

**HIGHDOWN SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

Welcome to Year 10
Course Information Evening
2023



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Surley Row • Emmer Green • Reading • RG4 6LR
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KS4 COURSE INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

For September 2023



Highdown School, Reading, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, Company Number 07398941. Registered Office: Surley Row, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 6LR

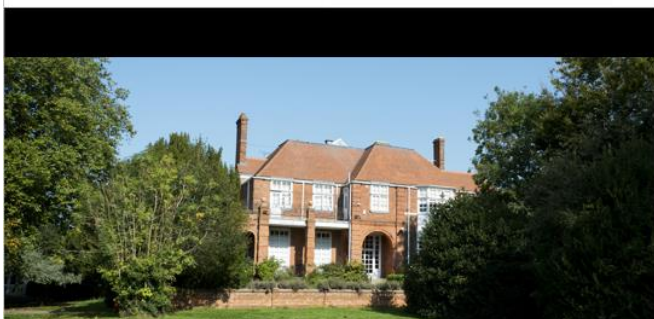


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Summer
2025

Today!

GRADING...

New grading structure	Old grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above



- The grade required for Sixth Form progression for many courses is very likely to be a 4 or 5 in 2025.
- Any student not achieving a grade 4 in English and/or Maths will be required to retake the qualification.



WHAT MAKES YOU SUCCESSFUL?

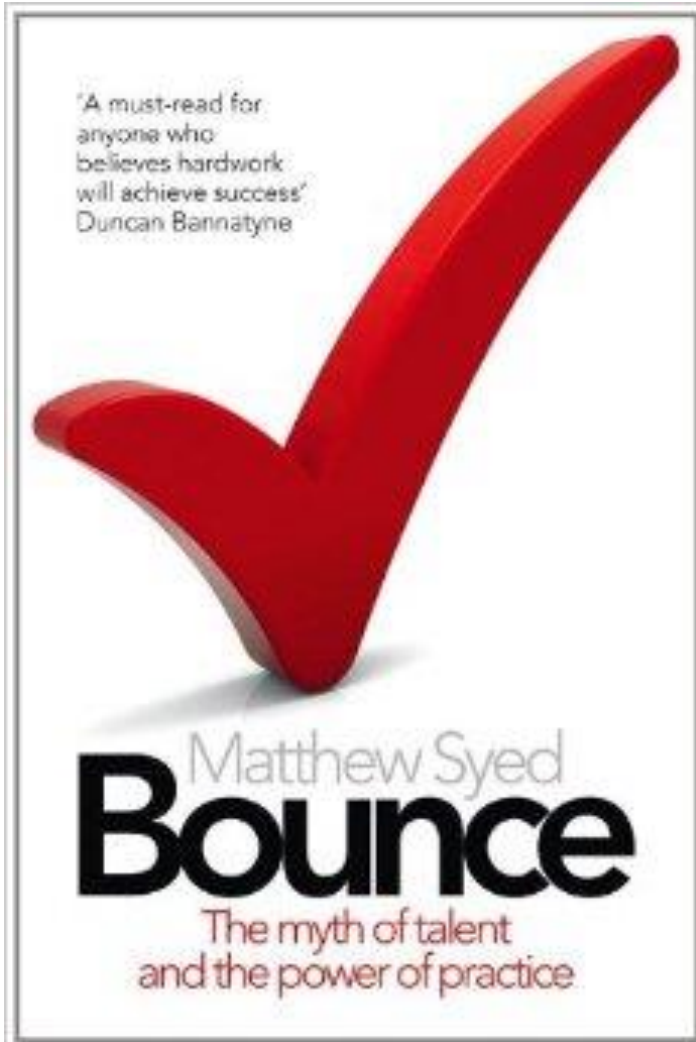


REVISING HARD?



EXAM PREPARATION?





HARD WORK?

