \text{ miles per minutes} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{0.9 \text{ miles}}{1 \text{ mins}} \times \frac{60 \text{ minutes}}{1 \text{ hour}} = 54 \text{ mph} \quad (1)$$

GCSE SCIENCES

The examination board for GCSE Sciences is AQA

All students have lessons in Biology Chemistry and Physics and have specialist teachers for each.

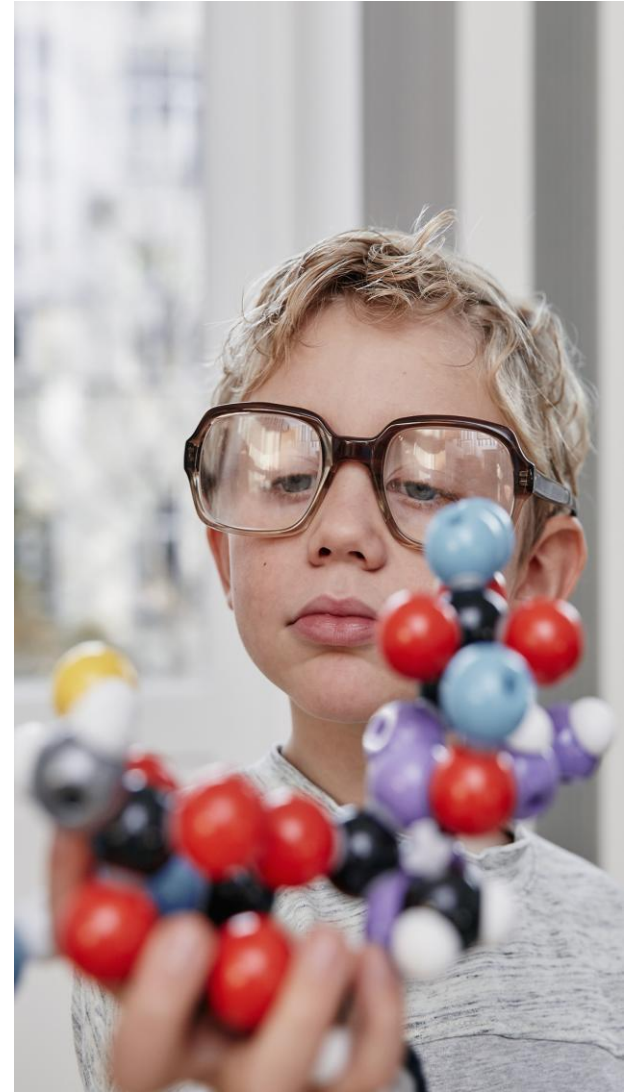
CURRICULUM LEADER:
Ms M Elliot

KS4 Coordinator:
Ms D Arrington



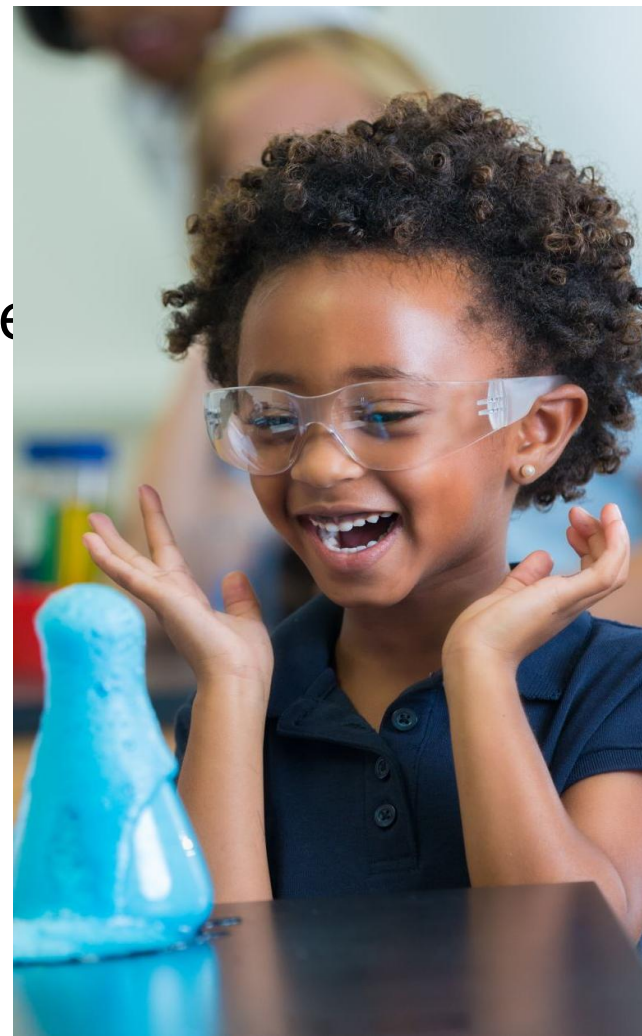
BIOLOGY CONTENT

- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology



CHEMISTRY CONTENT

- Atomic Structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources



