Sandy Secondary School

Parents in Partnership

Year 9

What to Expect Evening

2026

Three years of Hard Work, Opportunity and Choices

Aims of this evening

- Introduce key staff who will be part of this journey
- Why KS4 matters
- Why GCSEs matter
- What is different
- Academic expectations
- How parents can support
- Revision hints and tips

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

Teaching and Learning

Mr. G Millard

Vice Principal

Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development

Mrs. T Hinson

Vice Principal

Student Achievement

- ***Empowering Our Students to Shine***

Introducing our Leadership Team…

Mr W Levesley
Head of Sixth Form/Associate Assistant Principal

Mr G McAdam
Assistant Principal
Courage and Excellence

Mr C Brown
Associate Assistant Principal
Aspirational Provision (AP) Lead

Mrs Broughton
Assistant Principal
Determination and Inspiration

Mrs L Clifton
Associate Assistant Principal
Aim High

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 S Ford

Behaviour Support Worker

Mrs T Harris

Attendance Team

Miss Katie Elder

Ms Joanne Phillips

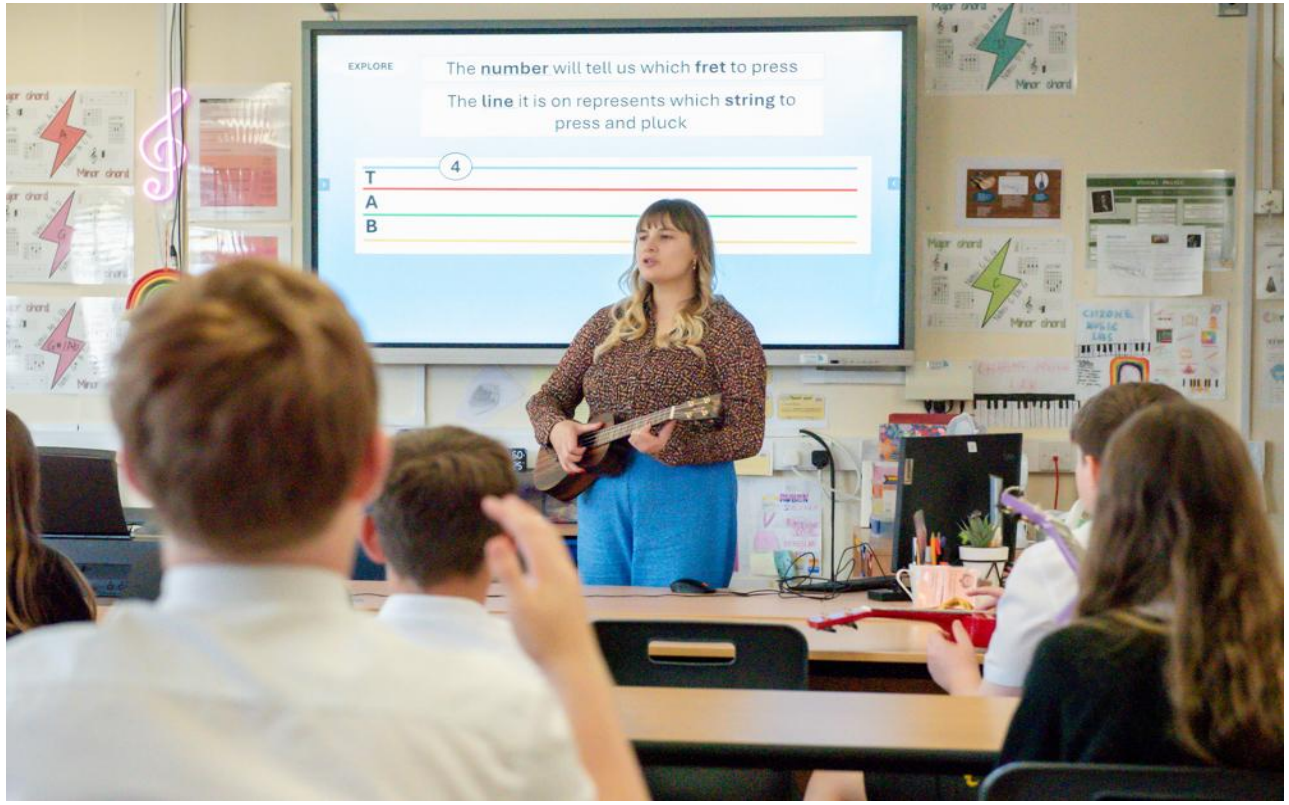
Empowering Our Students to Shine

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.



The KS4 Achievement Team

Mrs Hinson

Vice Principal

Quality of Education

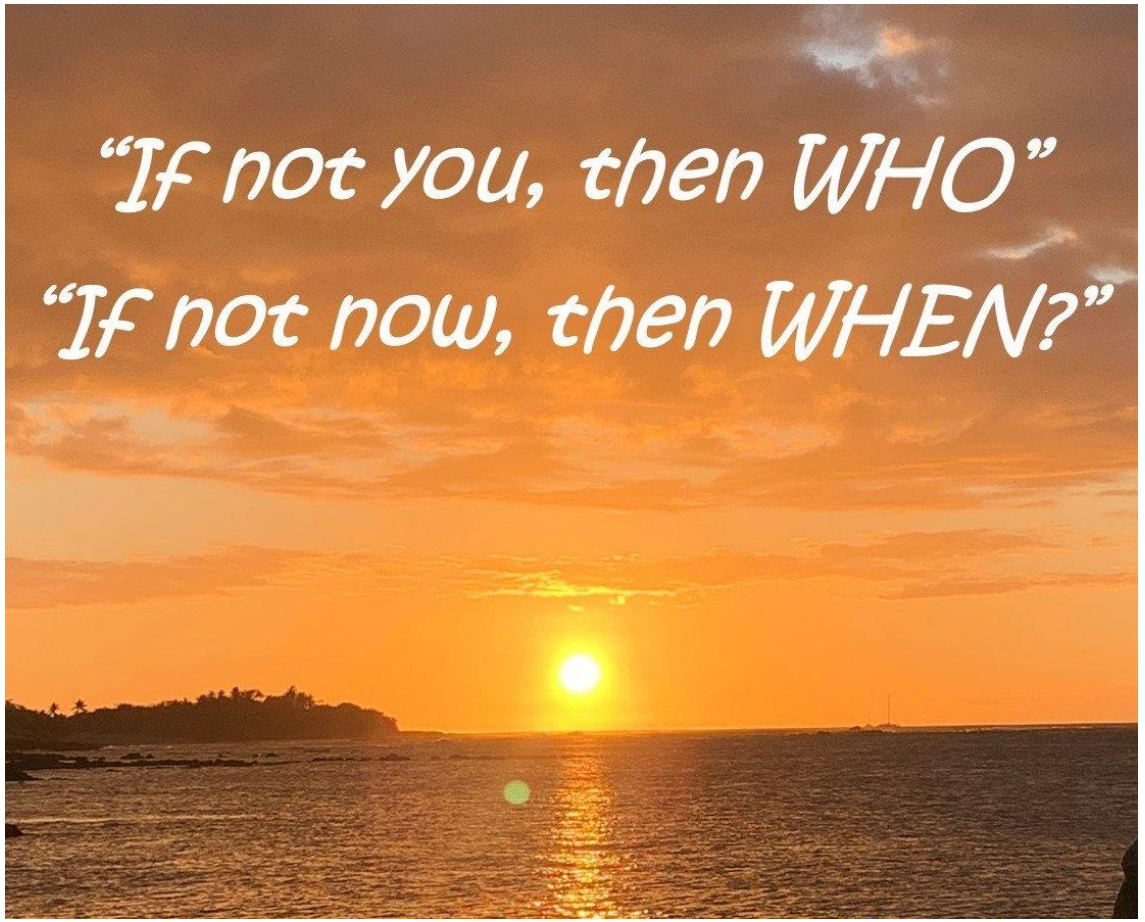
Mr Hutchins

Assistant Principal – Quality of Education: Year 9

KS4 matters - The GCSE years

Opportunity to develop new skills and knowledge

- The last 3 years of compulsory schooling
- Culmination of many 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*