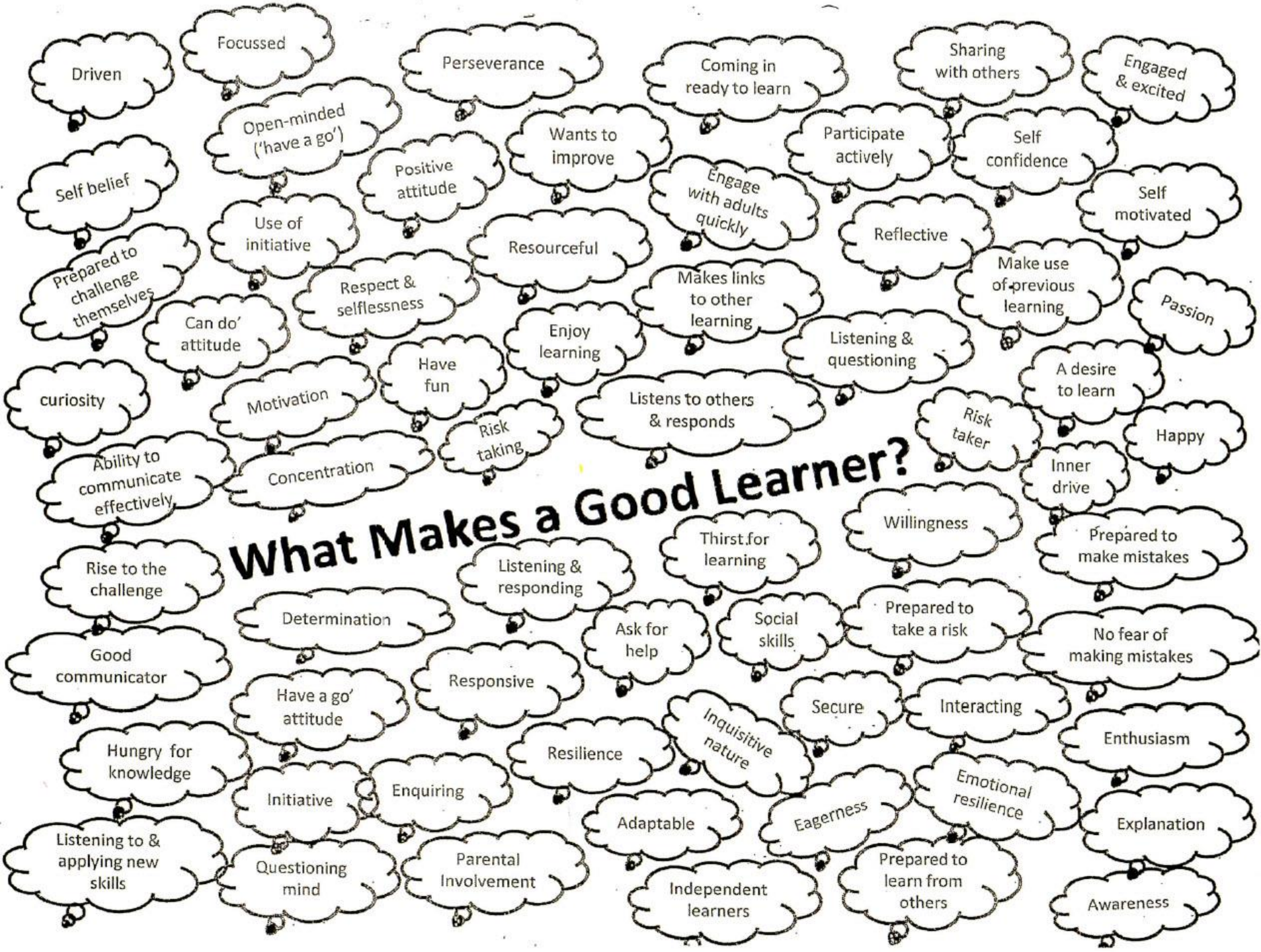



10 THINGS THAT REQUIRE ZERO TALENT

1. BEING ON TIME
2. WORK ETHIC
3. EFFORT
4. BODY LANGUAGE
5. ENERGY
6. ATTITUDE
7. PASSION
8. BEING COACHABLE
9. DOING EXTRA
10. BEING PREPARED



What Makes a Good Learner?





