Sandy Secondary School

Parents in Partnership

Year 11

What to Expect Evening

2026/2027

A year of Hard Work, Opportunity and Choices

Aims of this Evening

1. Introduce key staff who will be part of this journey
2. Why Year 11 matters
3. Why GCSEs matter
4. Next steps
5. What is different
6. Academic expectations
7. How parents can support
8. Revision hints and tips – breakout in the cafe

Introducing our Leadership Team…

Miss K Hayward
Executive Principal
Greensand Federation

Mr A Rutter
Head of Sandy Secondary School

Empowering Our Students to Shine

Introducing our Leadership Team…

Mrs. L Cross

Vice Principal

Quality of Education - Teaching and Learning

Mr. G Millard

Vice Principal

Culture, Behaviour and Inclusion

Mrs. T Hinson

Vice Principal

Quality of Education Student Achievement

Empowering Our Students to Shine

Introducing our Leadership Team…

Ms N Asante-Ansong
Assistant Principal
Quality of Education –Year 11

Mr G McAdam
Assistant Principal
Courage and Excellence

Mr W Levesley
Head of Sixth Form/Associate Assistant Principal

Mrs Broughton
Assistant Principal
Determination and Inspiration

Mrs L Clifton
SLT Secondment
AIM High Lead

Empowering Our Students to Shine

Support for YOU…

COURAGE

Miss Frankland and Mrs James
House of Courage

EXCELLENCE

Miss Langdale and Mrs Tyler
House of Excellence

DETERMINATION

Miss Rixon and Mrs Buckley
House of Determination

INSPIRATION

Miss Miller and Mrs Tuffin
House of Inspiration

Empowering Our Students to Shine

Support for YOU…

Pastoral, Safeguarding and Welfare Officer

Mrs Ford

Behaviour Support Worker

Mrs T Harris

Attendance Team

Miss Katie Elder

Ms Joanne Phillips

Empowering Our Students to Shine

SEND Support...

- Students with additional needs or barriers to their learning may be supported by our **SEND team**.
- Our SEND team comprises of a highly specialised team of teaching assistants and is led by our **SENCO- Mrs H Smith** and the **Assistant SENCO- Mrs A Alderton**.
- The SEND team works closely with parents/carers and with external agencies to ensure that the right support is provided to help your child succeed.
- We also have a bespoke Cognition and Learning provision for students, which is overseen by **Dr A Cook**.

Mrs H. Smith
SENCO

Mrs A. Alderton
Assistant SENCO

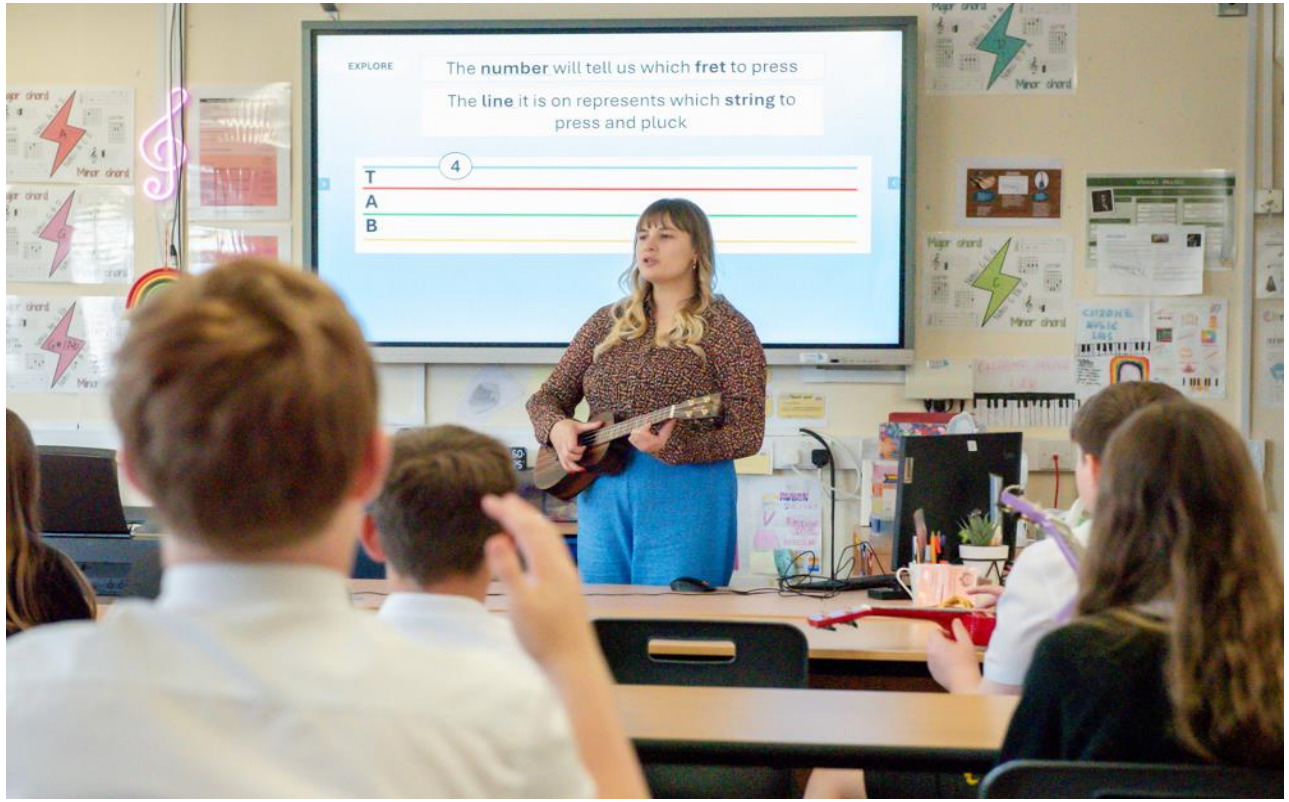
Dr A. Cook
Cognition and Learning Lead

Supporting Your Child in School…

Form Tutors

The Form Tutor plays an integral role in supporting the academic and pastoral needs of our students and will provide them with a familiar face each day…

- To act as a point of contact for parents.
- To monitor students' academic progress.
- To provide ongoing and regular support and guidance for students.
- To monitor standards of attendance, behaviour and uniform
- To deliver the Personal Development (PSHE) and careers curriculum.