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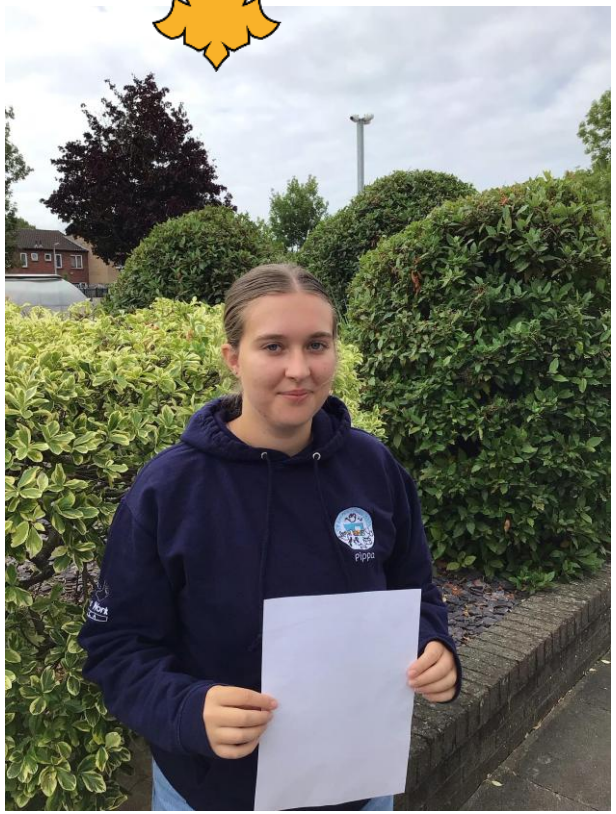
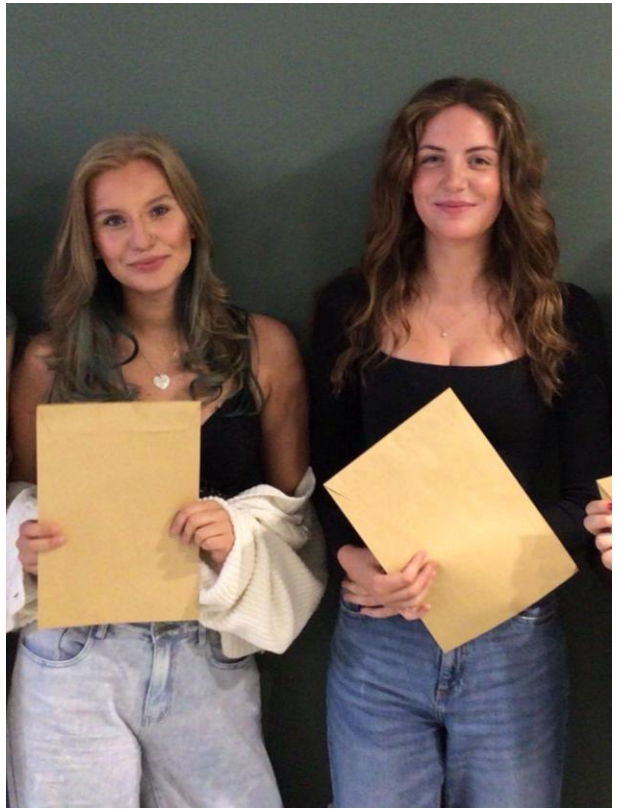
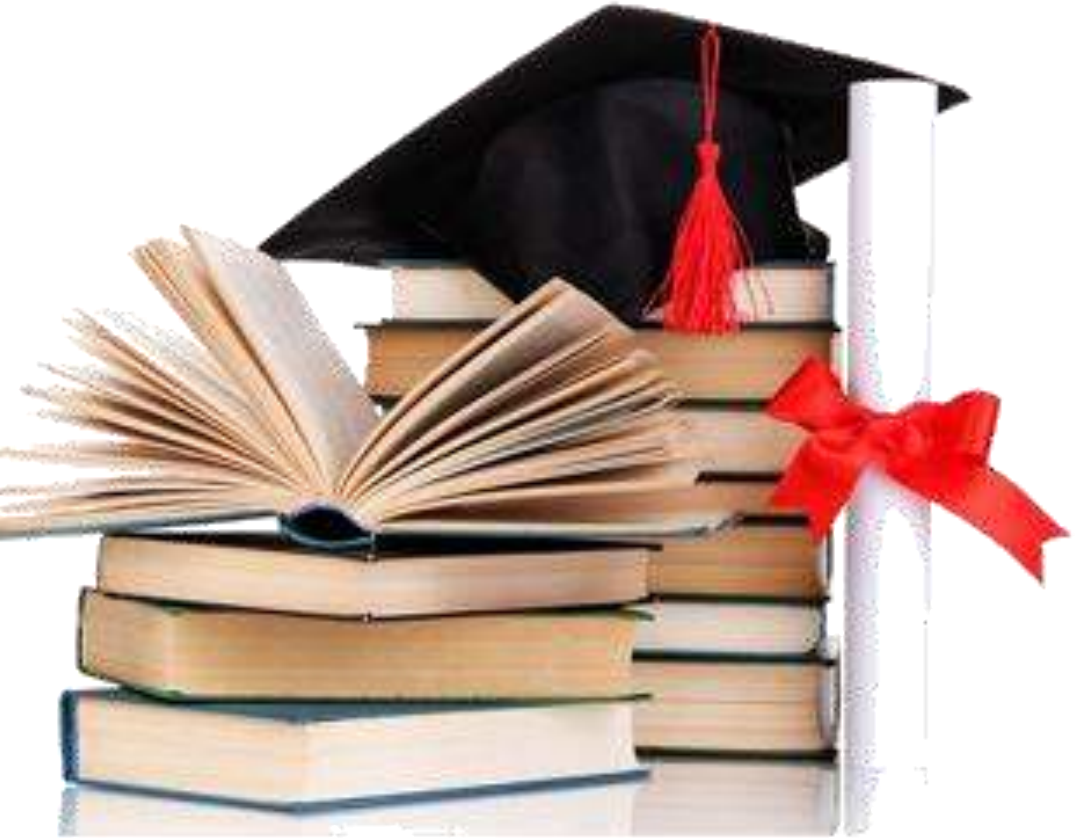
Achievements matter





