



Year 10

Key Stage 4 Information Evening

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Important
Dates

Overview of
GCSE's

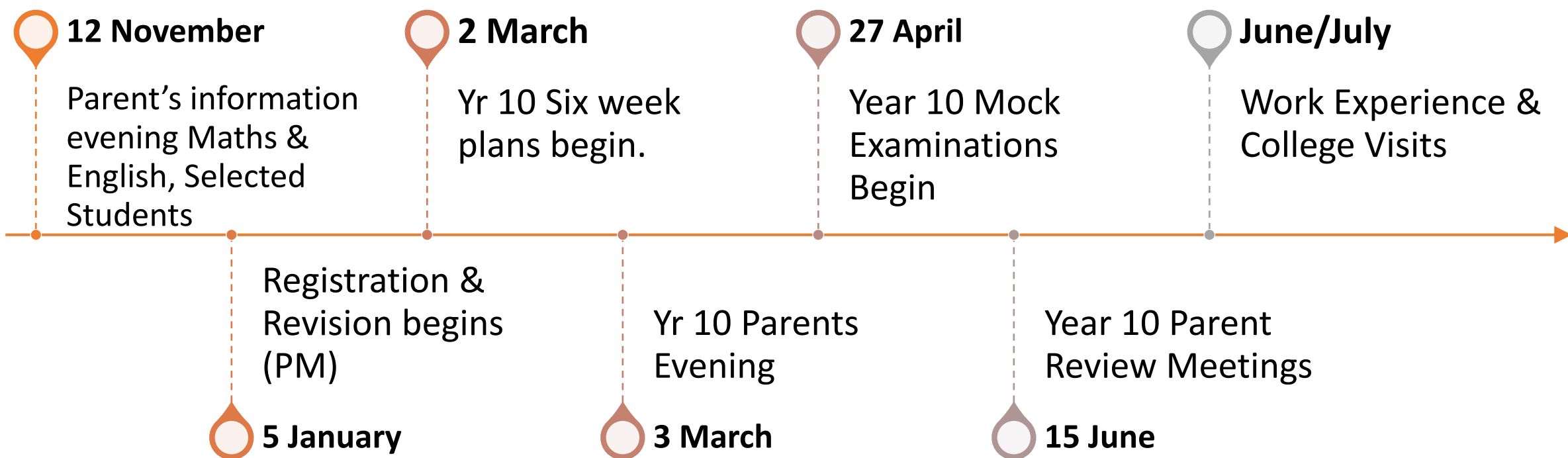
Examinations
& Controlled
Assessment

Secrets of
Success

Achievement
& Homework

Enrichment &
Well Being

Important Dates



This time next year you will be 23 school weeks away from your GCSE Exams!

GCSE Grading Structure

All GCSEs in England have a **9 to 1 grading scale**.

Grade 9 is the highest grade and is awarded to fewer students than the previous **A***.