Empowering Our Students to Shine

The Year 11 Achievement Team

Mrs Hinson

Vice Principal

Quality of Education

Student Achievement

Ms Asante-Ansong

Assistant Principal

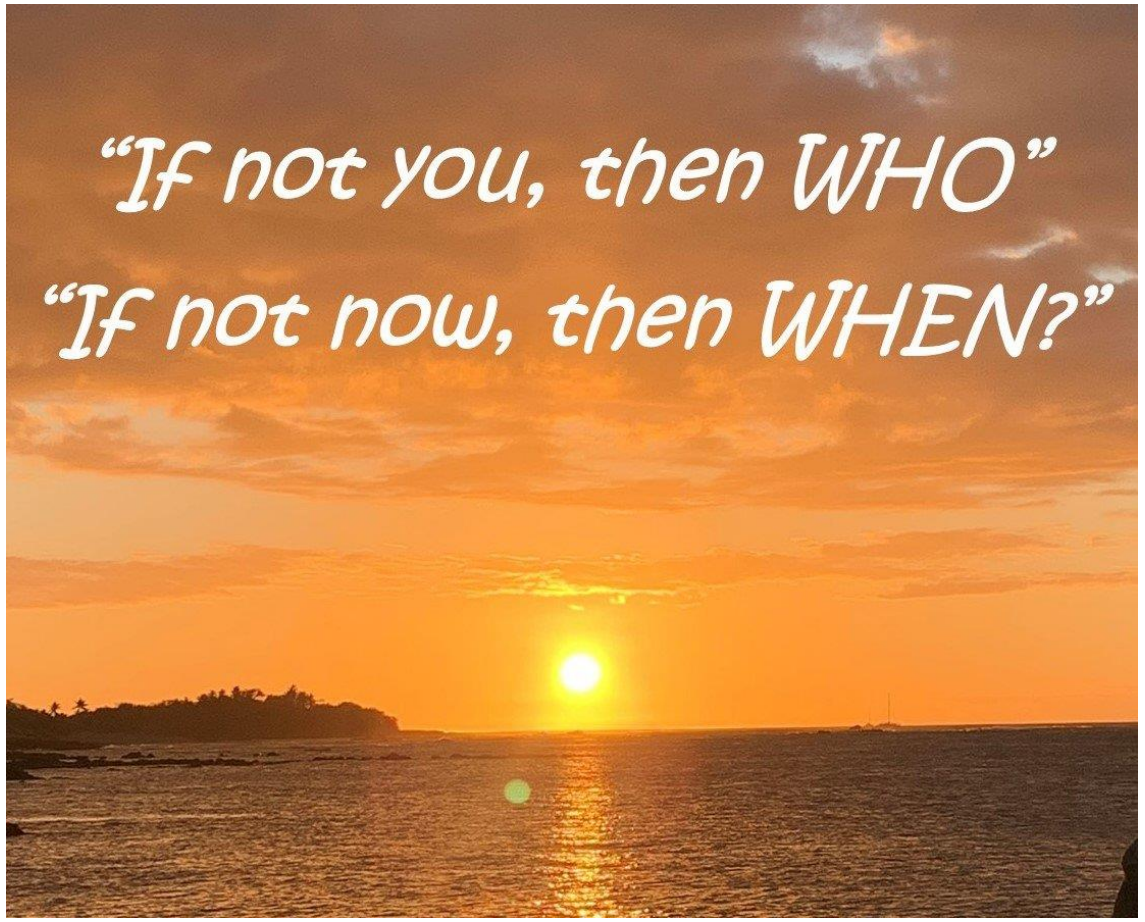
Quality of Education-Year 11

Achievement

Year 11 matters

Year 11 is a very special year

- The last compulsory year of schooling
- Culmination of 11 years of study and effort
- GCSE examinations
- Stepping stone to sixth form, college, apprenticeship
- Setting up earnings for the future



Lifetime earnings are linked to GCSE grades

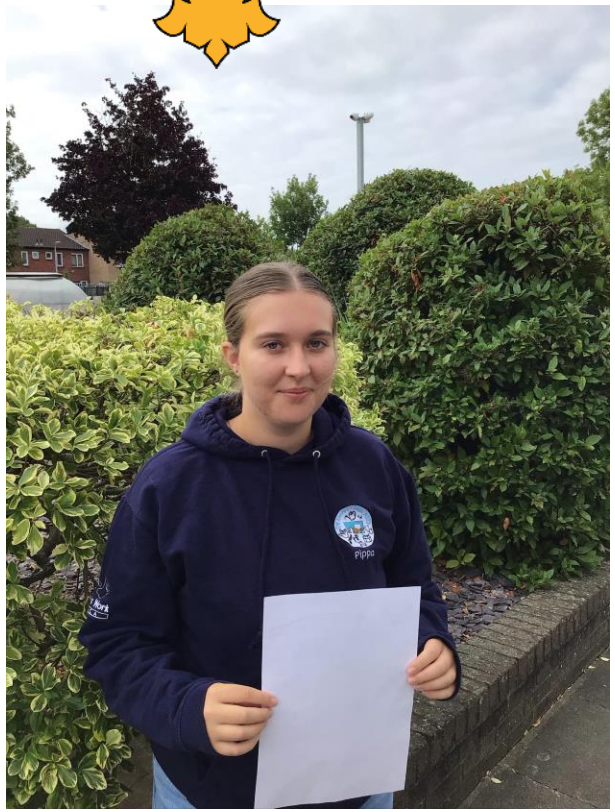
💡 Key Insights from UK Government Research