Empowering our students to shine

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

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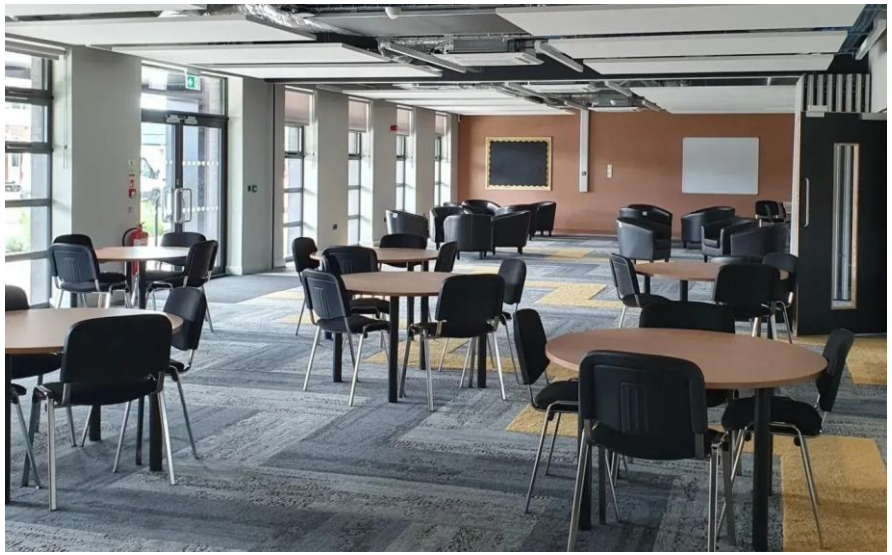
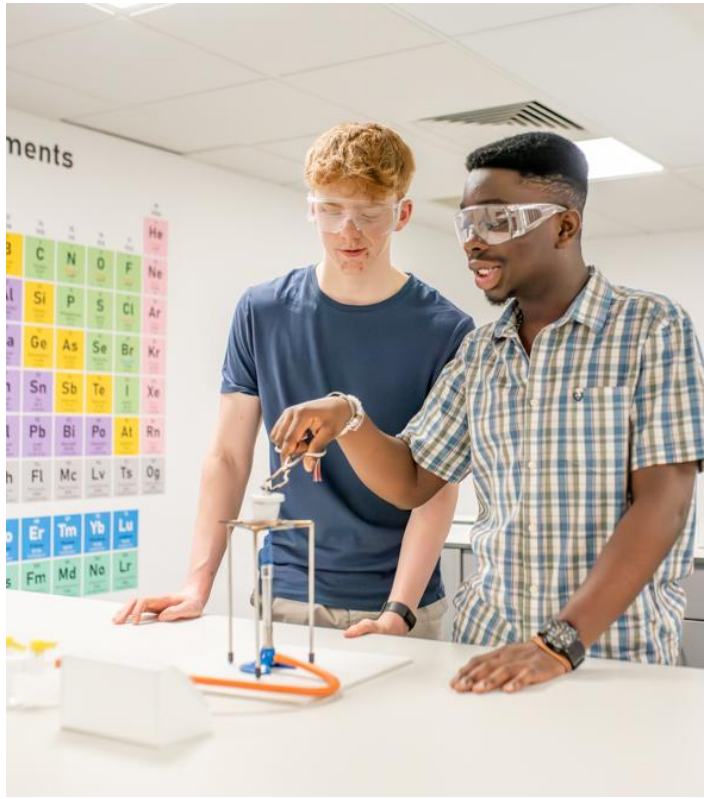
Qualifications open doors and provide opportunities

Empowering our students to shine

Next Steps





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

Key Dates

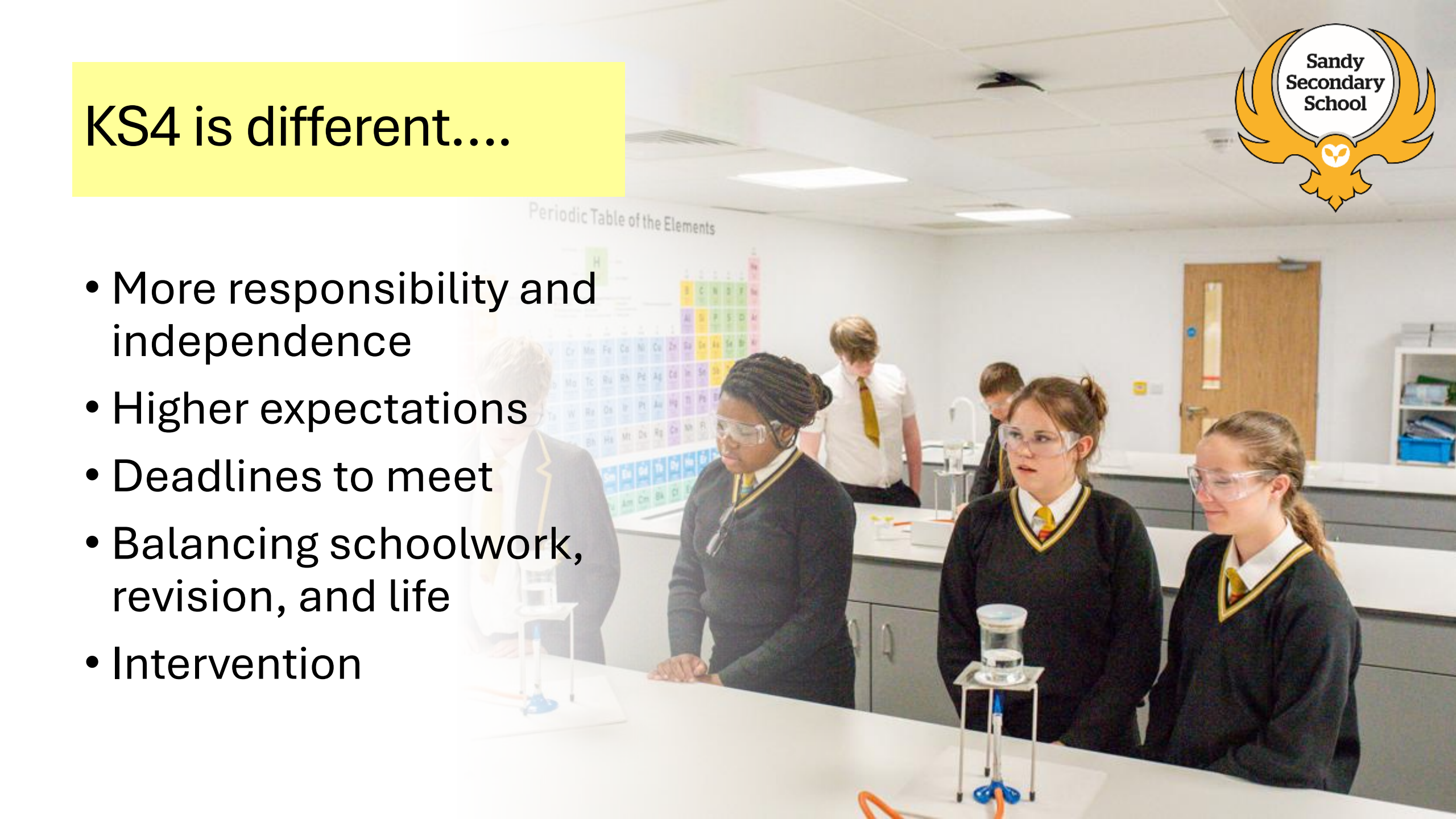
- 1st Oct Open Evening
- 22nd Oct 6th Form Open Evening
- 24th Nov PD Drop Down Day
- 10th Dec Yr 9-11 Reward Trips
- 21st Jan Yr 9 Data Drop
- **28th Jan Yr 9 Parents Evening**
- 18th Jun Yr 9 Data Drop

We expect....