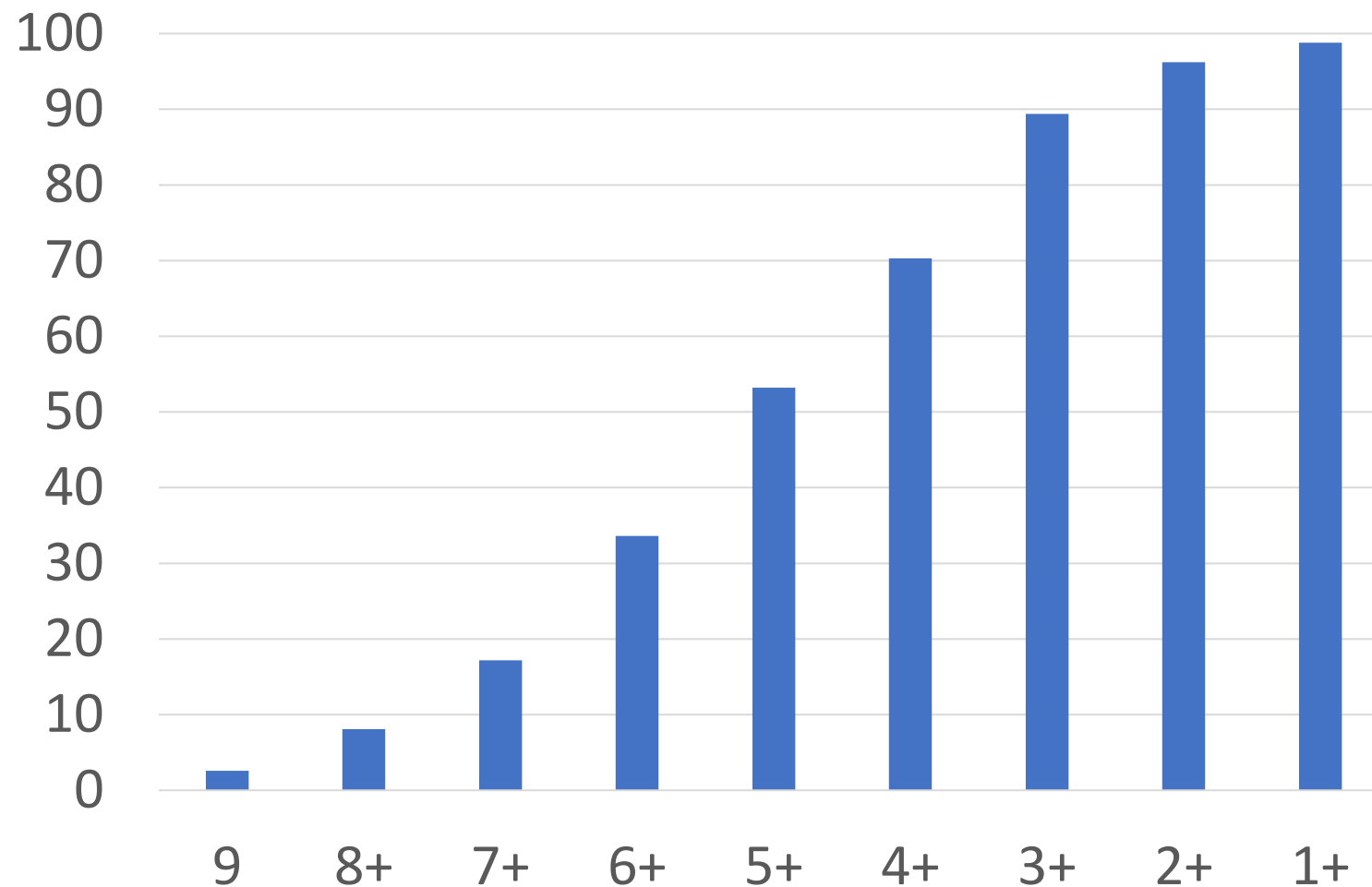
The old and new GCSE grading scales do not directly compare but there are three points where they align:

- Grade **7** is aligned with grade **A**
- Grade **5 is a strong pass**
- Grade **4** is a good pass aligned with grade **C**
- Grade **1** is the lowest pass grade.

New GCSE grading structure

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

GCSE English Language: 2023



Grade	Percentage %
9	3.2
8+	8.5
7+	18.7
6+	31.9
5+	49.2
4+	65.3
3+	86.4
2+	94.4
1+	98.7

AQA Results Statistics June 2025

Examinations



St. Michael's Catholic Academy is an Examination Centre (Number 41111).



Mrs Clare Humble is the **Head of Centre** who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is always compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments.



Dr Adrian Frank is the **Exams Officer** who is responsible for ensuring that the exams management and administration process is run effectively and efficiently and in compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

Public Examinations: Exam Boards

Subject	Exam Board
English Language and Literature	AQA
Separate Science and Combined Science	AQA
Maths	Edexcel (Pearson)
Geography	AQA
History	AQA
RE	WJEC / Eduqas
Spanish / French	AQA
Computer Science	OCR
GCSE PE	AQA
CNAT Sport, iMedia, Health and Social Care	OCR
Retail	WJEC
Music	WJEC / Eduqas
Food / Art	AQA
Textiles	WJEC / Eduqas
Hospitality and Catering	WJEC

Controlled Assessments

- Students take public examinations in the Summer Term during a time between the start of May and the end of June.
- Public exams are timetabled in common time slots agreed by all exam boards under the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).
- Some subjects also have Non-Examined Assessments (coursework or controlled assessments).

Controlled Assessments

- In CNAT subjects and some other Vocational subjects, some students might be entered for submission of a piece of controlled assessment during Year 10.
- All other pieces of NEA will be submitted in Year 11.