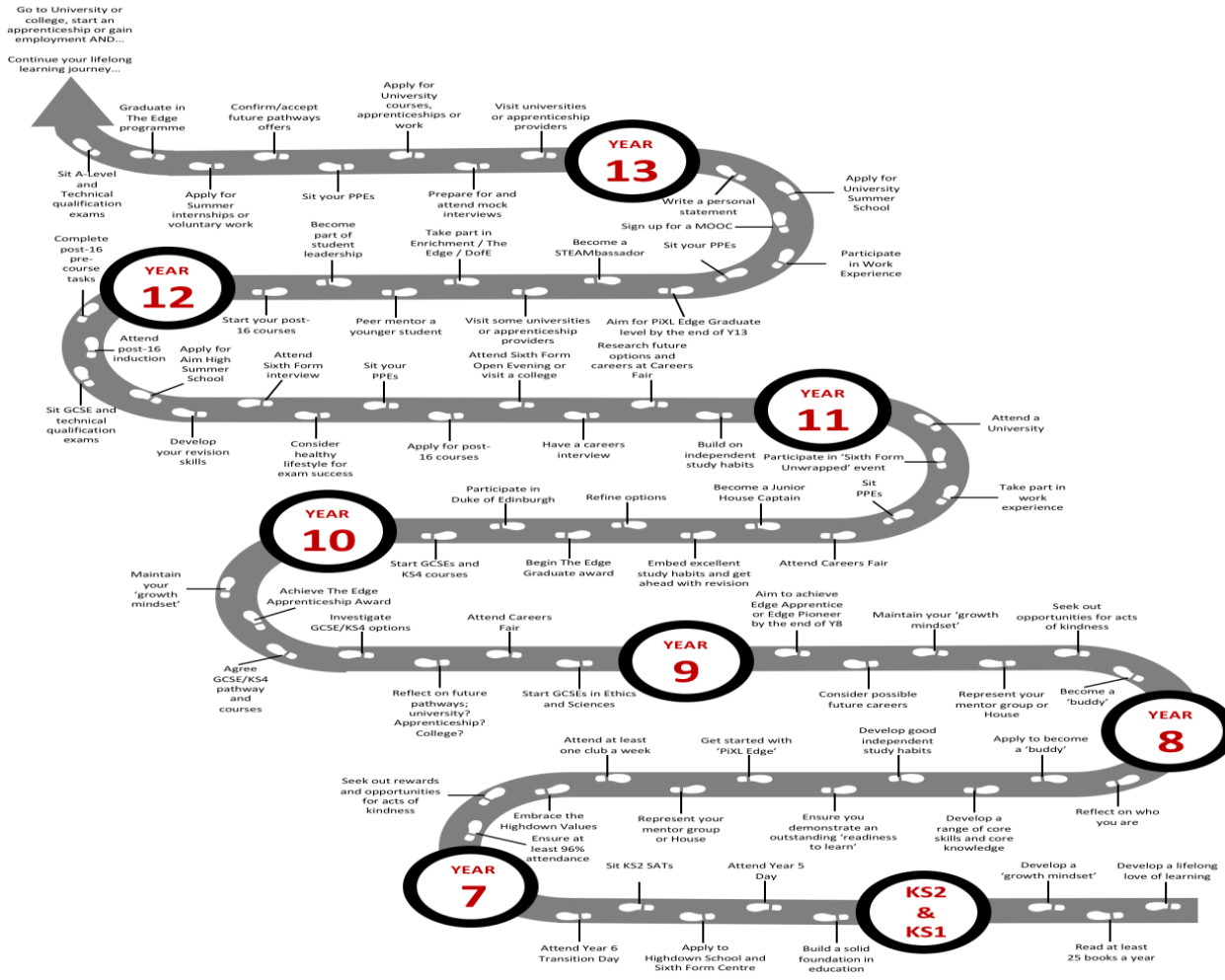
**PASTORAL
CARE AT
HIGHDOWN**

- Mentors: 10C – Mr Davison
10D – Mr Cleeve
10E – Miss Salmon
10F – Mr Lilley
10G – Mr Potter and Ms Sadler
10H – Miss Jiang and Mrs Rule
10J – Mr Voglis
10K – Mrs Hawkins
10L – Mrs Coombe and Ms Talukdar
- Assistant Head of Achievement – Mr Gordon
- Head of Achievement – Mr Lester
- Assistant Headteacher [Yr10] – Mrs Flynn



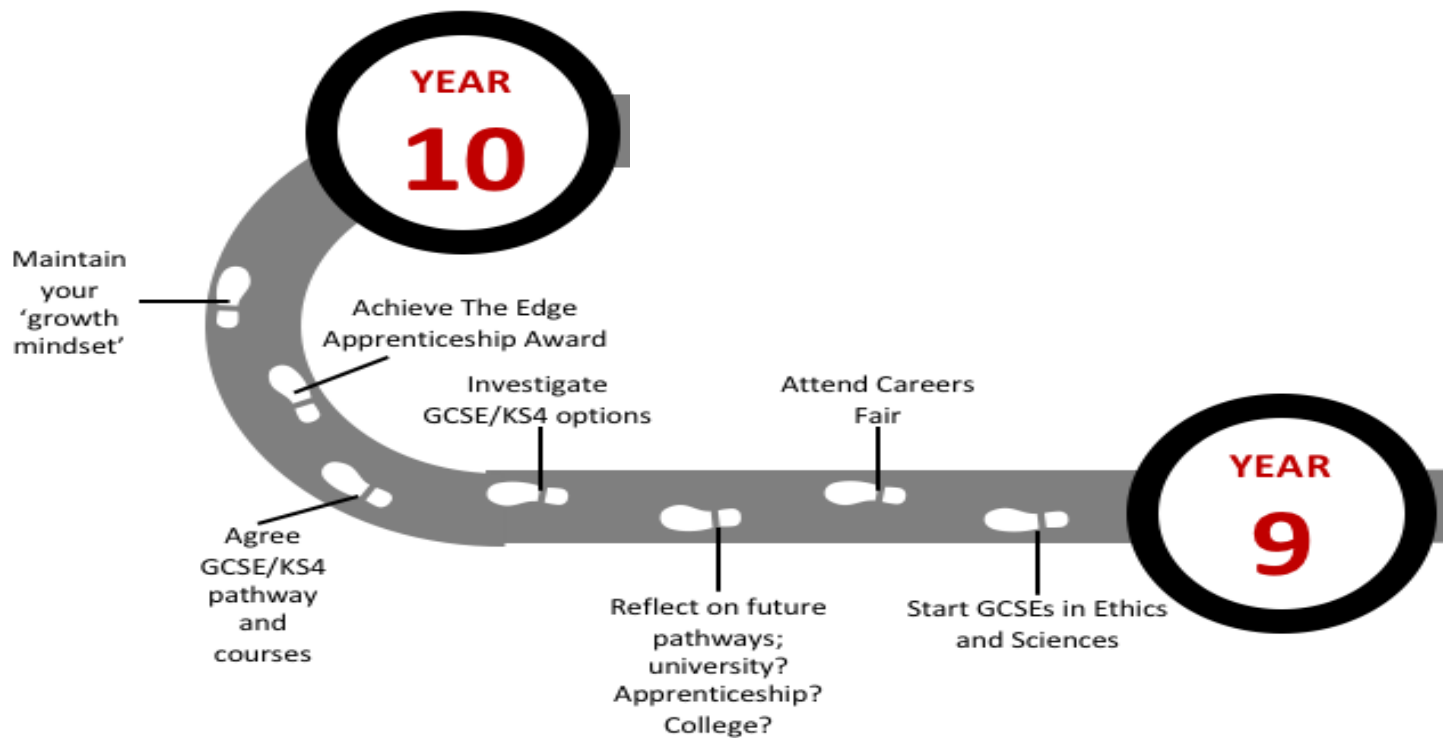
HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