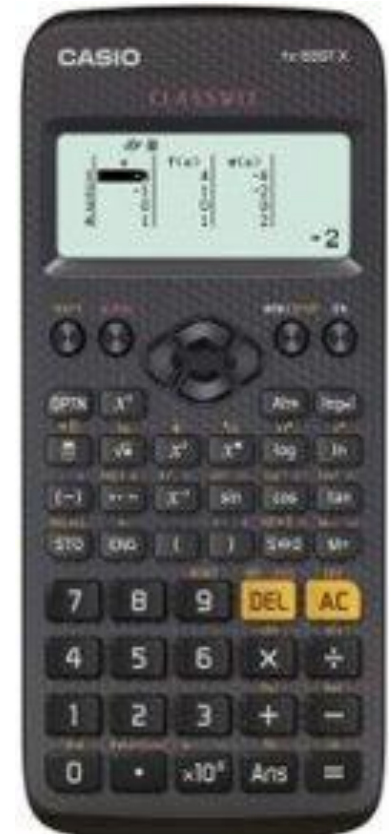
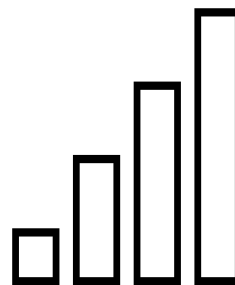
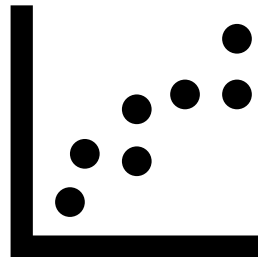
PHYSICS CONTENT

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Waves
- Forces
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism



MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

- Standard Form and order of magnitude
- Estimates and significant figures
- Averages
- Simple probability
- Algebra skills
- Graphs



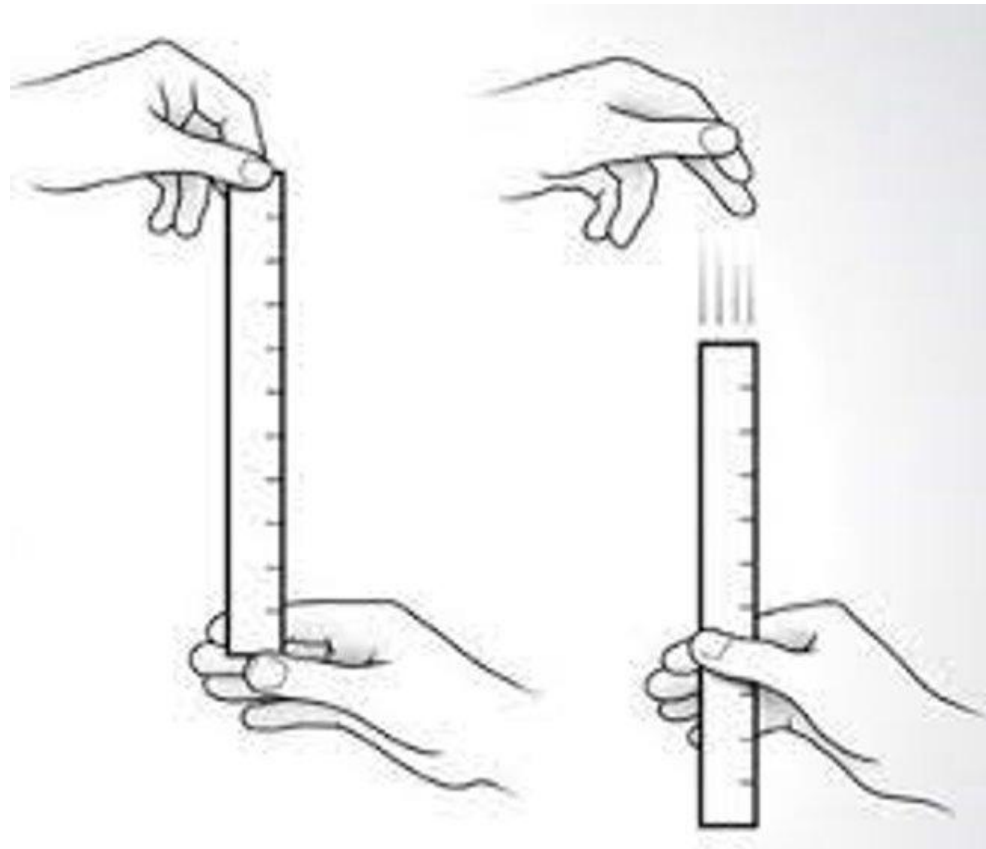
ALL Students will sit
6 exam papers of at least
1 hour 15 min each
(2 x papers for each Science)

Core Practical content ('Required Practical') examined
in the papers

Core Numeracy content also 10-30 % of final papers.