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

KS4 is different....

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



KS4 Curriculum

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Intent (Years 9, 10 and 11)

In Years 9, 10 and 11 the aim is to provide students with the opportunity to study the core curriculum of the Ebacc subjects alongside four subjects of their own choosing. There is no restriction on the combination of subjects that the students can take and this allows them to specialise, where appropriate, to support a particular career path. Where no such career path is clear, students are guided to choosing a broad curriculum.

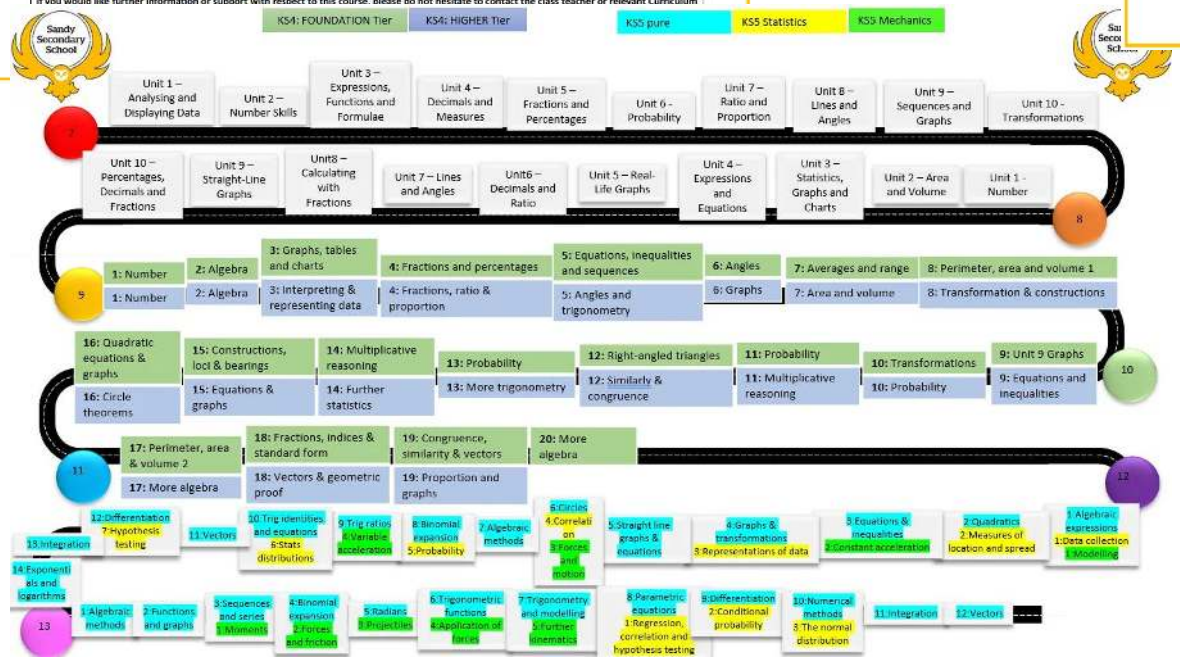
Where can I find the information about subjects?

Course Information Overview: Year 9 Maths **Term: 1**

Curriculum Leader: Miss Smith

Course Information	
What will students learn?	Students will study 8 topics. Fractions and Percentages, Probability, Standard Form, Inequalities, Quadratic Equations, Formulae, Constructions and Circles.
What home learning will be set?	Students will receive a tailored Sparx task each fortnight on a 2-topic delay to promote active recall of previous learning.
What assessments will be undertaken?	Students will complete 1 assessment, an end of term assessment looking at everything studied during the Autumn Term.
Useful links and resources to further support learning.	Sparx Maths - https://sparxmaths.com/

If you would like further information or support with respect to this course, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or relevant Curriculum



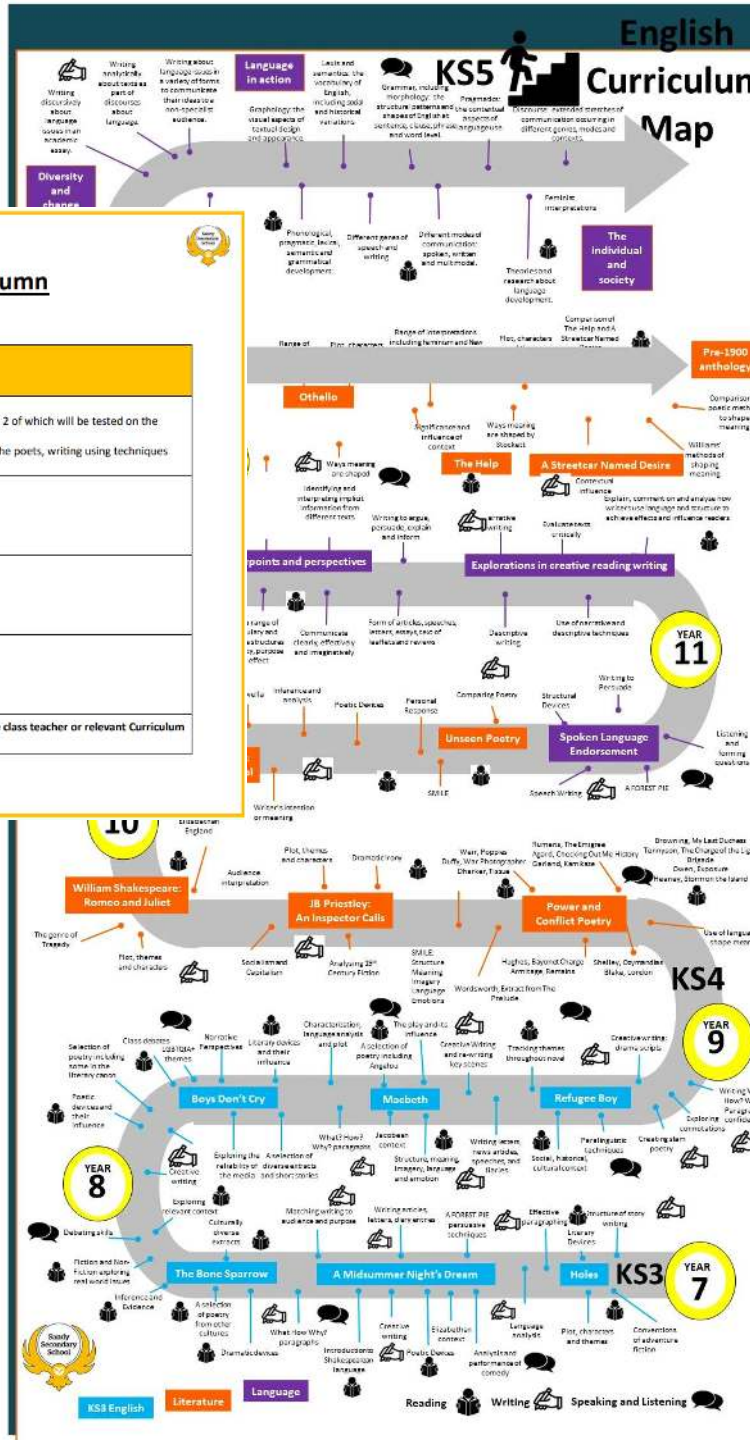
Course Information Overview: Year 9 **Term: Autumn**

Curriculum Leader: Miss Sumners

Course Information	
What will students learn?	GCSE English Literature course AQA Power and Conflict anthology – read, earn and analyse a collection of 15 poems, 2 of which will be tested on the exam. Students will need to learn; key poetry terminology, contextual information on the poets, writing using techniques and inference.
What home learning will be set?	Week A – Long writing exam task or exam quiz set on Edulink Week B – Sparx Reader task to complete.
What assessments will be undertaken?	Spelling age and Reading age tests Yellow box assessment half way through the teaching of the poems End of Unit assessment practice exam question
Useful links and resources to further support learning.	Full revision guide will be available on Edulink

If you would like further information or support with respect to this course, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or relevant Curriculum Leader using the following email: parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com.