Grade Improvement	Lifetime Earnings Boost
One grade higher in one subject	**£23,000**
One grade higher across nine subjects	**£207,000**
Strongest subjects for returns	**Maths, English, Science**
Applies across all demographics	**Yes – consistent impact**

📊 *Based on analysis of 2M+ students using the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) dataset*

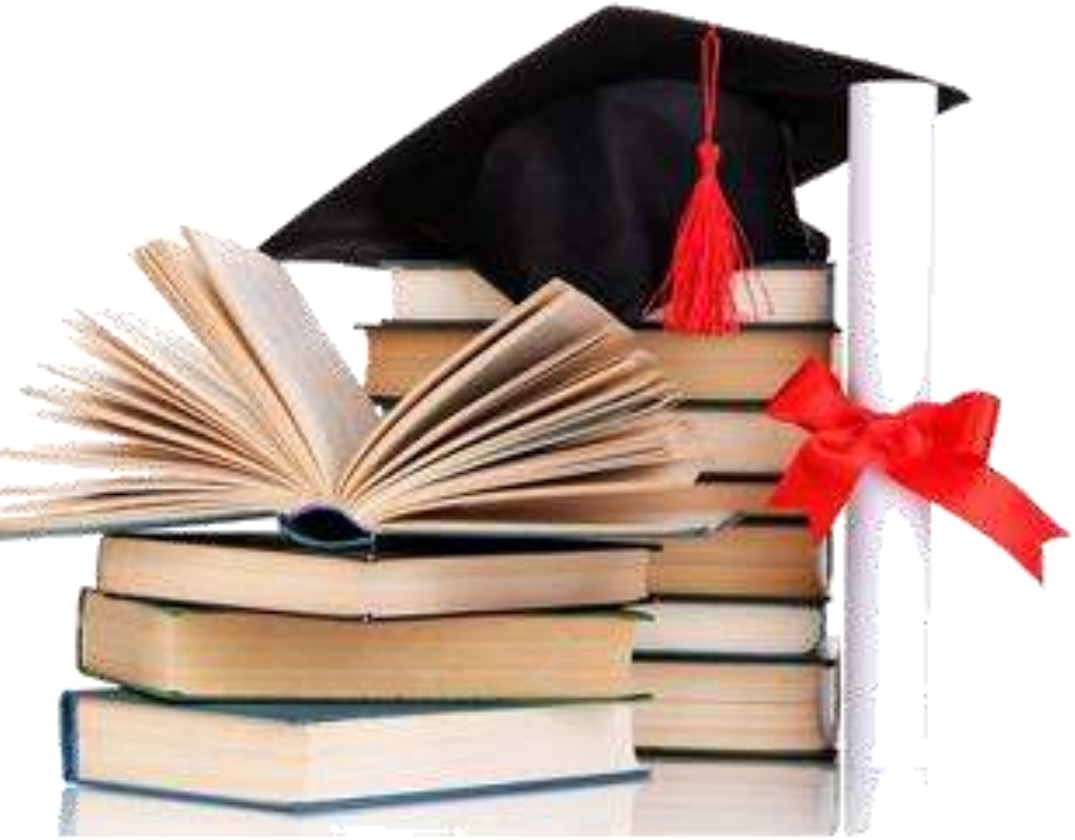
Sandy Secondary School

Achievements matter



"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

GCSEs matter



Qualifications…..

- Build powerful life skills
- Demonstrate skills
- Provide Plan B - the future isn't certain
- Satisfaction –

  "I gave it my best shot!"

