

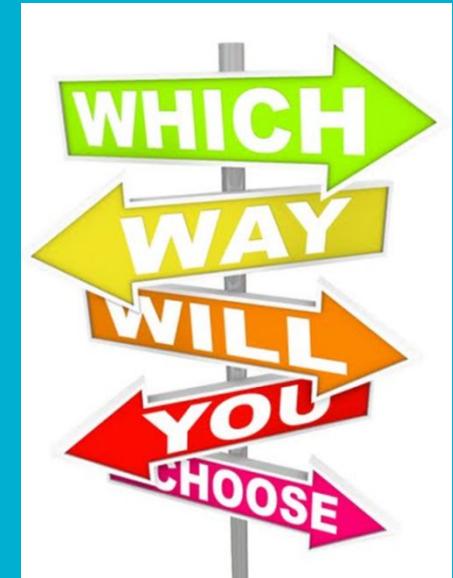


Key Stage 4 Options Information Evening

Thursday 8th January 2026

What is Key Stage 4?

- Years 10 and 11
- Final years of compulsory school education
- Leads to national qualifications
- Some choice of subjects
- Core subjects and option subjects



Post-16 education

- All pathways will have entry requirements.
- During Year 11, students will apply to follow their chosen pathway.
- GCSE grades determine which pathway(s) can be followed.
- GCSE English and maths grades will be vitally important.

Pathways
Sixth form
College
Apprenticeship



GCSE grades

How numerical grades compare with old ones

Old grades	Numerical grades
A*	9 8
A	7
B	6
C	5 Strong Pass 4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

The Curriculum

Core subjects

60% of the timetable

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Maths

GCSE Science

PHSE

PE

Option subjects

40% of the timetable

A range of GCSE
(and equivalent) choices

What are the option subjects?

Art and Design

Business Enterprise

Computer Science

Creative iMedia

Digital Information Technology

Design Technology

Drama

Geography

Health & Social Care

History

Hospitality & Catering

Music

Religious Studies

Spanish

Sport Studies

Triple Science

Students will study 4 of these subjects.

Option Subjects: List A

Computer Science

Geography

History

Spanish

Triple Science

Students must choose
at least one of these
subjects

Option Subjects: List B

Art and Design

Business Enterprise

Creative iMedia

Design Technology

Digital Information Technology

Drama

Health & Social Care

Hospitality & Catering

Music

Religious Studies

Sport Studies

Selecting subjects

- Students must select 6 subject choices.
- Students must decide on an order of preference from choice 1 to choice 6.
- Students will be allocated 4 of their subject choices.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Restrictions

Computer Science	Must be working at a grade 16 or above in Computer Studies and Maths
Spanish	Must be working at a grade 16 or above
Triple Science	Must be working at a grade 16 or above
Music	Must play (or be willing to learn) an instrument
Sport Studies	Must actively participate in PE lessons/ sports clubs

- Students will not be allowed to study all 3 IT courses:
Computer Science, Creative iMedia, Digital IT
- Students will be advised against completing 3 vocational courses

The Options Process

Date	Action
9th January	Year 9 options assembly Options booklet sent to parents Subject videos on the school website
12th January	Option booklets given to students in form time
Week of 12th January	Form time activities
19th January - 12th February	Individual Options interviews
25th February	Deadline for any amendments to the subjects selected
July 2026	Option subject allocation confirmed

Choosing subjects

Questions for students to ask

- What do I enjoy?
- What am I good at?
- What are my future career plans?



Choosing option subjects:

How can students get the information they need?

