



**West Monmouth School**  
*'Believe, Achieve, Succeed'*



# West Monmouth School

## Year 11 Expectation Evening



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**Miss A Williams**  
**Head of Year 11**

**Attendance**



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# Raise Your Attendance, -Raise your Chances!

What does "**Good attendance**" mean?





### Every Day Counts

Support your child to achieve their best

Pupils should aim to have **96% or above** attendance

90% is **not** good!

1 School Year @  
90%

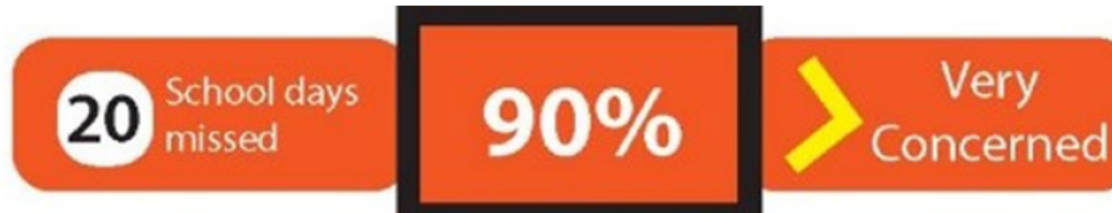
attendance=**4**  
**whole weeks of lessons missed!**

That's **100**  
**HOURS** OF  
LEARNING

# Attendance Ladder

Equates To:





**20 School Days Missed**

**4 Weeks**

**100 Hours**

**100 Lessons**



# The link between attendance and attainment

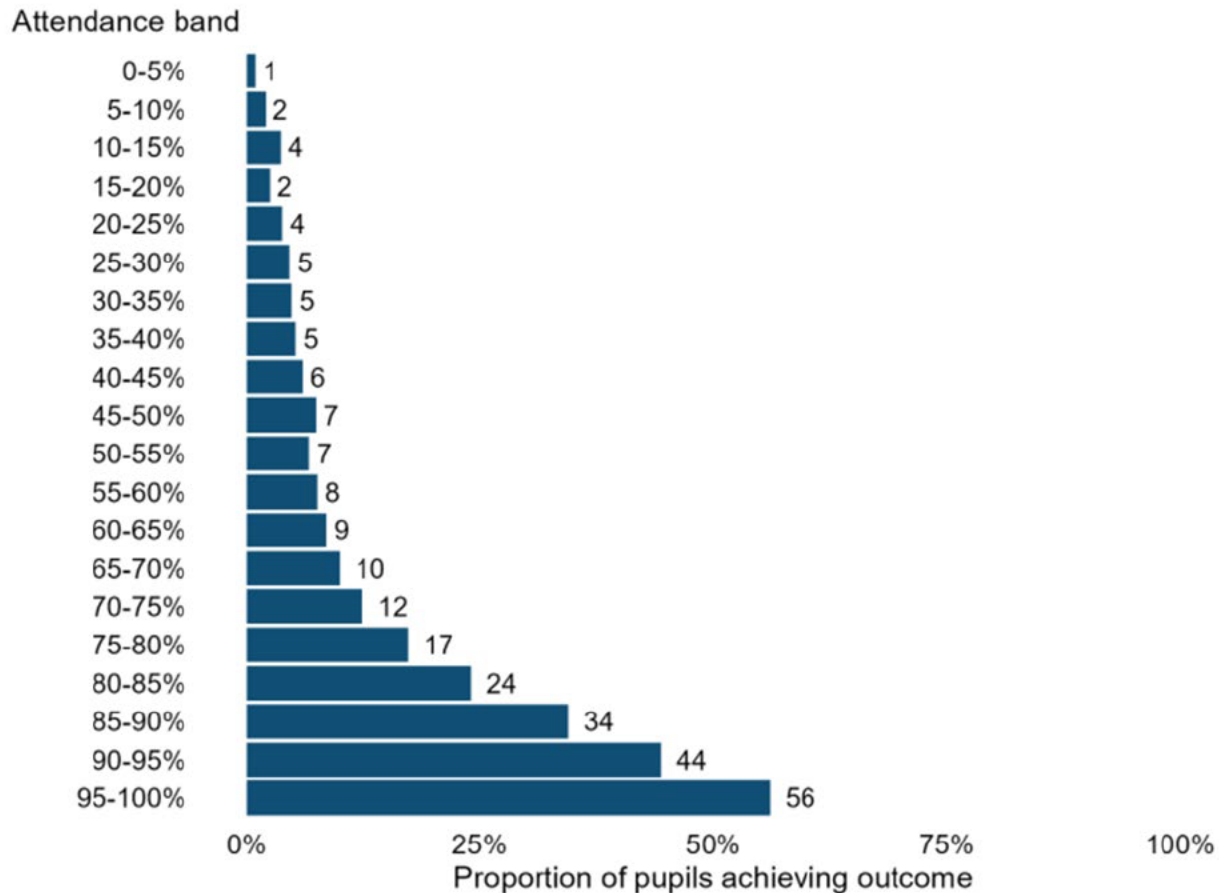
At KS4, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100% - 0-9 Days off) were:

- **1.9 times more likely to achieve Grade C in English and Maths at GCSE compared to those who attended 90-95% (10-19 Days off) of the time.**
- **3 times more likely than those who attended 85-90% (20-29 Days off) of the time.**

This means that missing just 10 days of year 11 reduced the likelihood of achieving Grade C in Maths and English by 50%.



# The link between attendance and attainment





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# Revision and Memory Skills

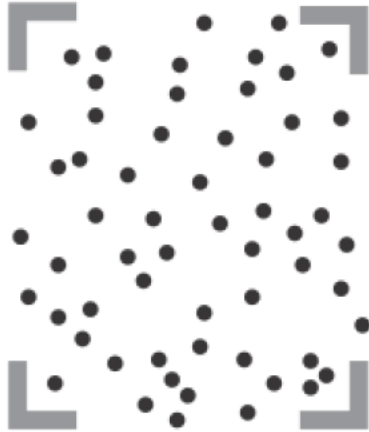
## Countdown to Exams

### Mr Ball



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**ENVIRONMENT**





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Memorise this list of numbers...

01 49 576 74 30

01495 767 430



## HOW THE TECHNIQUES FARED

- **Elaborative interrogation** - being able to explain a point or fact - **MODERATE**
- **Self-explanation** - how a problem was solved - **MODERATE**
- **Summarising** - writing summaries of texts - **LOW**
- **Highlighting/underlining**- **LOW**
- **Keyword mnemonics** - choosing a word to associate with information - **LOW**
- **Imagery** - forming mental pictures while reading or listening - **LOW**
- **Re-reading** - **LOW**
- **Practice testing** - Self-testing to check knowledge - especially using flash cards - **HIGH**
- **Distributed practice** -spreading out study over time - **HIGH**
- **Interleaved practice** -switching between different kinds of problems - **MODERATE**