Empowering our students to shine

Qualifications open doors and provide opportunities

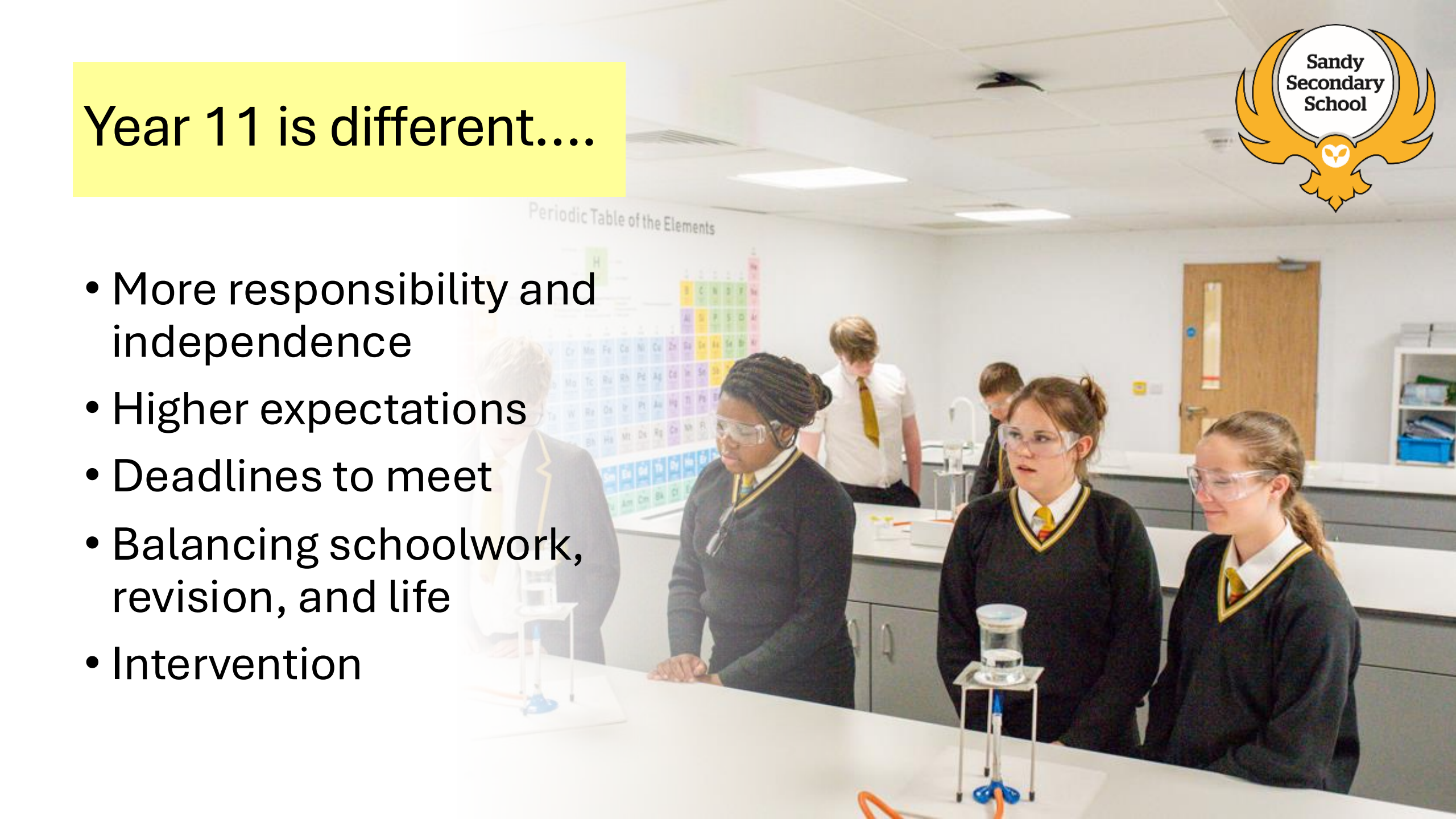
Empowering our students to shine

We expect....

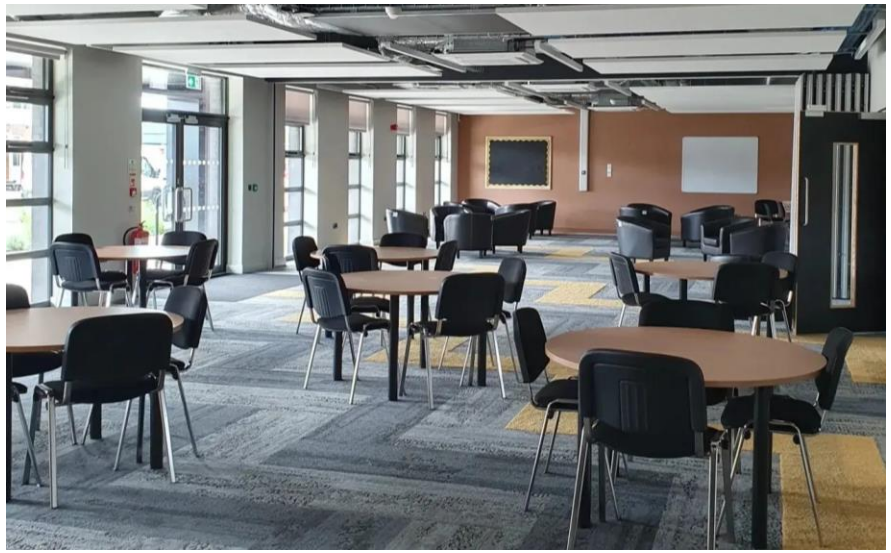
- Effort
- Attitude
- Behaviour for learning
- Attendance and punctuality
- Deadlines met

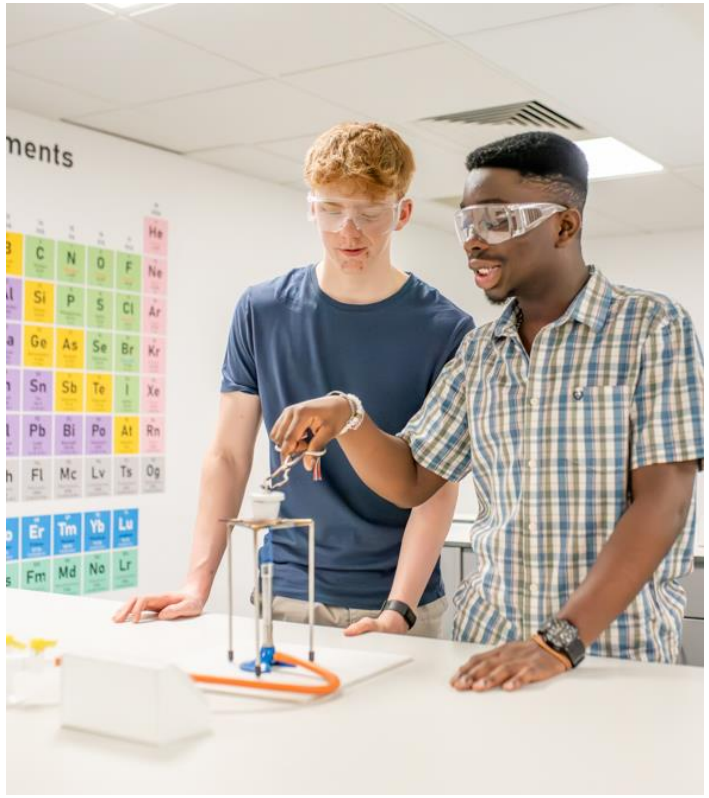
Year 11 is different....