- Options booklet (issued next week)
- School website - Year 9 Options page
- Subject teachers in lessons
- Form tutors and other staff
- Research online, e.g. U-Explore





Vocational courses

Vocational grade	D2*	D2	M2	P2	D1	M1	P1
GCSE equivalent grade	8.5	7	5	4	3	1.5	1

- Business Enterprise (BTEC)
- Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)
- Digital Information technology (BTEC)
- Health & Social Care (BTEC)
- Hospitality and Catering (Eduqas certificate)
- Music (BTEC)
- Sport Studies (Cambridge National)

Vocational course structure

	Term	Content
Year 10	Autumn	Core subject knowledge teaching
	Spring	First Examinable unit coursework worth 30%
	Summer	Second Examinable unit coursework worth 30%
Year 11	Autumn	Final written unit preparation worth 40%
	Spring	Final written unit preparation worth 40%
	Summer	

Practical elements

Vocational subjects

- Music - 5 hour practical exams
- Sport studies - Demonstrate sport skills and coaching
- Hospitality - 4 hours cooking exam
- Design and Technology- Producing a product

GCSE Subjects

- Art - 10 hour practical exam
- Drama - Performance exam
- Spanish - Speaking exam

Year 9 Timeline

September

- Personal Development Portfolio starts
- TAA Open Evening
- Launch of careers/character opportunities
- Duke of Edinburgh begins

November

- Progress report
- Parents Evening
- Y9 Work Shadowing

December

- Interform debating

January

- Options evening
- Student options assembly
- Option interviews begin
- Mission to Mars