Empowering Our Students to Shine



What is my child learning and when?

Course Information Overviews can be found on the school website for every subject. These outline what your child will be leaning each term, the home learning that will be set and what assessments they will undertake.

Teaching and Learning

- Home Learning is **compulsory at KS4** and will become sanctioned if incomplete.
- Home Learning at KS4 will require students to complete a variety of home learning tasks dependent on the subject. This could be knowledge retrieval quizzes, practice exam questions, creation of revision resources.
- Teachers will monitor completion, and <u>support will be put into place for those who are not completing it</u>. This will also allow teachers to check for any common misconceptions and address these in lessons.

Home Learning Updates
Key Stage 4 – Years 9-11

Compulsory
Sanctioned

Students set **compulsory** Home Learning on Edulink.

Students will be required to complete a variety of home learning tasks dependent on the subject. This could be knowledge retrieval quizzes, practice exam questions, creation of revision resources.

Students will be awarded achievement points for efforts in completion of home learning tasks.

Students will still have the opportunity to complete IKE+ for 5 achievement points.

Completed home learning will be assessed according to the Department policy- this could be a range of teacher, peer and self assessment.

If students miss their first home learning task, a one-to-one discussion will take place with the teacher to discuss any support that needs to be put into place.

If students do not complete for a second time, or are continually not completing their home learning, they will be given 3 behaviour points and a 30 minute after school detention for each missed piece of work.

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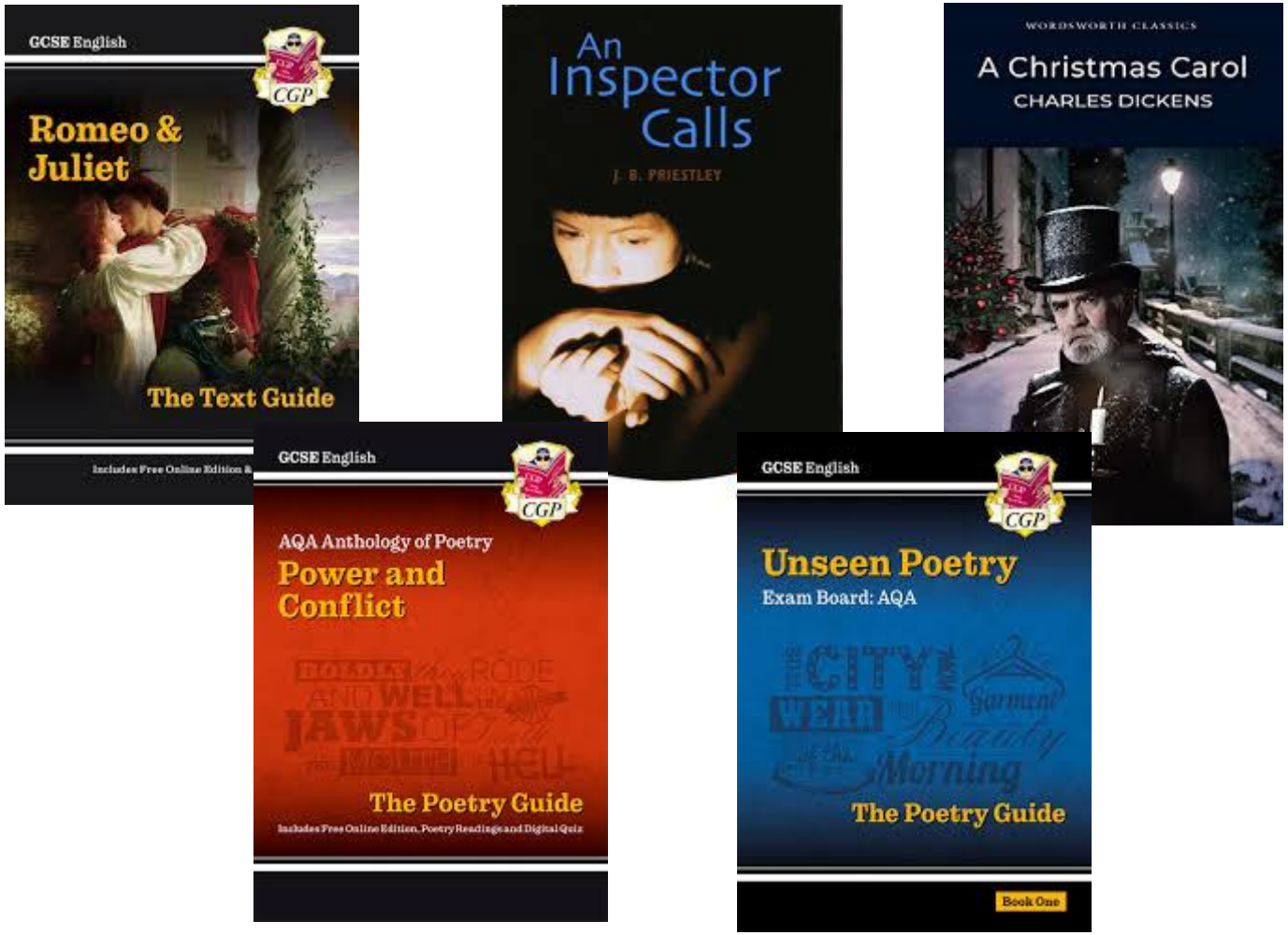
GCSE examinations

Summer Term 2027-28

- GCSE English Literature

Summer Term 2028-29

- GCSE English Language
- All other subjects



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 KS4 PARTNERSHIP

Parents in partnership

- Regular contact with parents
- Parents' Evenings
- Revision and study support evenings
- Reports
- Letters emailed home
- An up-to-date website
- Facebook posts
- SLT surgery
- Parent Forum
- **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)

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Attendance

- EVERYDAY COUNTS!