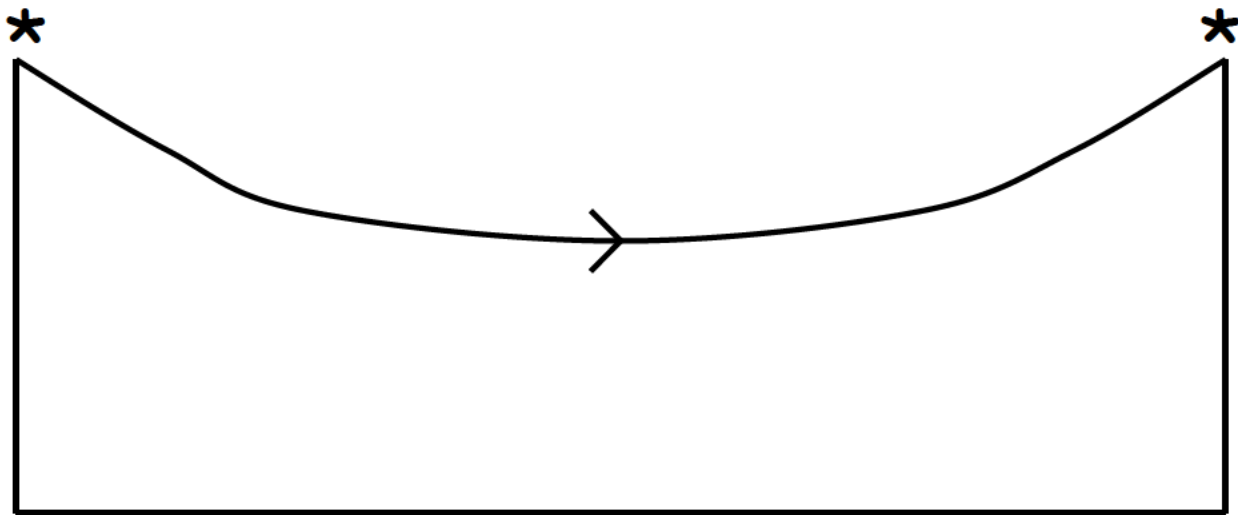


## HOW THE TECHNIQUES FARED

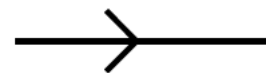
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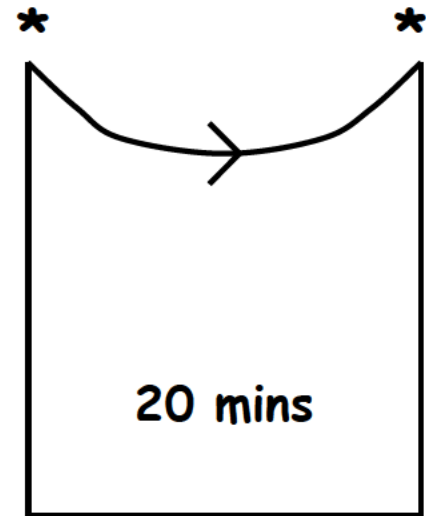
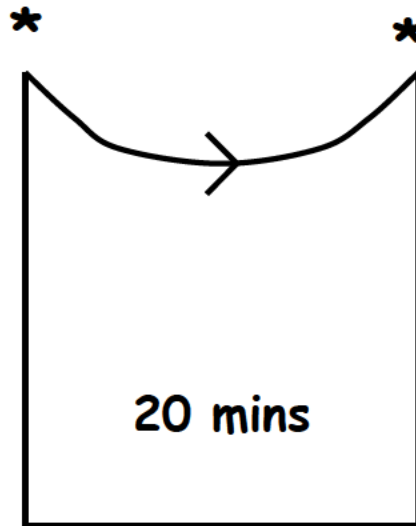
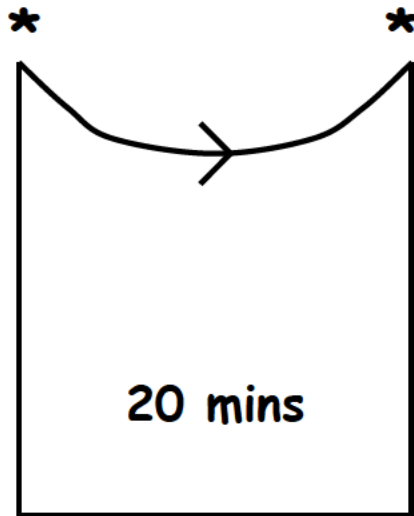
This is what happens if you work for one hour



\* Most receptive



Brain energy level





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**gcsepod**  
education on demand

## What is GCSEPod?

3-5  
minute  
'Pods'

28+  
subjects

Easy  
to use



- 10 years experience as an award winning educational publisher
- Available for all, even Year 7 and 13
- Mapped to the curriculum
- Available on all platforms
- 1 in 3 secondary schools in the UK subscribe
- In use across 40+ countries
- "The Netflix of GCSE Content"



gcsepod.com



0191 338 7830



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**gcsepod**  
education on demand