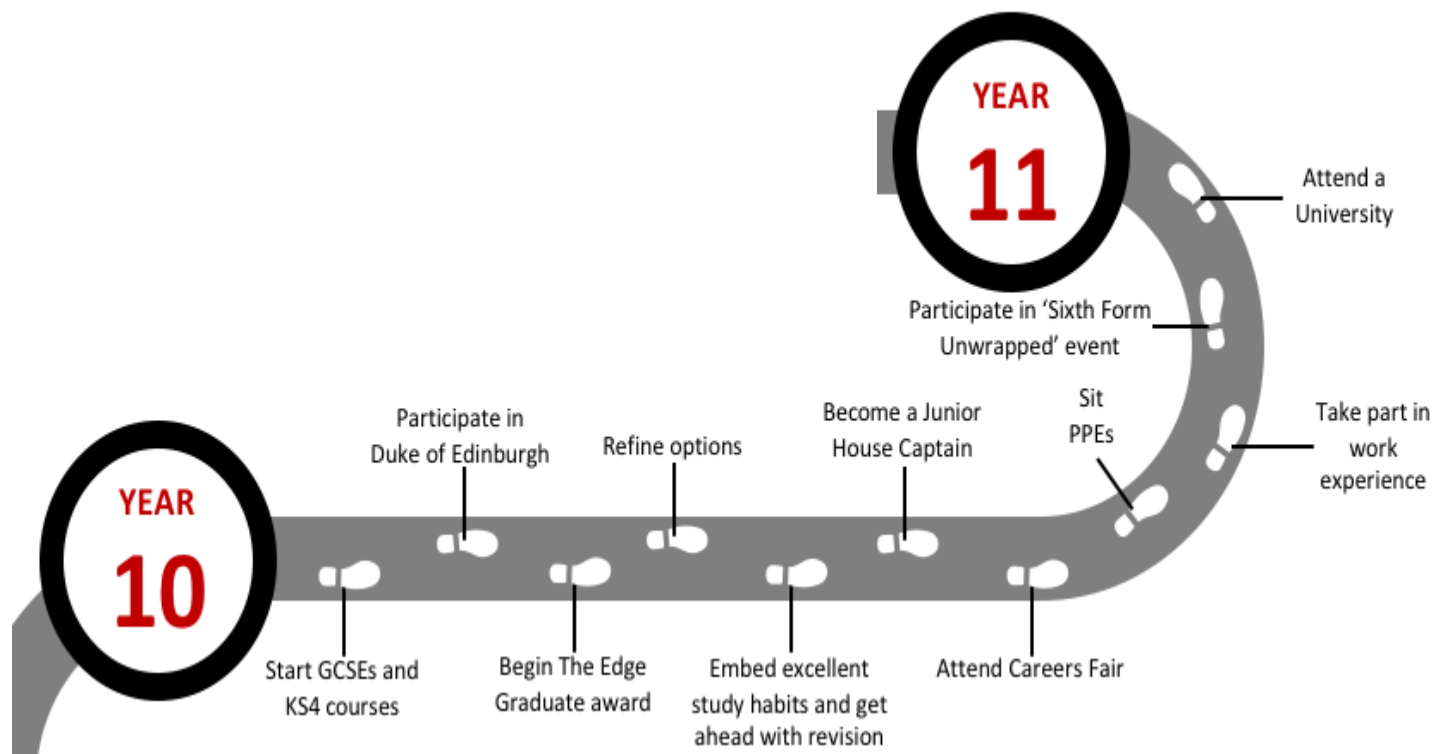
The HIGHDOWN JOURNEY



THE HIGHDOWN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY







PiXL Edge

Students will continue to work on the PiXL Edge program. This year they have moved from the Apprentice/Pioneer programs to the Graduate program.

Leadership
Organisation
Resilience
Initiative
Communication



- CCC this year will take place each week on a Monday period 1. Students stay in their mentor groups for this.
- Each half term is focused on a theme
 1. Independence
 2. Financial Decision Making
 3. Extremism and Radicalism
 4. Healthy Relationships
 5. Healthy Habits
 6. Influences



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

You can learn new things but you can't really change how intelligent you are

You have a certain amount of intelligence, and you can't really do much to change it.

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



Vision

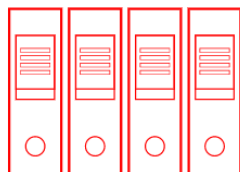
May resent setting goals and targets
Unlikely to set goals for themselves
Has no real purpose

Likes setting goals and targets
Often sets personal bests to measure themselves against
Has a clear purpose in life

Effort

Avoids hard work
Compares effort to other low effort pupils
Easily distracted

Knows what hard work looks like
Surrounds themselves with other hard-working pupils
Totally focused when working



Systems

Has completely disorganised books and notes
Has no record of tasks or homework
Works reactively in response to crisis

Has organised books and notes
Records homework in planner or diary
Plans their work appropriately

Practice

Relies on reading notes and highlighters for revision
Most of their time is spent on work they already know
Avoids feedback

Uses a range of techniques when revising
Looks for opportunities to work outside of their comfort zone
Always seeking feedback on performance



Attitude

Believes that intelligence is fixed
Responds poorly to feedback
Low levels of self-control
Lacks confidence

Believes that if you work hard you can improve your ability
Believes feedback will make them better
Stays calm in high stakes situations
High levels of self belief



My Personal Excellence Plan

Look at all your feedback and answer the following questions:

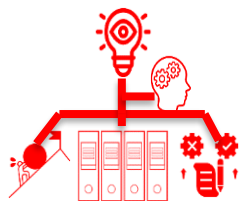
What's Working Well?	
Learning in school and at home	
Progress in subjects	
Personal development	
Conduct	