- More responsibility and independence
- Higher expectations
- Deadlines to meet
- Balancing schoolwork, revision, and life
- Intervention



Next Steps



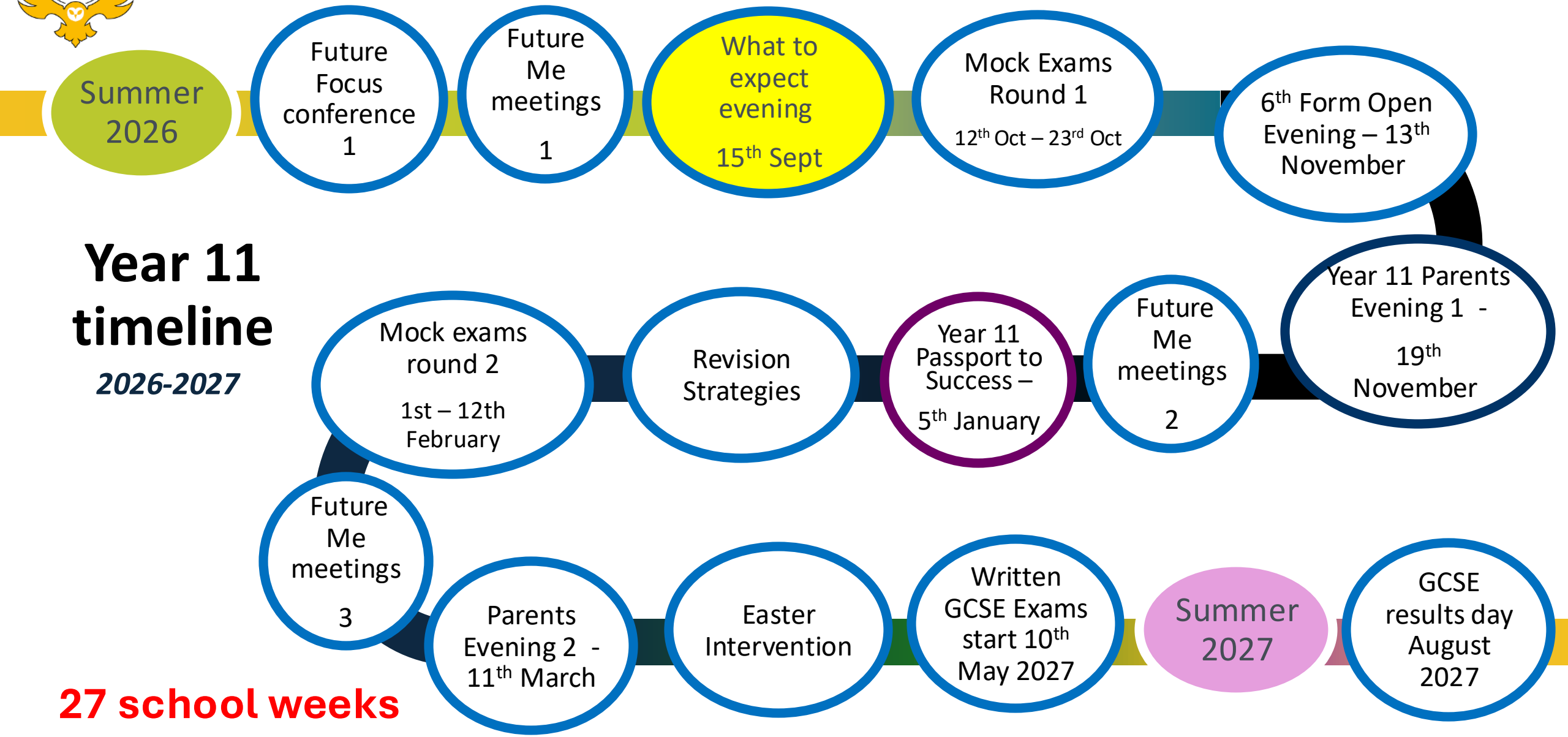


- Sixth Form – A Levels
- College – vocational courses
- Apprenticeships

Sixth Form Options – 13th November

Year 11 timeline

2026-2027



27 school weeks

132 school days

Academic Support

- Quality first teaching
- Past papers
- Revision resources
- Form time intervention
- After school intervention TBC

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Science Geography	Maths Further Maths Media Studies French Spanish Drama History	English Media Studies ICT Physical Education	Sociology (1 x 2hr session per half term)	Further Maths Hospitality & Catering Psychology

Future Proof Programme 2026/2027

- **Future Focus conference** — **4th September** – year 10 exam reflection
- **Future Me Meetings** — **September 2026** – to review year 10 and set academic and career targets
  November 2026 – to review Mocks1
  March 2027 – to review Mocks 2
- **Parents in Partnership** — **September 2026** – What to expect
  January 2027 – Revision Strategies
- **Study Six** — **Form time programme**

School and Parents in Partnership

"Parental engagement in ***supporting learning in the home*** remains the **single most positive influence** on student achievement".

"Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class" **Times Education Supplement (TES)**

Parental input is not simply about being interested, it is about being actively involved.

Your involvement during this crucial time can make an enormous difference – the difference between success and failure, or between a grade 4 and 5 and a grade 8 and 9.

Tonight is the first step on our Year 11 PARTNERSHIP

Parents in partnership

- Regular contact with parents
- **Future Me -** targets sent home
- Parents' Evenings
- Revision and study support
- Reports
- Letters emailed home
- An up-to-date website
- Facebook posts
- SLT surgery
- **Achievement Matters** Newsletter

Parents/ carers can…

- Support with the completion of homework
- Support attendance – at school & intervention
- Encourage early revision rather than last minute (or not at all!).
  - Helping to remove stress
  - Helping retention of information
- Work with their children to ensure a healthy work-life balance
- Reach out to school if you detect a shift in your child's attitude to school

Parental engagement is a powerful lever for raising achievement in schools. When parents and teachers work together to improve learning, the gains in achievement are significant.

Do Parents Know they Matter (Harris & Goodall/University of Warwick 2007)

Attendance

- EVERYDAY COUNTS!

- In terms of GCSE performance:

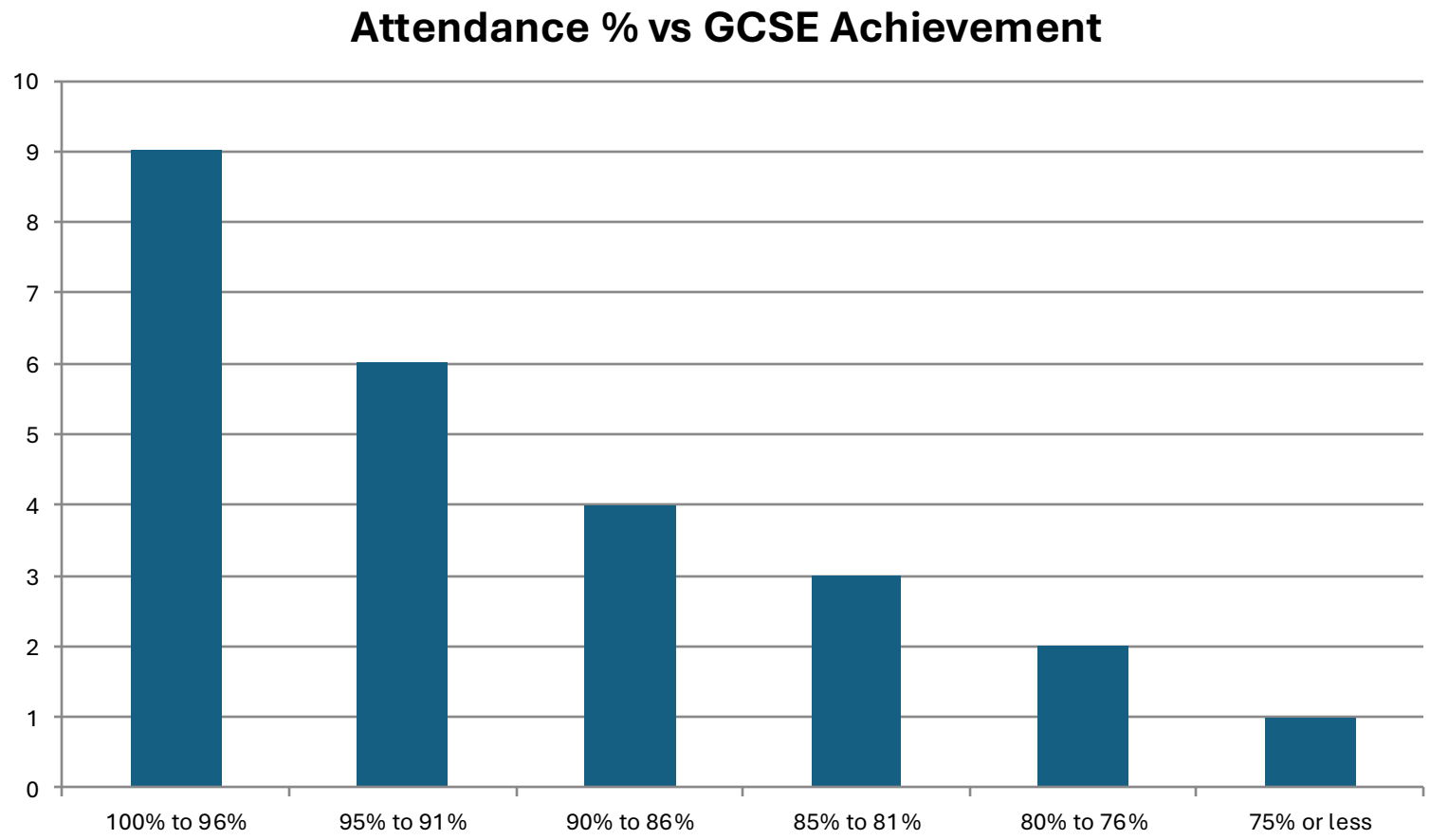
- 88% attendance (23 absent days over the year) and below only have 26.7% chance of gaining 5 grades at 5 or above.

- <95% Attendance is likely to cost you a grade.

- <90% attendance will almost certainly cost you two grades.

How can Parents/Carers Support?

- Ensure **100% Attendance.**



Only 96%+ supports 9 GCSEs at grade 5 to 9

Sandy Secondary School

Parent Portal

ATTENDANCE

View records, report absences, and understand our school's policy.

ADMISSIONS

Begin your child's enrollment journey with our school.

CALENDAR

Stay updated with school events, key dates, and milestones.