## GCSEPod covers a broad range of subjects

*The subjects are filtered on your child's account to what they study and their exam boards*





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# Countdown to Exams

**Mrs McNeil**



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# School Gateway - West Mons New Communication App

**Schoolgateway** GET STARTED NEED HELP? LOG IN

Current Service Status: All systems operational

The easiest way to interact with school

WATCH VIDEO  
GET STARTED

School Gateway  
Green Abbey School

Sophie Aaron

Attendance 98.6% >  
 3 Unexplained absences >  
 Payments £17.50 >  
 Achievements 23 points >  
 Arts & Crafts Club >  
 Reports >  
 Homework >  
 School Trips >

## Download the free smartphone app

The easiest and fastest way to stay in touch with your school



### Easy access to all the information you need

Parents and students can check their latest lesson timetable.

Access your school's links to homework, calendars, latest news or parents evening booking within School Gateway.

### Two-way messaging through the app

If your school uses our messaging service, you can use School Gateway instead of receiving texts or printed letters from school.

App messages cost nothing to send so using the app helps your school save money by cutting down on bulk texts and printing.

It also makes it easier for school to confirm messages have been received and you can reply right away through the app.



### What can I do with the app?

School Gateway is your school's app available on Android, iOS and the web. It'll work on phones, tablets, laptops and even smart watches.

Your school can decide which services they'd like parents to access with it.

When you log into the app, each of the services your school provides will appear in a list for you to choose from.

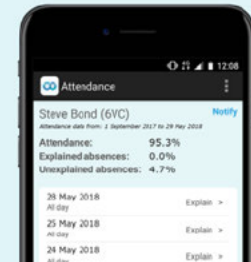
Below are some examples of the services your school might provide on School Gateway.

### Monitor attendance and receive reports

Check your child's attendance record and submit explanations for any absences.

Receive notifications for achievements and behaviour.

Get the latest progress reports sent directly to your School Gateway account.



### Book school trips and club sessions

If your school uses our club management service, you'll be able to access this through School Gateway too.

View your school's clubs, check available sessions on a calendar, then book the sessions you want.

You can also view upcoming school trips and secure your child's place.



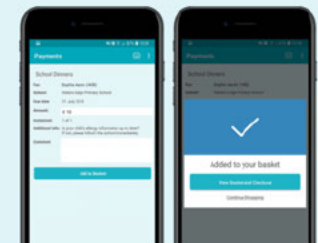
### Cashless payments

If your school uses our payments service, you'll be able to use School Gateway to pay for school dinners, clubs, trips, uniform and more.

This means you won't have to queue up at the school office or send your children into school with cash envelopes to pay for trips.

You can use credit/debit cards, Bank Transfer or PayPal from more than 28,000 shops.

Track your payment history and receive either digital or printed receipts from your school.





## Examination Information

- All pupils will be given a personalised page with their exam dates in March.
- WJEC exam dates are in the examination section of the website.
- Website will be used to for examination details / reminders
- Any queries about exams can be directed to Mrs S Lampard (examination officer)



## **Please ensure your child undertakes revision for mock exams to aid the correct tier of entry.**

**Mock exam are 24th November – 4th December 2025**

### **English exams will be:**

- Unit 1 – Oracy Assessment- Week before October half term
- 24th November / December – mock exam
- Unit 2 - 21st May
- Unit 3 – 5th June

### **Science exams will be:**

- 24th November / December – mock exam
- GCSE Practical Exams – January (10% of their final grade)
- End of topic assessments

### **Math exams will be:**

- Numeracy External (for some) November
- 24th November / December – mock exam
- February – mock exam