May/June

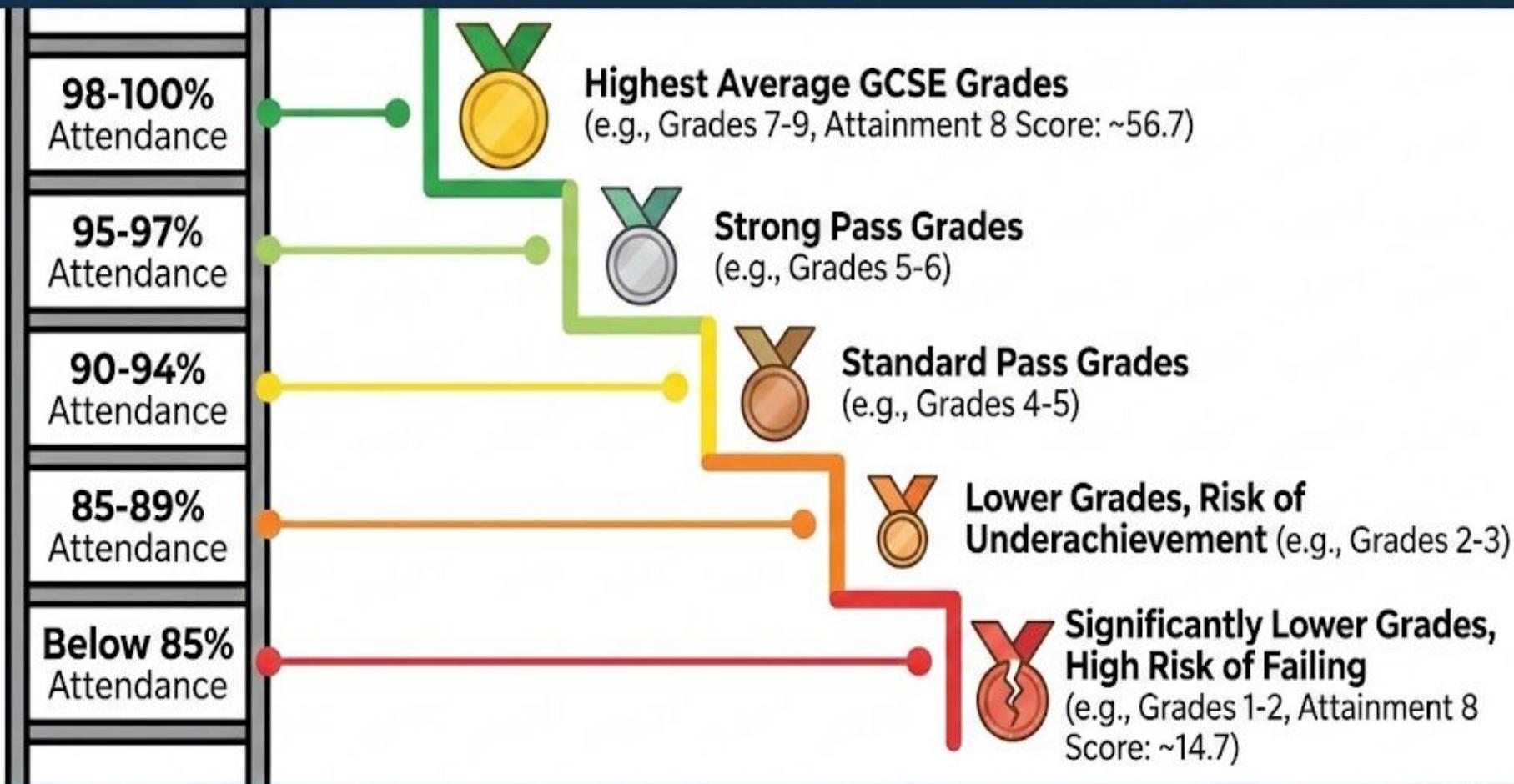
- Progress report
- Annual Fun Run

July

- Sports Day

Excellent attendance to school really does matter

THE ATTENDANCE-ATTAINMENT LADDER



Key Finding: Pupils with the highest attendance consistently achieve significantly higher GCSE results. Even small drops in attendance can lead to lower grades per qualification.



Have a positive attitude to learning

Benefits of positive attitudes to learning

Increased engagement in lessons

Pupils are more organised

Pupils develop a Growth Mindset towards learning

Higher levels of memory recall

Develop positive relationships with staff

Enjoyment of school and time with friends

The TAA careers and character curriculum



Prepares students for the future

Develop communication skills

Become more organised

Learn how to effectively revise

Develop resilience and grow determination

Become empathetic and collaborative

Showing courage as a problem solver

Careers and Character Curriculum

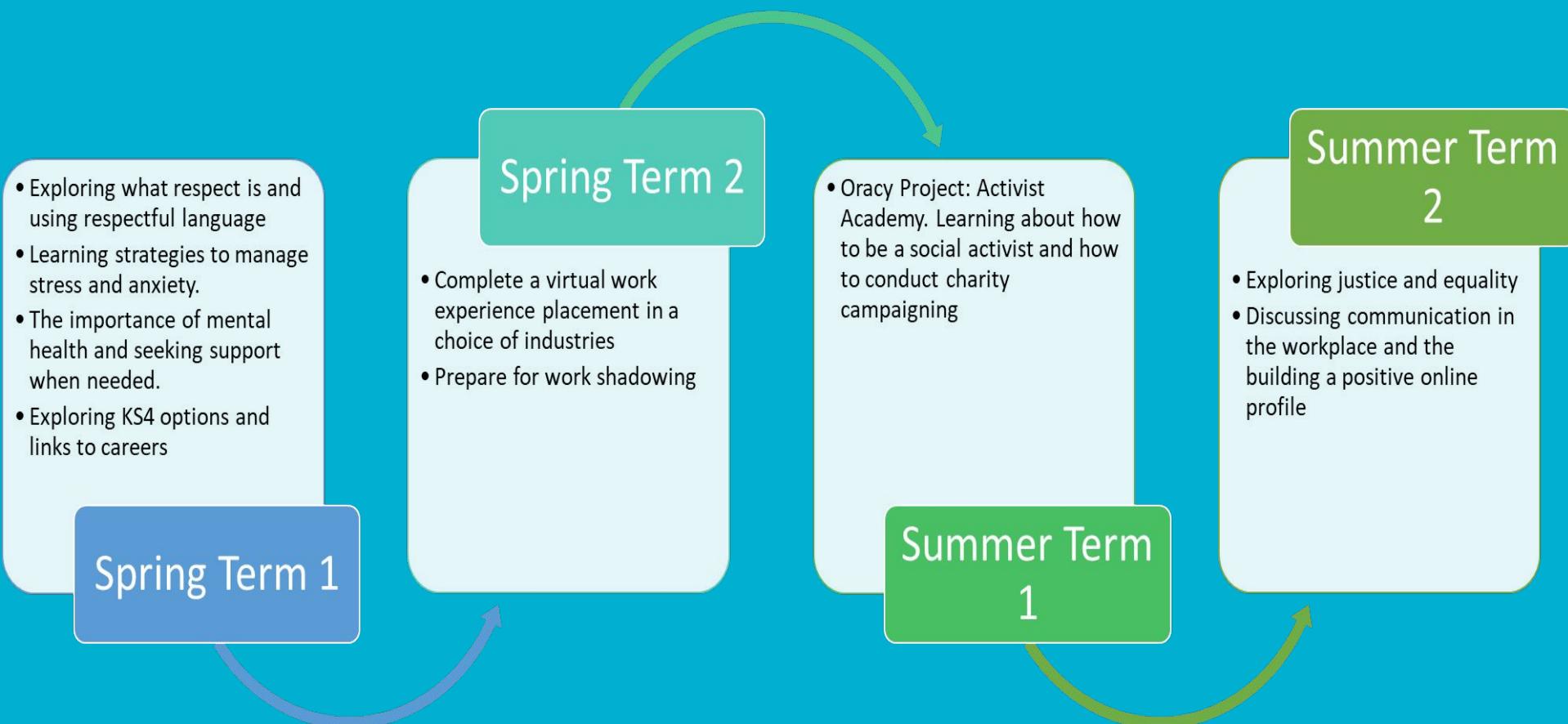
- Developing self-awareness and understanding personal strengths and weaknesses.
- Focusing on goal setting and personal achievements.
- Learning about how to overcome setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Start a personal portfolio