- In terms of GCSE performance:

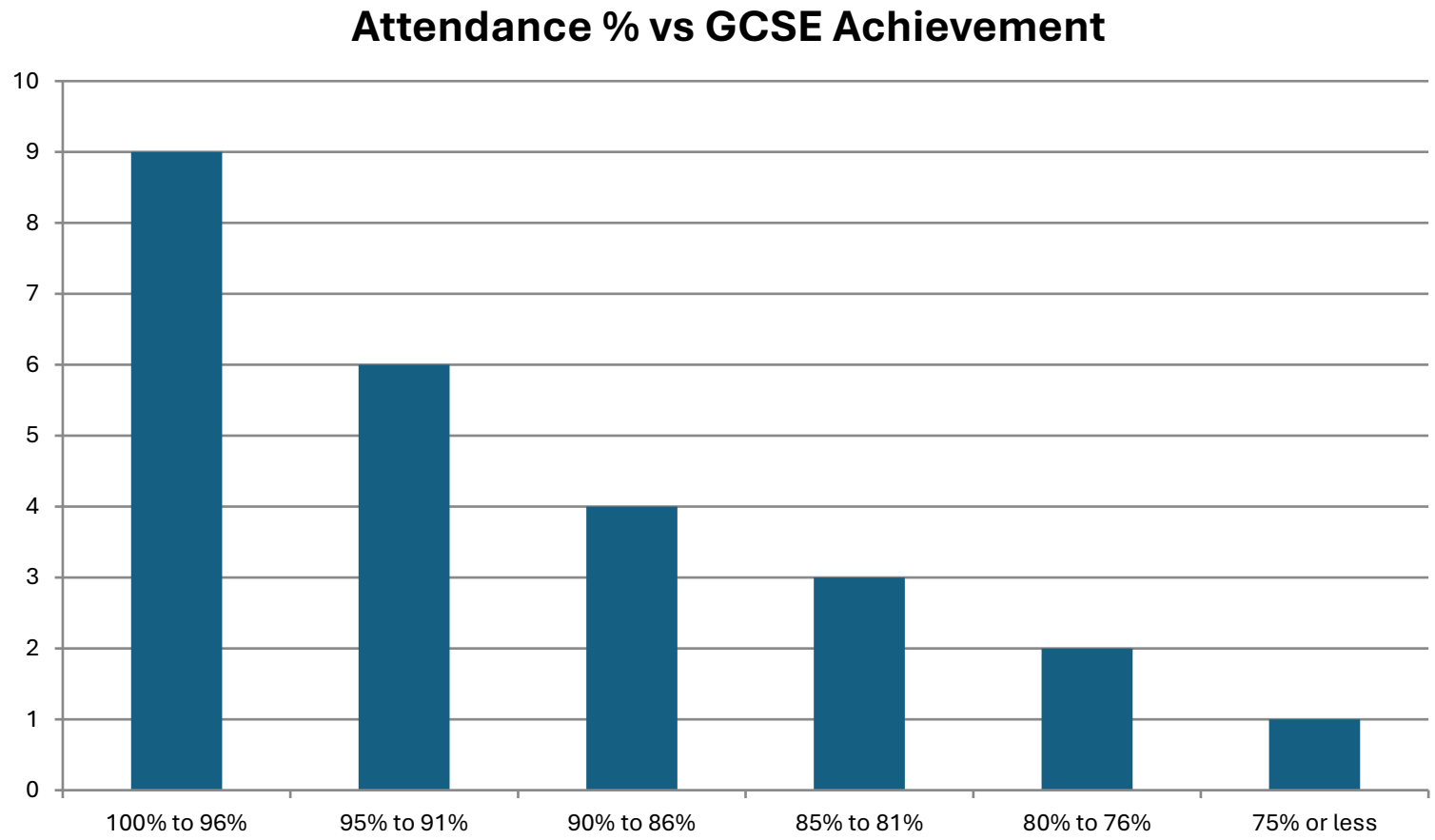
- 88% attendance (23 absent days over the year) and below only have 26.7% chance of gaining 5 grades at 5 or above.

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

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

How can Parents/Carers Support?

- Ensure **<u>100% Attendance.</u>**



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

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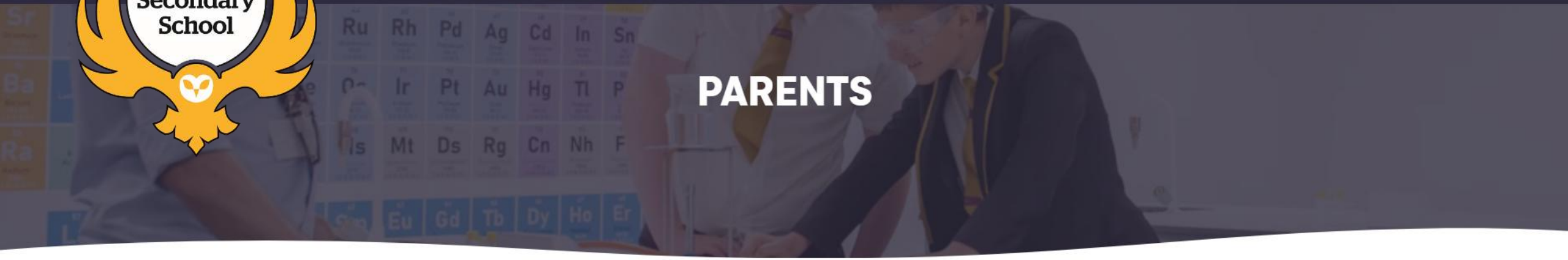


PARENTS

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

Admissions
Begin your child's enrollment journey with our school.

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

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

Clubs & Enrichment
Explore the array of extracurricular activities.

Duke Of Edinburgh
Learn about this prestigious program, offering unparalleled opportunities for personal development.

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.

Letters Home
Access important communications and updates directly from Sandy Secondary School.

Medical
Insights on first aid protocols and health practices.

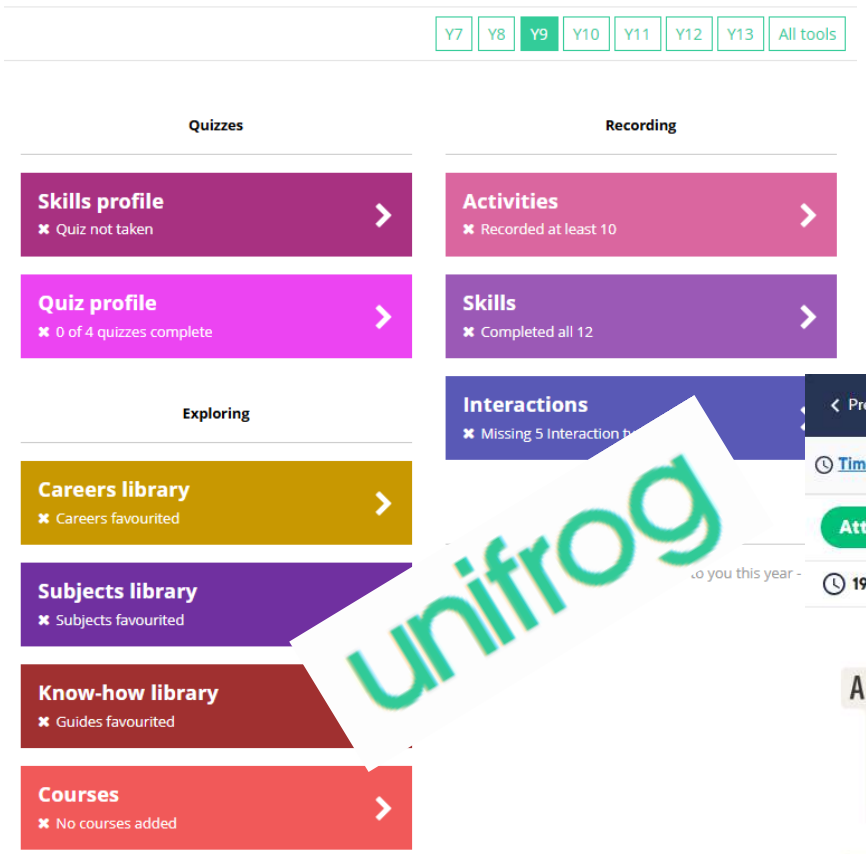
Parental Support
Resources and guidance tailored for parents, aiding in your child's successful journey.