## **Many subjects will have deadlines in advance of the main examination session next May/June**

- Math and numeracy exams taking place for some pupils - 4th and 6th November 2025
- Science practical exams – W/C 12th – 23rd January 2026
- Skills Challenge - First draft - 20th February 2026  
Final Version - 23rd March 2026
- Welsh oracy exams – Unit 1 - 10-12th March 2026 (Oracy exam)  
Unit 2 - 17-19th March 2026 (Oracy exam)
- French oracy exam – Unit 1 - 15th April 2026 (Oracy exam)
- Art practical exam – Unit 1 – 19th December 2025  
Unit 2 – 24th & 27th April 2026 (10-hour practical exam)

**Summer exams start 7th May - 24th June 2026**

**Results day - Thursday 20th August 2026**



# West Monmouth School

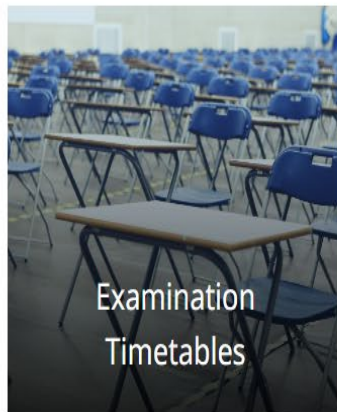
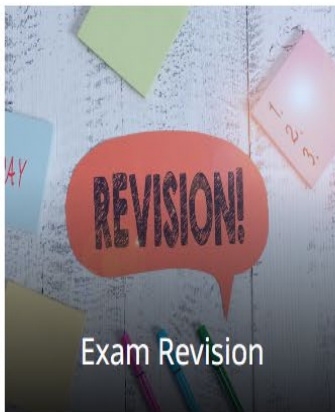
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## Examinations



## In this section

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[Examination Timetables](#) >

[Year 11 Expectations Evening](#) >



## Revision Tips And Techniques

Positively You hub link.

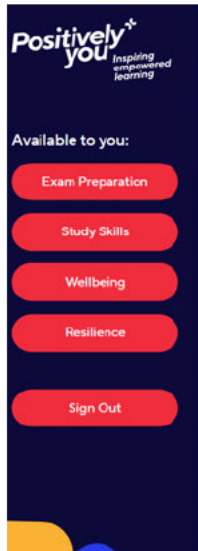
<https://hub.positivelyyou.org.uk/>

Username – PosUHub

Password – StudyHelp2025!



Revision skills and techniques 2 hours session – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026



### Exam Preparation Technique Videos:

 Video 1 <b>Mnemonics</b>	 Video 2 <b>Numbers = Letters</b>	 Video 3 <b>Cheat Sheet</b>
Exam Preparation – Mnemonics	Exam Preparation – Numbers = Letters	Exam Preparation – Cheat Sheet
 Video 4 <b>Physical Journey</b>	 Video 5 <b>RICE Exam System</b>	 Video 6 <b>Revision Jigsaw</b>
Exam Preparation – Physical Journey	Exam Preparation – RICE Exam System	Exam Preparation – Revision Jigsaw



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**Mrs Chadwick**

**GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
**2025-2026**



## What does English Language look like?

There are three units that pupils will complete in Year 11. All pupils complete the same papers.

- 1 group oracy (speaking and listening assessment). This will be completed in the week before October half term and is worth 40 marks.
- 2 exam papers (to be sat in the summer of Year 11).



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UNIT 2 (EXAM 1) 2 hours (Thursday 21st May)  
UNIT 3 (EXAM 2) 2 hours (Friday 5th June)

Each exam is split into two sections:

Section A READING (40 marks)

Section B WRITING (40 marks)

# West Mon English Department GCSE Newsletter

Edition 1 September 2025

Year 11 pupils all follow the WJEC English Language specification ([www.wjec.co.uk/media/krviytuc/wjec-gcse-english-language-specification-2015-24-10-14-branded.pdf](http://www.wjec.co.uk/media/krviytuc/wjec-gcse-english-language-specification-2015-24-10-14-branded.pdf)) and will sit two external exams in the summer term.

The course is also made up of two NEAs (Non Examination Assessments), one of which, the Individual Research Presentation, the vast majority of pupils completed at the end of the summer term of Year 10. The second will be completed just before October half term.