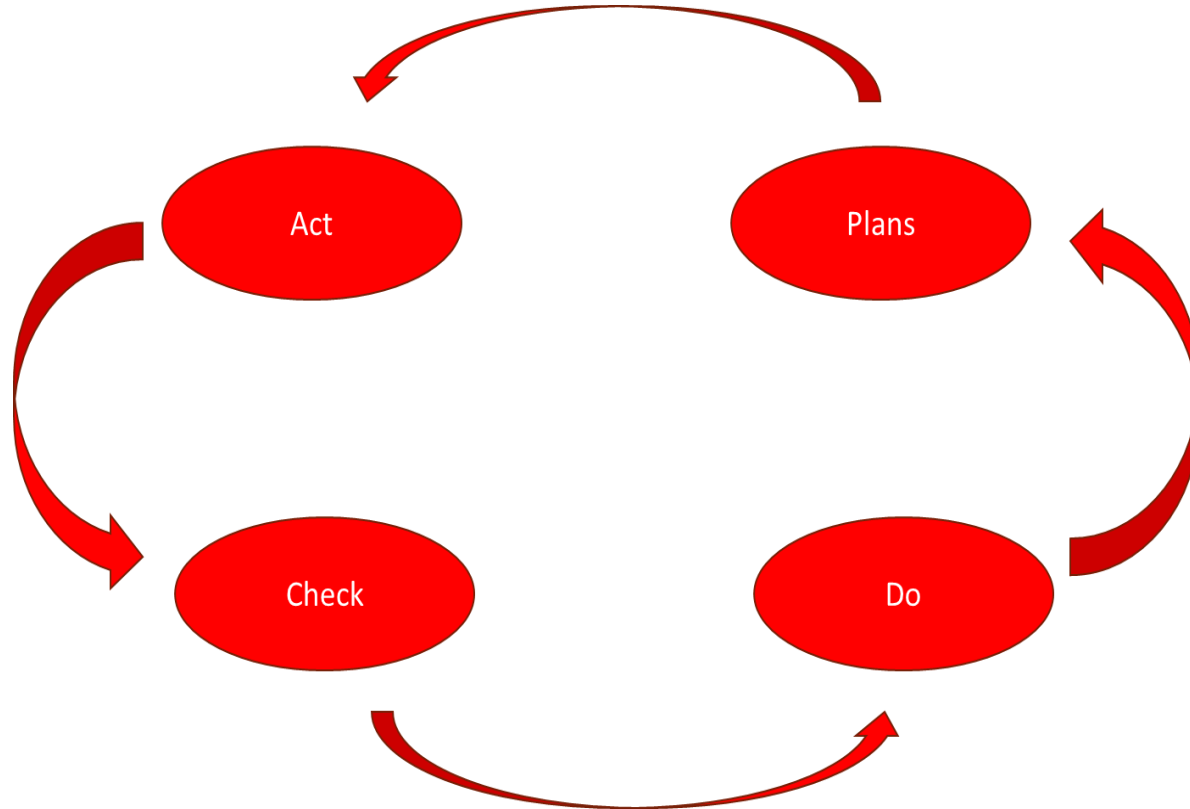
What do I want to improve? What will better look like?	
1	
2	
3	

Three habits I need for success	
1	
2	
3	

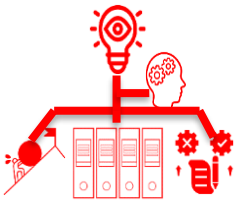
Who will help me? Do I need any other support?	
1	

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



Uniform Reset



- **Cost**

- **Inclusivity**



- **Positive image**

- **Sustainability**



[Uniform, Kit and Equipment](#)



Attendance and Punctuality



Highdown School and Sixth Form
Why does attendance matter?

Your attendance is excellent!	0 days	0 lessons missed	100%
	1 day	5 lessons missed	99%
Well done! You're on the right path.	3 days	15 lessons missed	98%
	1 week	25 lessons missed	97%
	1.5 weeks	35 lessons missed	96%
We're worried You're at risk of persistent absence	2 weeks	50 lessons missed	94%
	2.5 weeks	65 lessons missed	93%
	3 weeks	75 lessons missed	92%
	3.5 weeks	90 lessons missed	90%
Persistent absence			

If your attendance is less than 90% this has a serious impact on your education.

Your education is important – don't miss out!



Highdown School and Sixth Form
Why does punctuality matter?



Daily lateness equates to...



School starts promptly at 8.40am

Be in school every day, on time, ready to learn

Your education is important – don't miss out!



**HIGHDOWN SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

NHS

Is my child too ill for school?





Please read notes below and complete all sections of the form

This form is to be completed and forwarded to the Headteacher of the school. Parents/Carers have a legal duty to ensure their child's regular attendance at school. The Headteacher will only authorise in exceptional circumstances and will consider the effect on the continuity of the child's learning and overall attendance.

The application should be made **well in advance**.

Please be aware that if you take your child out of school for unauthorised activities during term time, you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. A Fixed Penalty Notice is issued for each child.