CAREERS

Explore and navigate the myriad of post-school career options.

CURRICULUM

Discover the subjects, topics, and educational philosophy driving their success.

CLUBS & ENRICHMENT

Explore the array of extracurricular activities.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Learn about this prestigious program, offering unparalleled opportunities for personal development, resilience, and

EXAMS

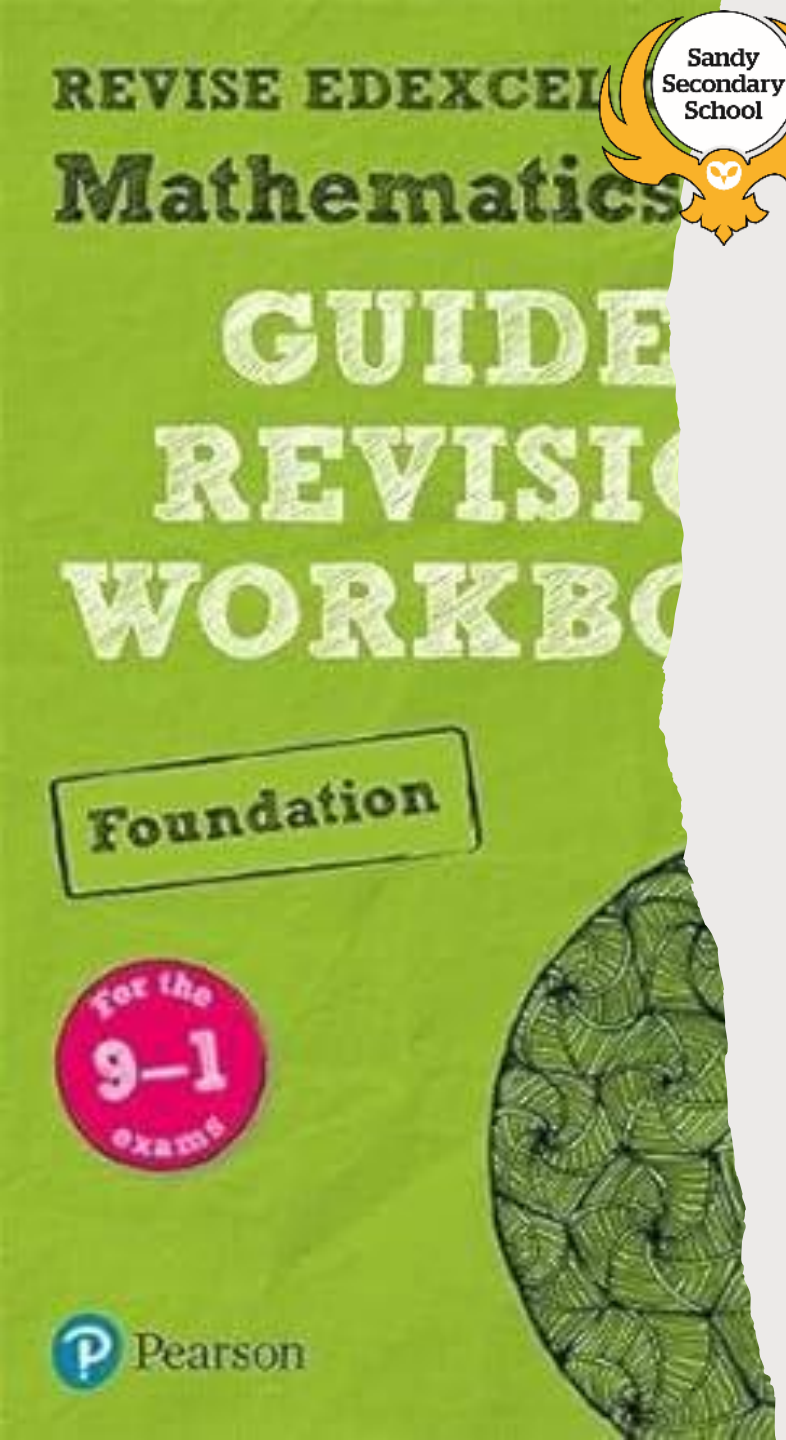
Explore the Exams section for insights on Sandy Secondary School's exam procedures.

LATEST NEWS

Stay updated with the latest happenings and milestones at Sandy Secondary School.