Please find underneath a timetable of assessments for Year 11, along with some really useful links to revision resources to supplement what pupils are taught in class. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me: [lynsey.chadwick@wms.schools.edu](mailto:lynsey.chadwick@wms.schools.edu) and I will do my best to respond as quickly as I can.

Lynsey Chadwick

Head of English

## Year 11 Assessment Calendar

	Half term 1	Half term 2
Autumn Term	Week beginning October 20 <sup>th</sup>  Group Oracy Task (10% of final GCSE)	Week beginning 24 <sup>th</sup> November  Mock exam Unit 2
Spring Term	6 <sup>th</sup> March No Non-Examination Assessments accepted after this time)	
Summer Term	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May (AM) English Language Unit 2 GCSE	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June (AM) English Language Unit 3 GCSE

### Mock Exams

Pupils will be given Walking Talking Mocks (walk through GCSE papers) in class, before they complete real mock exams. Please reinforce the importance of their mocks, as they help us to identify gaps in skills and knowledge which we can address before the real things!

### Masterclasses

We offer classes on a number of days and with a number of teachers. These classes revise the work completed in class but with completely new resources. Please encourage your child to attend as often as they can.

### Homework

Homework will be set regularly via Teams, whether that is revision for assessments or mocks, or activities to support classroom learning. It is expected that deadlines are met.

# FAQ

## How can I support my child with their GCSE revision?

All pupils have access to GCSE Pod. There are some really useful revision resources in here for pupils for both GCSE Language and GCSE Literature, so please encourage them to use these regularly.

<https://www.gcsepod.com>



### Knowledge Organisers

Each time we work on a new question type, pupils will be given a WJEC Knowledge Organiser, full of useful tips. Perhaps look at these with your child and ask them questions to see how much information they have retained from lessons. They will also be saved on Teams for pupils to access.

[Resource WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)

### Revision Activities

The WJEC has also created some useful revision resources for learners with hints and tips, as well as practice questions, on how to answer individual GCSE questions.

[WJEC Educational Resources Website](#)

### Past Papers

There are past papers available on the WJEC Website along with marks schemes. We will be able to provide paper copies of these, if pupils would like them.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAST PAPERS

[GCSE English Language](#)

#### Spelling, punctuation and grammar



##### Spelling – WJEC

English spelling can be tricky to master, partly because of the many influences on the English language over time. Luckily, there are strategies to help you remember correct spellings.



##### Punctuation – WJEC

Using punctuation effectively means that your reader can make sense of your writing. It can also help create a particular effect to give your writing depth.



##### Grammar – WJEC

Grammar refers to the structure of language and how different words fit together. Knowing something about English grammar rules should help you to construct clear and meaningful sentences.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/ztjmv4j>

This section of GCSE Bitesize is also helpful for working on accuracy, which makes up 35 marks across both GCSE papers



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# Mathematics

Mr Donovan



# Mathematics

All Year 11 learners follow the WJEC GCSE courses in

- Mathematics
- Mathematics - Numeracy

and therefore will gain 2 qualifications in maths.

Maths tiers for the exam:-

- **HIGHER TIER** - grades A\*, A, B, and C.
- **INTERMEDIATE TIER** - grades B, C, D and E.
- **FOUNDATION TIER** - grades D, E, F and G.



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# Mathematics

## **Mathematics - Numeracy in November 2024.**

The exams take place the week immediately after half term.

The classes sitting these exams are:

- 11X1 Miss Gough
- 11X2 Mr. Lee
- 11Y1 Mr. Harriman

**All other classes will sit both their exams in Summer 2025**

# Mathematics



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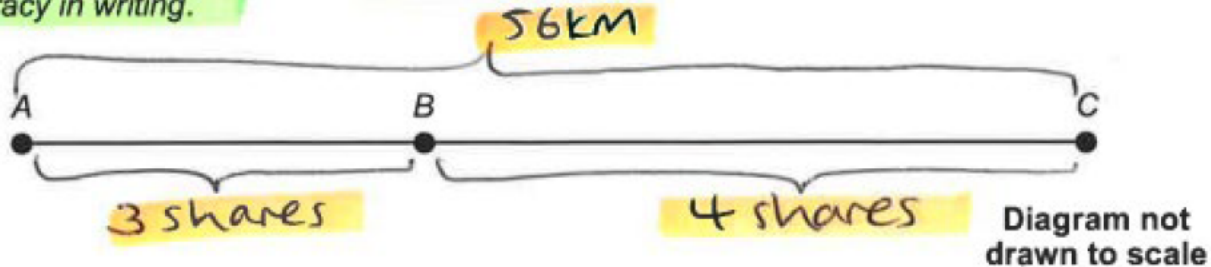
## How to succeed:

- make a good effort every lesson.
- bring the correct equipment, including a scientific calculator.
- complete their homework or 'practice papers', to the best of their ability.
- revise for the monthly / half termly test / GCSE exam.



Must show full method

1. In this question, you will be assessed on the quality of your organisation, communication and accuracy in writing.



ABC is a straight road, where the ratio  $AB : BC = 3 : 4$ .  
 $AC = 56$  km.

Calculate the length of BC.  
Give your answer in **miles**.  
You must show all your working.

[4 + 2 OCW]

$$\text{Total shares} = 3 + 4 = 7$$

$$1 \text{ share} = 56 \div 7 = 8$$

$$BC = 4 \text{ shares} = 8 \times 4 = \underline{32 \text{ km}}$$

$$8 \text{ km} \approx 5 \text{ miles}$$

WJ

HIC

Nov

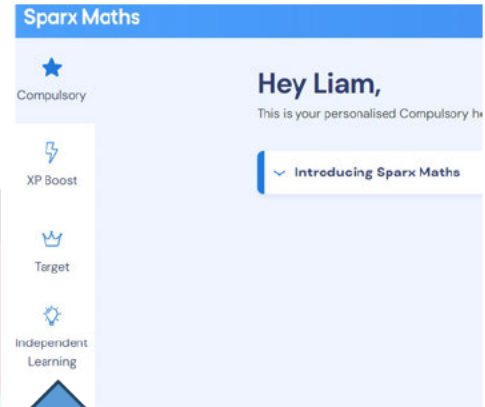
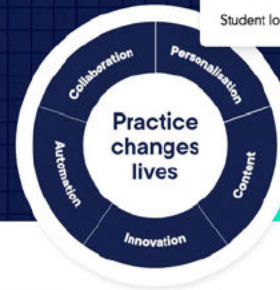
Nov

Sun

Sun



# The power of Sparx Maths for you and your students



## 1. Personalisation

- All pupils are given access to the Sparx Maths VLE. These are a series of lessons that can be used for homework and revision sessions.
- All homework questions should be answered along with the "Bookmark code" that is displayed on the screen for each question.
- In case of problems accessing the internet, staff will be available to supervise pupils after school. Please inform your child's maths teacher.





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# Mathematics

## Teacher support

If any pupil is struggling with the work, all the maths staff are available to support them at break time, lunchtime, or after school. The pupil just needs to have a chat with their teacher to arrange a time.

Any queries you can contact me via

Mr. Donovan – [donovanL31@hwbcymru.net](mailto:donovanL31@hwbcymru.net)

Lunchtime support every Monday in N18 from 1-1.30pm



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# Science

# Mr Jones





# Science

## Tracking of Progress

- Pupils will have booklets for each topic containing the notes needed for that topic. This allows us to focus on application of the knowledge. These booklets will also contain a bank of past paper questions for both classwork and revision.
- End of unit test after every topic – Based on past paper questions and exam grading criteria
- A couple of times every half term – Teams or GCSE Pod set quizzes as homework – allow us to track understanding
- The more complete a picture, the better the prediction and the more focussed revision can be



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# Science

## For Success

### In lessons

Listen and ask questions – Understanding in Science is built understanding gradually more and more complex ideas – if you miss out on the foundations, I will make the rest a lot harder – ASK QUESTIONS if you don't understand.