PARENTAL REQUEST TO SCHOOL TO AUTHORISE AN ABSENCE IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

I request that leave of absence be granted to:

Name _____ Mentor Group _____

From (first day of absence) _____ to

(last day of absence) _____

Signature of Parent/Carer _____

Date _____

Have you requested leave of absence from school before? Yes / No

Are your child's punctuality and attendance both good? Yes / No

Reason for request and details about what makes this an exceptional circumstance:



Reporting an Absence



Ack to parent/carer



Pupil

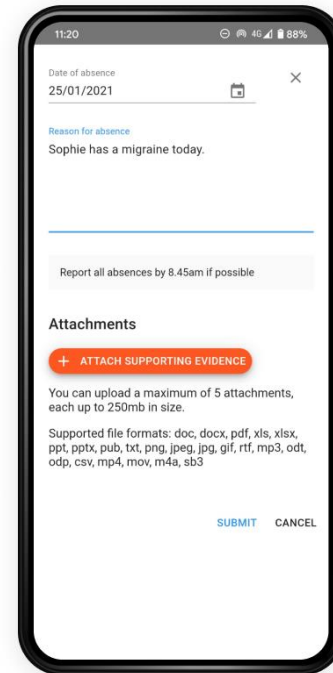
Sophie

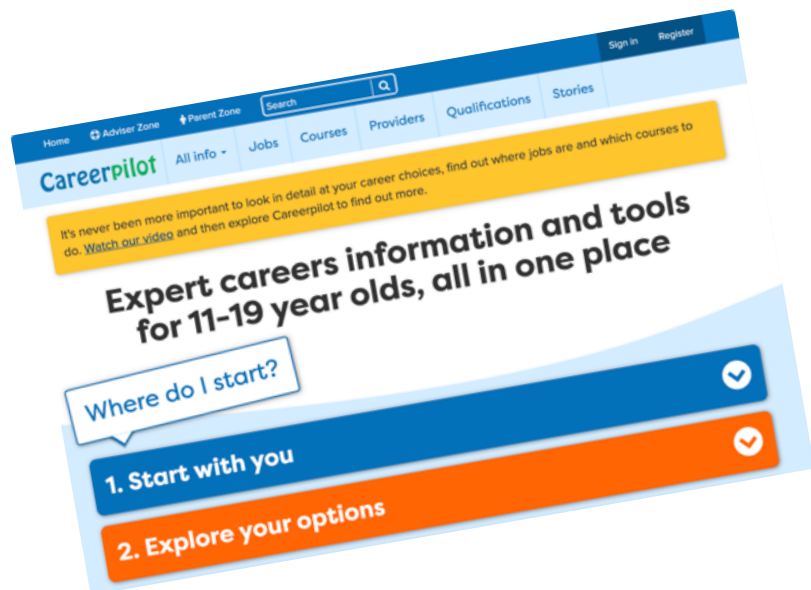
Reason for absence

Sophie has a
migraine today.

Attendance

Set





[Career Pilot](#)



[Springpod](#)



Careers and Pathways Information, Advice and Guidance



My name is Sumera. I am a careers adviser and I work the company Adviza Partnership. I have a degree in Sociology as well as a postgraduate certificate in Coaching. I have experienced a few different roles before I decided to become a careers adviser.

Sumera can be found in the Hive and is contacted via careers@highdown.reading.sch.uk or by speaking to Mrs Robinson.

Please also contact our Careers Assistant Mrs Robinson for support with accessing work experience and for information about our Careers events.

adviza
BRUNNEN COLLEGE

Adviza

Your Careers Guidance
Appointment



Parent Forums 2023-24



New for 2023-24.

Dr Capaldi is looking for parents and carers who would like to be part of developing parent forums to help inform future plans for the academy.

Would you be willing to get involved?

First area of discussion – communication between school and home.

hsc@highdown.reading.sch.uk



- Enterprise Day/Business Challenge Day: Friday 22nd September
- Settling in review report: Wednesday 18th October 2023
- Progress review 1 & mentor report: Thursday 7th March 2024
- Learning Review Evening: Thursday 21st March 2024 [virtual]
- PPE (Pre-Public Examinations): Start on Friday 26th April 2024 until Wednesday 8th May 2024
- Progress review 2: Tuesday 11th June 2024



Key contacts

10C Mr Davison
jadavison@highdown.reading.sch.uk

10D Mr Cleeve
jacleevehighdown.reading.sch.uk

10E Ms Salmon
hns@highdown.reading.sch.uk

10F Mr Lilley
salilley@highdown.reading.sch.uk

10G Mr Potter and Mrs Sadler
hlp@highdown.reading.sch.uk, hsa@highdown.reading.sch.uk

10H Miss Jiang and Mrs Rule
hojiang@highdown.reading.sch.uk,
hmd@highdown.reading.sch.uk

10J Mr Voglis
povoglis@highdown.reading.sch.uk

10K Miss Hawkins
pahawkins@highdown.reading.sch.uk

10L Mrs Coombe and Ms Talukdar
vicoombe@highdown.reading.sch.uk,
satalukdar@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Head of Achievement – Mr
Lester
jolester@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Assistant Head of
Achievement – Mr Gordon
algordon@highdown.oreading.sch.uk

Assistant Head with
responsibility for Year 10 –
Mrs Flynn
hsf@highdown.reading.sch.uk

SENDCo – Mrs Arnold
hjf@highdown.reading.sch.uk



**HIGHDOWN SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

ENGLISH

CURRICULUM LEADER: MISS N. SALMON

KEY STAGE 4 COORDINATOR: MISS MYERS

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature



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)- Discursive 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



AQA English Language (8700)

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

**Paper 2 – Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)
+ Spoken Language Assessment**

AQA English Literature (8702)

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

Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry (60%)



- Read, understand and respond to texts
- Analyse language, form and structure
- Use subject specific terminology
- Show an understanding of context
- Communicate clearly, imaginatively and effectively
- Write with technical accuracy



SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

- Read a wide range of texts
- Keep exercise books revision ready
- Learn short, key quotations from texts
- Make revision visible
- See the importance of year 10



Time + Effort = Success



- List of recommended resources on ClassCharts
- Fortnightly Study Skills Session
- Weekly Home Learning
- Massolit
- GCSE Pod
- Mr Bruff YouTube Videos
- BBC Bitesize
- CGP Workbooks
- Department revision sessions and quizzes



- Reading a range of texts together
- Watch plays and adaptations of texts together
- Promote/remind students about GCSEPod and Massolit.
- Use ClassCharts to check/support home learning
- Encourage students to revise actively
- Encourage excellence rather than just completion



- Students at Highdown can achieve the magic 9!
- Those who work hard achieved their potential and beyond.
- Those who attended revision/intervention did far better than those who did not.
- Sets are not a barrier to achievement.
- Practice with timings is vital.
- Having a goal helps.