Autumn Term
1

Autumn Term
2

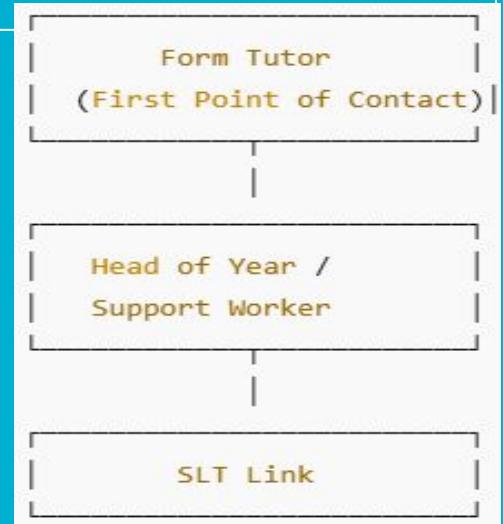
- Understanding responsible use of technology and social media.
- Addressing cyberbullying and digital footprints.
- Oracy: Learning the structure of a debate and competing in an interform debating competition.

Careers and Character Curriculum



How can we help?

- Options interviews
- Form tutors
- Pastoral Team: Mr Candlin, Mr Newport, Mr Whittle
- For a mental wellbeing concerns, contact: Mrs Hayman



How can you help?

- Take interest in your child's school life - ask away!
- Help your child develop good habits and routines
- Make time for treats - if they've had a good week, reward it in any way you can
- Quiet space in the house if possible for students to work
- Create a planner - timetable on the fridge
- Resources - pens, pencils, revision cards etc.

Holiday Revision Timetable												Name: Mr Newport	
Day	8:00-9:00	9:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:20-12:20	12:20-1:20	2:00-3:00	3:00-4:00	4:00-5:00	5:00-6:00	6:00-7:00	7:00-8:00	8:00-9:00	9:00-10:00
Monday	Work							Travel		Run	Cook / Clean	Chill / Read	
Tuesday	Work							Fixture		Snooker	Snooker	Chill / Read	
Wednesday	Work							Travel		Run	Cook / Clean	Chill / Read	
Thursday	Work							Fixture			Cook / Clean	Chill / Read	
Friday	Work							Football	Shoeing		Cook / Clean	Social / Chill / Read	
Saturday	Golf							Clean	Clean	Social	Social	Social	Social
Sunday	Run	Run	Social	Social				Chill / Watch Football	Football	Cook / Clean	Chill / Chill / Read	Chill / Read	Spare time / Revision time

***Remember: make sure you give yourself breaks and allow time to relax and do the things you want to do and enjoy doing.