### In Booklets

The Spec sheets at the start of a topic and the revision maps at the end are excellent resources for exam revision – make sure they're as complete and concise as possible.



# Science

## Past Paper Questions

Answer all past paper questions in class and in end of topic tests to the absolute best of your ability – These will be one of your most useful revision tools.

## Equipment – Needed every lesson!

- CALCULATOR – needed every lesson. Doesn't have to be expensive, ones sold by Maths department are more than adequate £5 each
- Basic Pencil and Ruler – Can't properly draw graphs without – this is often up to 10% of a paper!

## Learn from your mistakes

Make sure that all comments and corrections are acted upon – getting something wrong is ok now – so long as you learn from it and don't make the same mistake in the summer.



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# Skills Challenge

**Mrs Taylor**



# What does Skills Challenge look like?

There are three challenges that need to be completed to pass the Skills Challenge GCSE.

- Individual Project (Year 11) 50%
- Enterprise & Employability Challenge (Year 10 -completed) 25%
- Global Citizenship (Year 9 - Completed) 25%

This is equivalent to 1 GCSE and must be passed to achieve the Welsh Baccalaureate.





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# INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

## DEADLINES

**First DRAFT = Friday 20th February 2026**

**FINAL VERSION = Monday 23rd March 2026**

- The project title is chosen by the pupil.
- The title must be a question (so that they can carry out an investigation)
- They are required to do secondary and primary research.
- The primary research must include a survey, interviews are encouraged but not compulsory.
- The **EXPECTATION** is that it is worked on at home as well as in timetabled lessons. All work is on Google Classroom so can be logged into on any device with an internet connection.

The project is worth **50%** of the final grade.

**Individual Project  
Personal Learning Checklist**



<b>Individual Project</b>		<b>Deadline Date:</b>	<b>Date Completed:</b>	<b>Draft 1 in book:</b>	<b>Draft 2 Google Classroom</b>
1	Title / Question for enquiry.	12/09/25			
2	Introduction	26/09/25			
3	Aims & Objectives (3 aims with 2/3 objectives for each aim)	10/10/25			
4	Rationale outlining what websites you plan to use to answer your aims.	24/10/25			
5	Collect and analyse primary research for at least 1 aim.	05/12/25			
6	Collect and analyse secondary research for your aims.	23/01/26			
7	Collect and analyse data to answer your aims.	23/01/26			
8	Reference the sources you use to collect secondary research and data ( 6 & 7 above).	23/01/26			
7	Summarise your findings against your aims and objectives ( there should be 3 in total) using evidence to support your findings.	23/01/26			
8	Conclude on each aim.	06/02/26			
9	Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your enquiry	20/02/26			
10	Reflect on your performance and skill development.	20/02/26			
11	Include a Bibliography with RURI assessing how reliable the sources used are.	20/02/26			

**1<sup>st</sup> Draft Deadline = Friday 20/02/26**

**Final Draft Deadline = Monday 23/03/26**

Lunchtime support every Wednesday in N11.

Any questions please e-mail me on [Bethan.Taylor@WMS.Schools.edu.org.uk](mailto:Bethan.Taylor@WMS.Schools.edu.org.uk)



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# More Able & Talented

## Mr Ball & Mrs Taylor



## What does it mean to achieve at least 5 A\*/A grades?

- Places you in the top 19.2% of learners in the whole of Wales.
- It will determine the further education course you take
- It is used as a predictor for A level results e.g. 5 A\*/A grades could be predicted as CCD at A level while 10 A\*/A grade could suggest AAA.



## What does it mean to achieve at least 5 A\*/A grades?

- **Medicine** – competitive courses may ask for top GCSEs across the board for English, maths and science subjects.
- **Social work and teaching**
- **Nursing & Midwifery**



## How will we **support** you to get there?

- Subject masterclasses aimed at top grades
- Raising aspirations with external speakers
- Seren Academy
- Early entry for some GCSEs
- Additional qualifications