I BEGAN TO REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO BE AN ENTHUSIAST IN LIFE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, GO AT IT FULL SPEED. EMBRACE IT WITH BOTH ARMS, HUG IT, LOVE IT AND ABOVE ALL BECOME PASSIONATE ABOUT IT. LUKEWARM IS NO GOOD.

-Roald Dahl



GCSE Mathematics

Curriculum Leader – Mr W Dineley

KS4 Coordinator – Mr R Larsen



Tiered Entry

Foundation Tier (sets 3&4)



Higher Tier (sets 1 & 2)

Further Maths



The Exam

Paper 1

Non-calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks
Any content

Paper 2

Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks
Any content

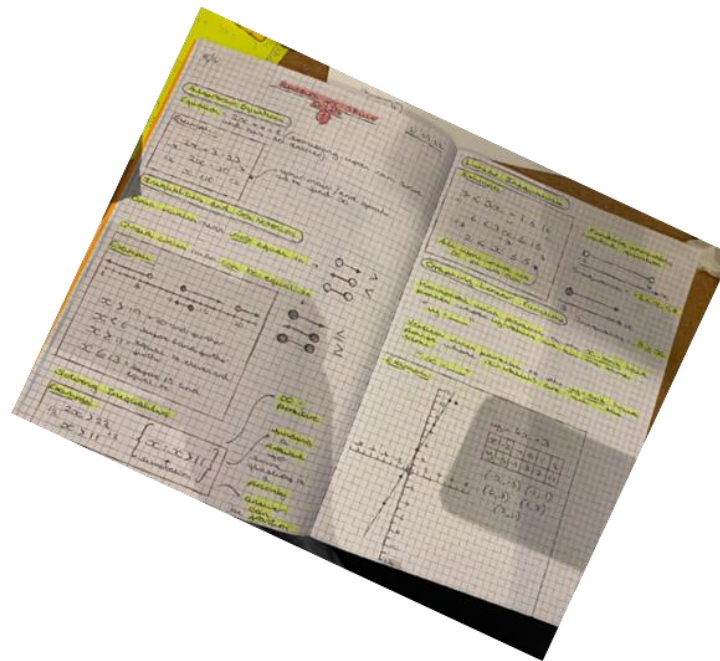
Paper 3

Calculator
1hr 30mins
80 Marks
Any content



Homework and Assessment

Sparx Maths



Review, Recall, Reflect



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Becoming Better

Some of the ways we can become better Mathematicians

Clarity

- Make good use of mathematical language
- Use correct mathematical notation
- Key facts and learning are clear in your notes

Creativity

- Make more use of diagrams
- If you have solved a problem, try it again a different way
- Take notes of other people's solutions and methods

Curiosity

- Ask more 'What if?' questions
- Look for patterns in every topic
- Look for exceptions to rules

Fluency

- Memorise times tables up to 12x12
- Memorise square, cube and prime numbers
- Practice a method until it becomes automatic

Predictions

- Look for patterns and make predictions
- Try to explain why a pattern exists and if it will continue
- Use algebra to represent your generalisations

Resilience

- Ask for help (in class and out of class)
- Have a go and fail at least twice before asking for help
- Always take full notes, ask for help if not understood

Rigour

- Make sure others can follow your working easily
- Use definitions and notation accurately
- Address assumptions and exceptions

Building your Toolkit											
Au1.											
I am confident											
I will work on											
Au2.											
I am confident											
I will work on											



Calculators

Casio fx-991EX

- Suitable for A Level
- £25-30



Casio fx-83GTX

- Suitable for GCSE
- £10



Support

- Intervention
- Effective Revision
 - Little and often
 - Learning by doing
- Resources
 - Revision Guides
 - Practice Papers
 - Online
- The Maths Team
- Home Learning
 - Completion
 - Feedback
- Ready to Learn Grades
- Responsibility
- Get in touch



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



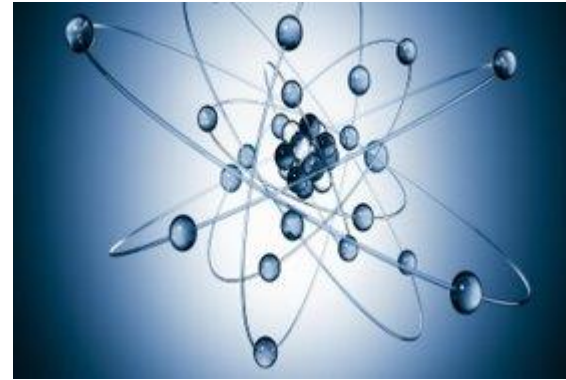
- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology



- 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



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



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



6 exam papers of 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.