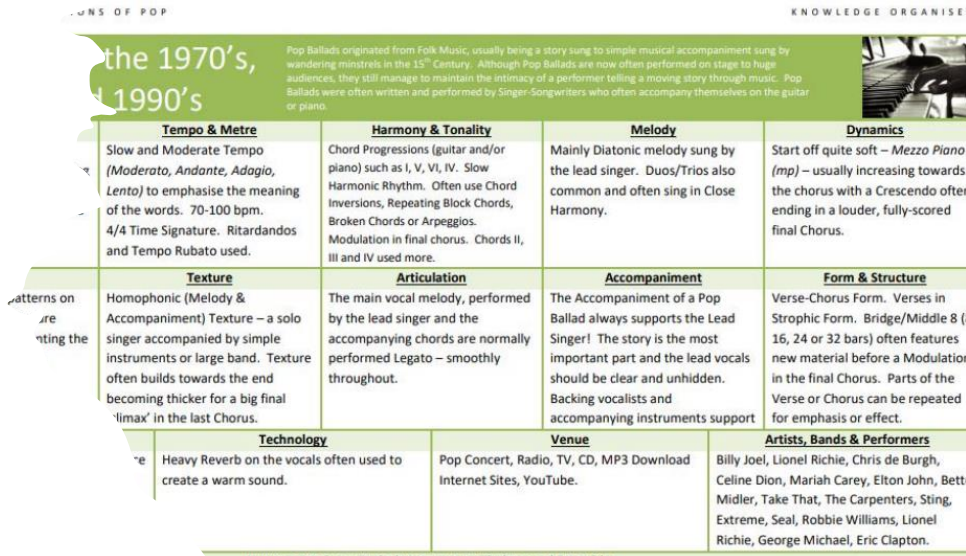
Revision guides

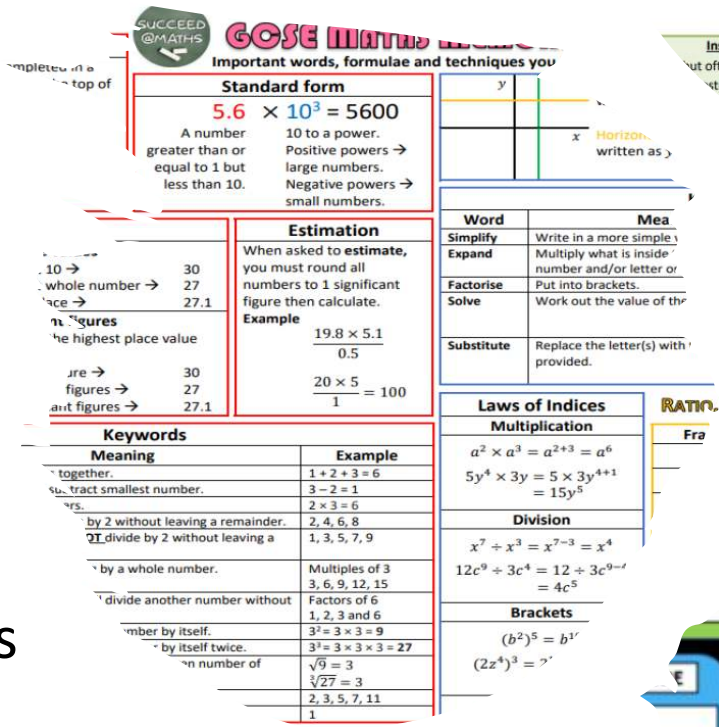
- Available to purchase from the school via ParentPay
- Students who are eligible for support through the Pupil Premium programme will receive revision guides using government funding.
- Speak to your class teachers for which revision guides you need/best for you.

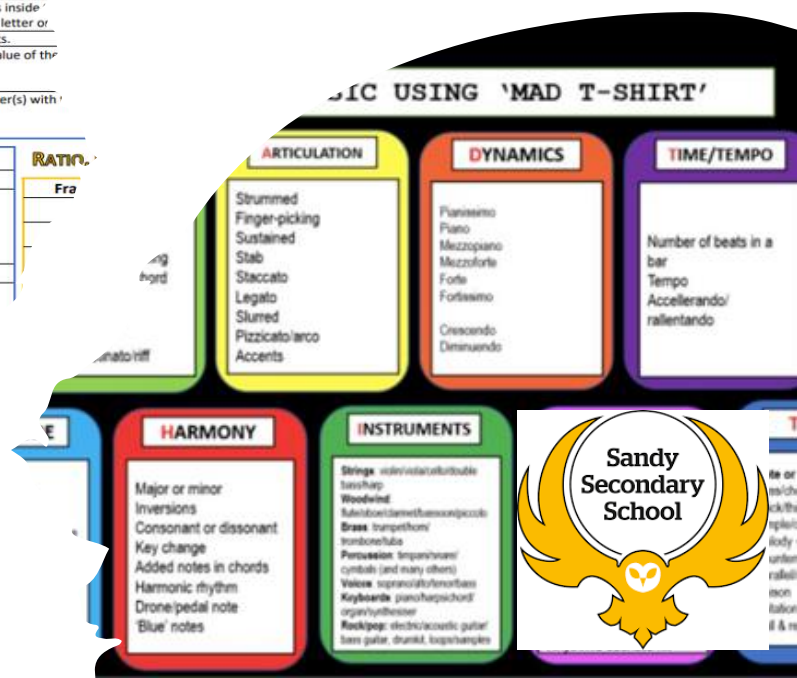


Active Learning

- Write revision notes on flash cards (question and answers).
- Draw spider diagrams – using pictures and colours.
- Use revision guides/apps/videos and websites – YouTube revision clips – but *just check this is specific to the examination board being followed*.
- Read notes aloud and walk about.
- Make up raps/rhymes/chants and songs.
- Record key points on your phone.
- Stick up posters and use Post-it notes
- Explain a topic to a friend or parent
- Write out notes again… and again







Don’t count the days…..

127 school days
635 lessons

It is not the number of days that matters but how you use them….

……make the days count!

It may sound obvious but start revising as soon as you can! It could be boring but the earlier you start, the less rush there'll be later. Val

Keep all your options open. Go to college and sixth form open days to make sure you're happ with your post Year 11 choice. Molly

Keep your focus. Zoe

Make sure you and your teacher have a good relationship. Ava

Revise now! Little and often. Pippa

Start revising earlier than you think you need to. Harry

Just lock in! Liam

Don’t be shy to ask questions about topics you don’t understand. Saskia

The beginning of the end…

The start of Year 11 provides opportunity and choice…

- The opportunity to build on what has gone before.
- The choice to continue as you are or to change direction and be different.
- The opportunity to dream big and to achieve those ambitions.
- The choice to settle or to work harder and achieve your potential.
- The opportunity to change the outcome and rewrite your story.

Sandy Secondary School

A year of **Hard Work**, **Opportunities**, and **Choices**