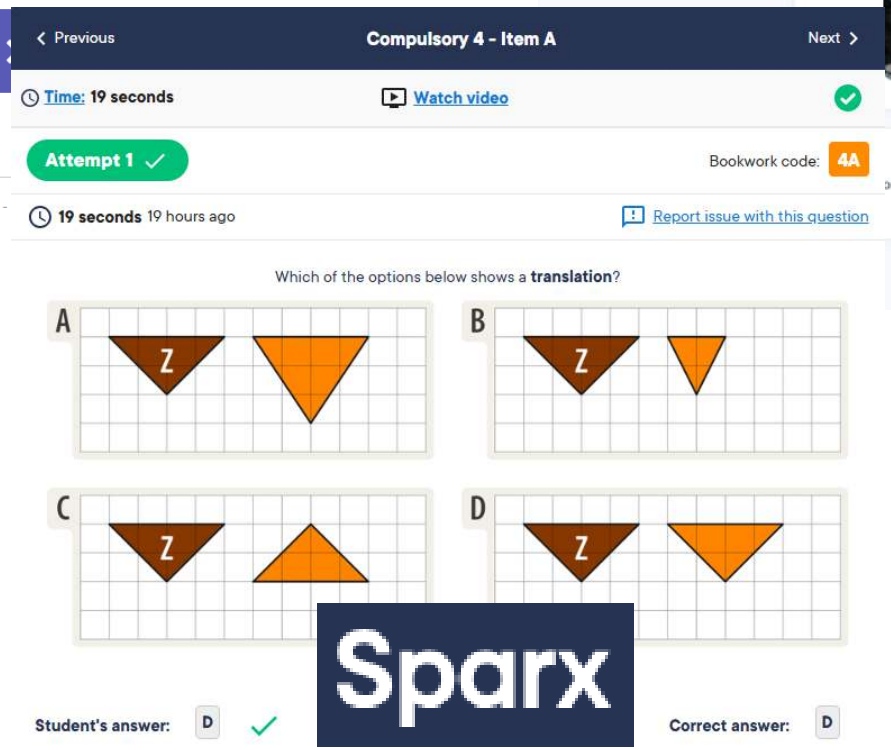
Parent Pay
Manage and oversee your child's school-related payments.

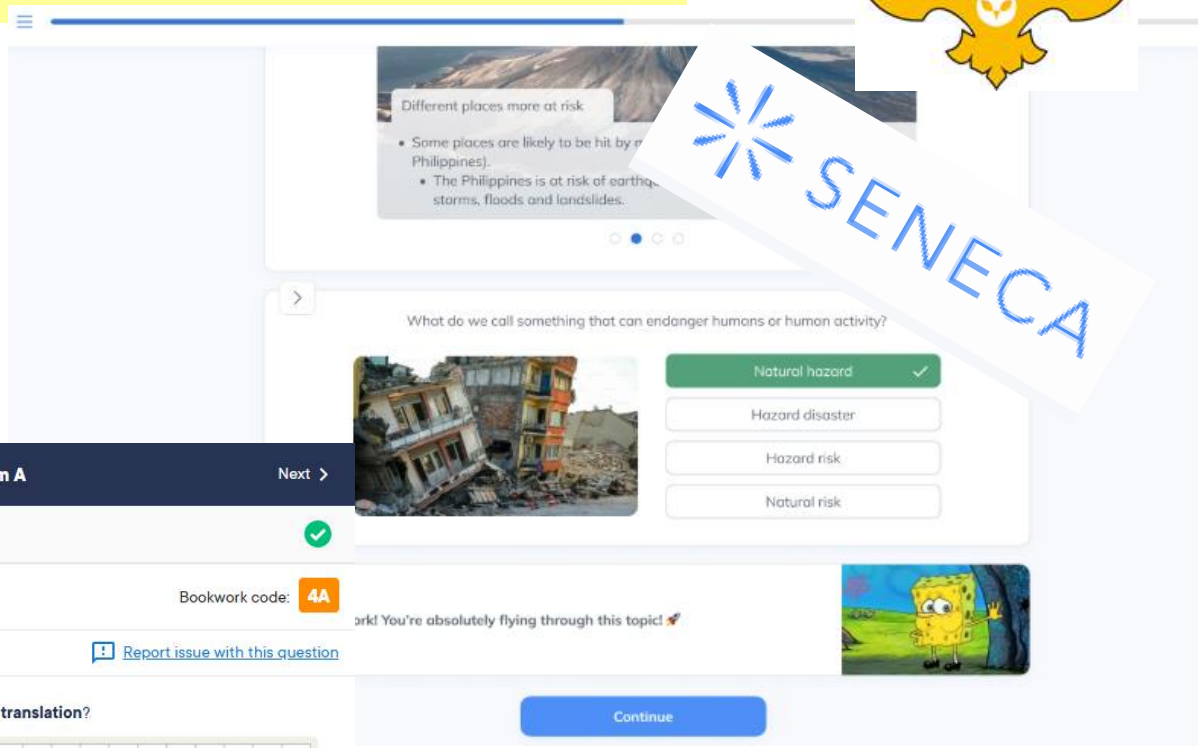
Prospectus
Capture a comprehensive glimpse of what Sandy Secondary School offers.

Report Absence
Report your child's absence.