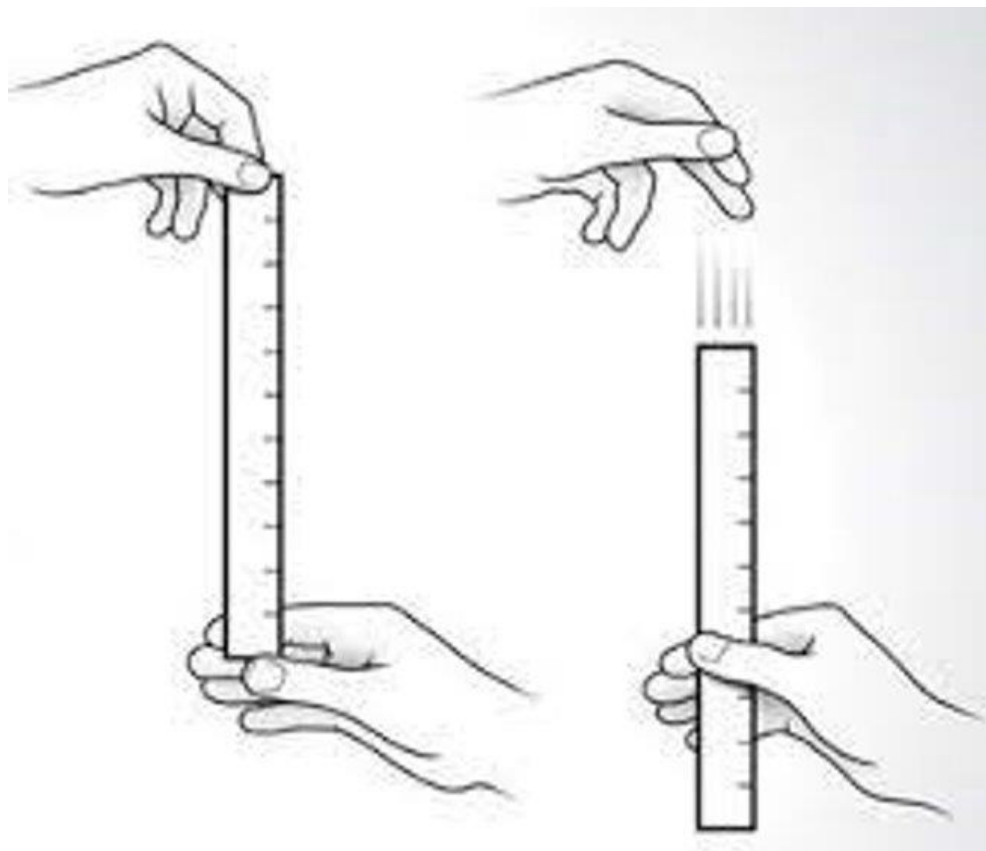
10% Biology

20% Chemistry

30% Physics

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





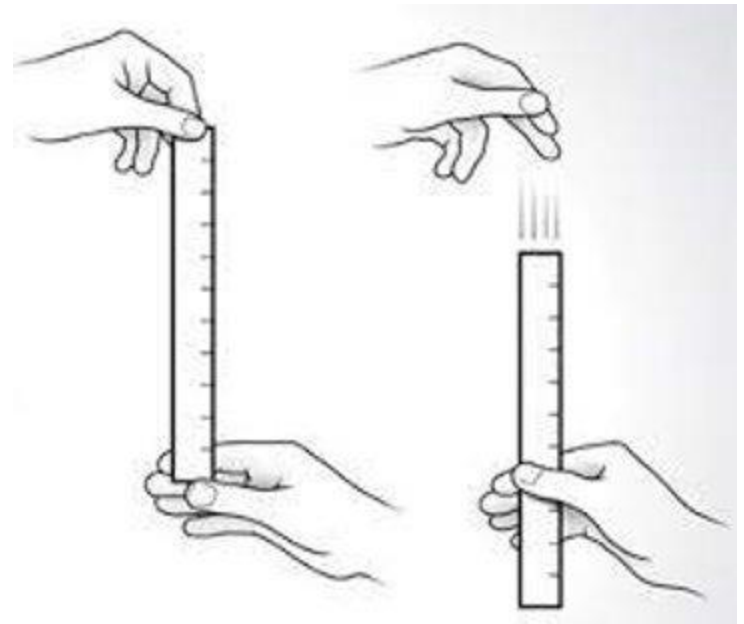
Testing
reaction times



Reaction Time Chart for the Ruler Drop Test

Distance in Cms.	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.



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.



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



- ***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

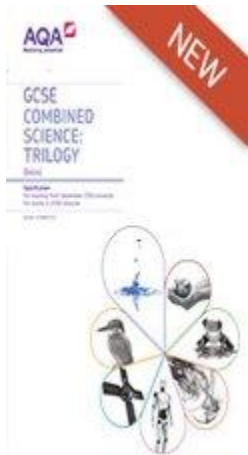
- hold metre rule above hand of person to be tested **so the bottom of the ruler is level with the top of the hand**
- drop the ruler **without warning** and the other person catches it
- measure the distance where the ruler is caught
- convert the distance into time **using a standard (scale) chart 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>



- Ask questions.
- Use evidence and make links to real life.
- Solve problems (this only comes with practice).
- Understand and use correct scientific terminology.
- Know the facts and recall them regularly

You can all help by encouraging these:

Curiosity

Perseverance


Deliberate practice



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.

maelliot@highdown.reading.sch.uk





**Courage, determination
and belief =
SUCCESS!**