Marks from all six papers are
combined to give grades from 9-9
to 1-1





Testing
reaction times

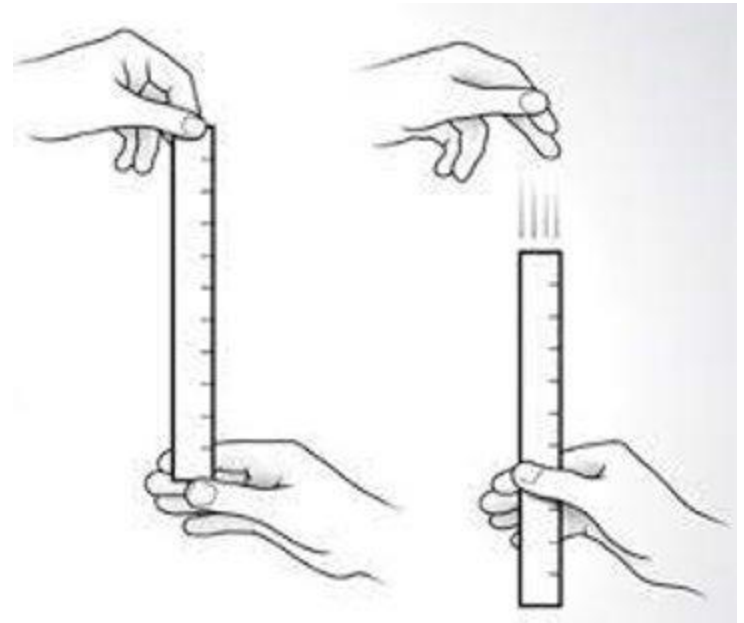


How fast?

Reaction Time Chart for the Ruler Drop Test

Distance in Cm.	Reaction Time in Seconds	Norms
1	.05	Excellent
2	.06	Excellent
3	.08	Excellent
4	.09	Excellent
5	.10	Excellent
6	.11	Excellent
7	.12	Excellent
8	.13	Above Average
9	.14	Above Average
10	.14	Above Average
11	.15	Above Average
12	.16	Above Average
13	.16	Above Average
14	.17	Above Average
15	.18	Above Average
16	.18	Average
17	.19	Average
18	.19	Average
19	.20	Average
20	.20	Average
21	.21	Below Average
22	.21	Below Average
23	.22	Below Average

The norms on the chart are for 16 to 19 year olds.



GCSE Question

Describe how to measure reaction time of a driver and explain why using a hand-held mobile phone while driving is illegal in the United Kingdom.



Grade 4 answer

- drop a ruler and another person catches it
- Write down the distance where the ruler is caught
- Mobile phones distract the driver



Grade 6 answer

- *One person holds metre ruler above the hand of person to be tested*
- drop the ruler and the other person catches it
- *measure* the distance where the ruler is caught
- *Convert distance to time*
- Hand held mobile devices cause a distraction *which will increase the drivers reaction time and could cause an accident.*



Grade 8 answer

- hold metre rule above hand of person to be tested **so the bottom of the ruler is level with the top of the hand**
- drop the ruler **without warning** and the other person catches it
- measure the distance where the ruler is caught
- convert the distance into time **using a standard (scale) chart or calculation**
- Hand held mobile phones cause a distraction which increases the drivers reaction time.
- **This increases the thinking distance travelled by the car before the brakes are applied and therefore the driver may be unable to avoid hitting another vehicle or a pedestrian**



SPECIFICATIONS

Some students will be selected to enter Separate Science Examinations in Year 11 and will be taught some extra material mostly in year 11. Their 6 papers will all be 1 hour and 45 minutes long and they will receive a separate grade for each of the 3 Sciences



<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>



HELPING AT HOME

1. Encourage them to make a keyword glossary and test your child regularly.
2. Encourage use of the resources available to make review materials.
 - www.kerboodle.com Institution code Li7
 - <https://www.century.tech/> log in with office 365
 - Any AQA GCSE Revision guide for Trilogy Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics
 - And please keep in touch with the science teachers so that we can all work together as a team.



Excellence Evening 2025