Useful websites

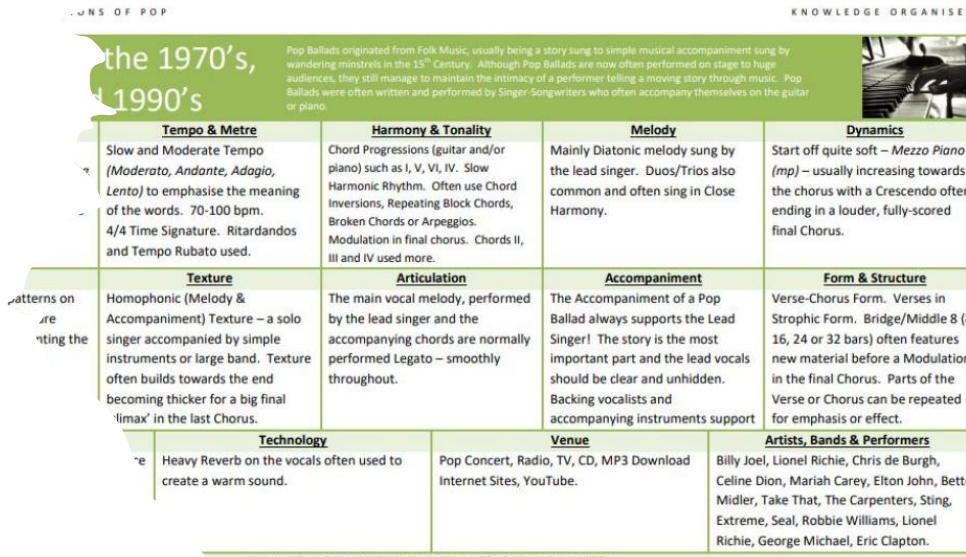


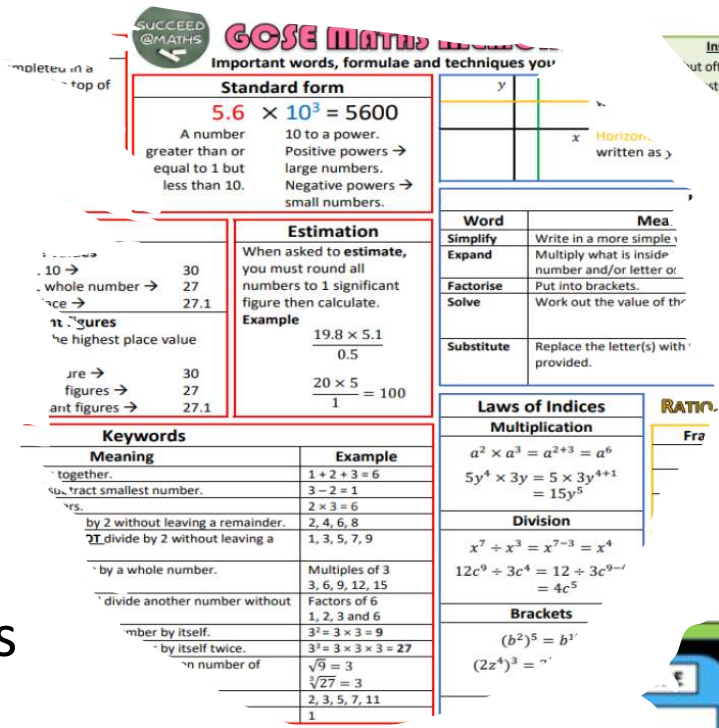


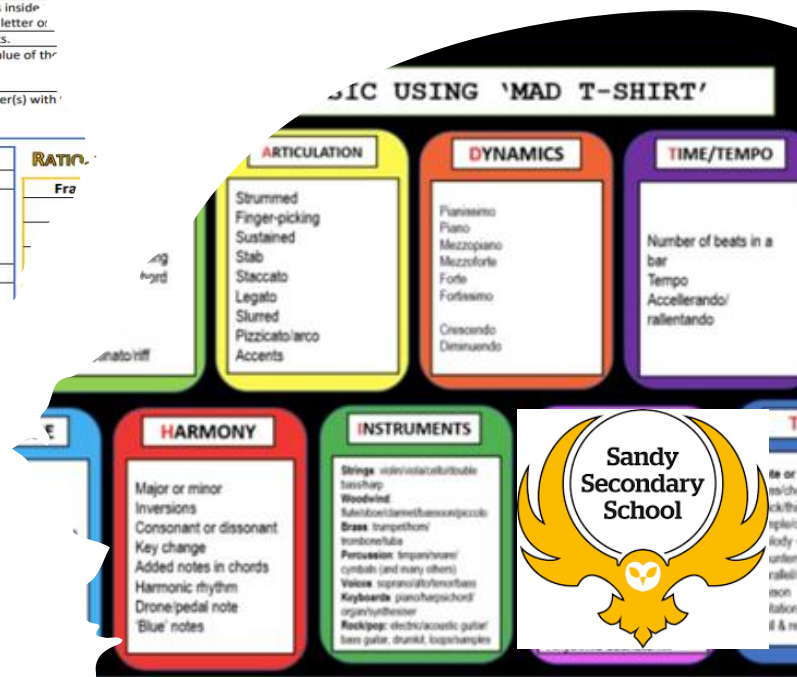


Active Learning

- 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

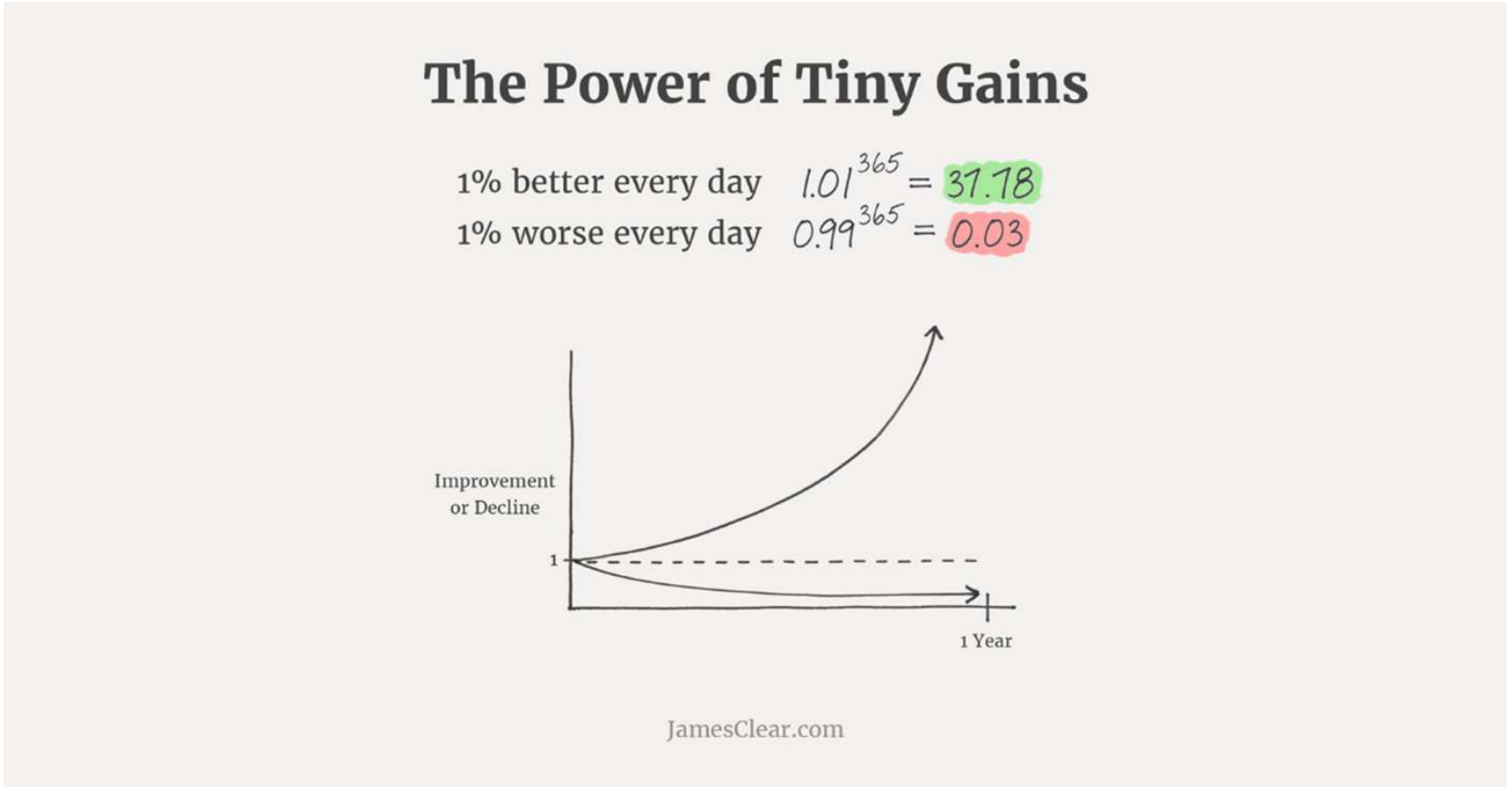






Don’t count the days…..

I challenge you to be 1% better every day



……make the days count!

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Three years of Hard work, Opportunities, and Choices