Exam Board	Subject	NEA Deadline Yr10	NEA Deadline Yr11
Pearson BTEC	Travel and Tourism	15 May 2026	15 December 2026 / 15 May 2027
OCR Cambridge Nationals (CNAT)	iMedia / Sport / Health and Social Care	15 May 2026	10 January 2027 15 May 2027
WJEC L1 / 2 Vocational Award	Retail and Business	5 May 2026	5 May 2027
WJEC / Eduqas	GCSE Music		5 May 2027
WJEC	Textiles		5 May 2027
WJEC	3D and Graphics		7 May 2027
AQA	Food Preparation and Nutrition		
AQA	English Spoken Language		7 May 2027
AQA	GCSE PE		7 May 2027
AQA	MFL Speaking Test Recordings		15 May 2027
AQA	Art and Design		31 May 2027

Controlled Assessments

Controlled Assessments are a specific type of coursework and have very specific rules about their completion.

These rules cover all of the CNAT and WJEC Vocational Subjects.

Completion of controlled assessments is carried out under strict supervision.

The assignments are set by the exam board, taken under supervised conditions, marked by the teacher and moderated by OCR.

Assignments are released to the teacher on 1 June each year for CNAT subjects and 1 September for WJEC Retail and Business.

The assignment briefs are only valid for that year (until 31 May).

Controlled Assessments

Students must follow all the rules:

- You should try to complete all tasks in the assignment brief.
- The assignment brief says what you need to do for each task.
- You must complete all the work for each assignment in school and not at home.
- All work must be your own. You are not allowed help from anyone else. This includes:
 - Teachers, parents and other students.
 - Presenting information and material taken from other sources (for example, books/journals, media articles or the internet) as your own without proper referencing.
 - You must not use Artificial Intelligence as your marks may be changed or reduced to zero by the exam board
 - Your teacher will supervise you completing the assignment.
 - If the exam board think that you had extra help, your marks may be changed or reduced to zero

How is Controlled Assessment marked?

Your teacher will mark your work after you hand it in. They cannot mark it in stages for you.

Your teacher will use the marking criteria that is supplied by the exam board to give you marks.

The marking criteria for each task is in the assignment.

Your teacher can explain the marking criteria to you.

The marking criteria has three bands: Each band has a range of marks in it.

Your teacher: decides which mark band your work meets & gives you a mark from that mark band

Your teacher will then add up the marks and give you a total. Your final grade for the assignment depends on your final total mark.

If you get stuck you can:

- ask your teacher to explain the task again.
- Move on to another part of the assignment.
- Come back again later to have another go

Controlled Assessments: Can you ask your teacher for feedback on my work?

- Exam Boards have given your teacher instructions on what kind of feedback they can give you.
- They are allowed to tell you what task could be improved but not how to improve it.
- You can use that feedback to try and improve your work yourself.
- Your teacher can say what they've noticed might be wrong with your work. For example, if you describe something where the marking criteria asks for an evaluation, they can point that out to you.
- Your teacher can explain the difference between a description and an evaluation. It's then up to you to decide if you need to change your work. If you think it needs to change you need to change it yourself

If you have submitted one piece of controlled assessment during Year 10 and you want to improve your mark, then you **MUST** complete a new piece in Year 11 using the **NEWLY** released assessment brief.

Secrets of Success



Attendance

PA%	Achievement	Average Grade
95-100	+ 8 Grades	5.1
90-94.9	+ 1 grade.	4.4
80-89.9	6 grades below	3.7
Below 80	15 grades below	2.8

Attend **Today** = Achieve **Tomorrow**!



(All the time you need for shopping, holidays and appointments)

365 days in a calendar year

190 school days each year

175 non-term days each year

Good attendance means being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days

Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve



Secrets of Success



Name one thing
you are good at
outside of
school?



Secrets of Success



What did you do
to get good at it?



Secrets of Success



What things did
you need?



Secrets of Success



What help did
you need?



Secrets of Success

1. Got a good grade in:	History
2. What did you do to get good at it?	Practice
3. What things did you need?	Lessons Practice Questions Revision guides/knowledge organisers Notes / books / videos
4. What help did you need?	Help from my teacher Support from people at home

Research shows that regular practice makes a difference of **1.4 grades!**

How does learning work?

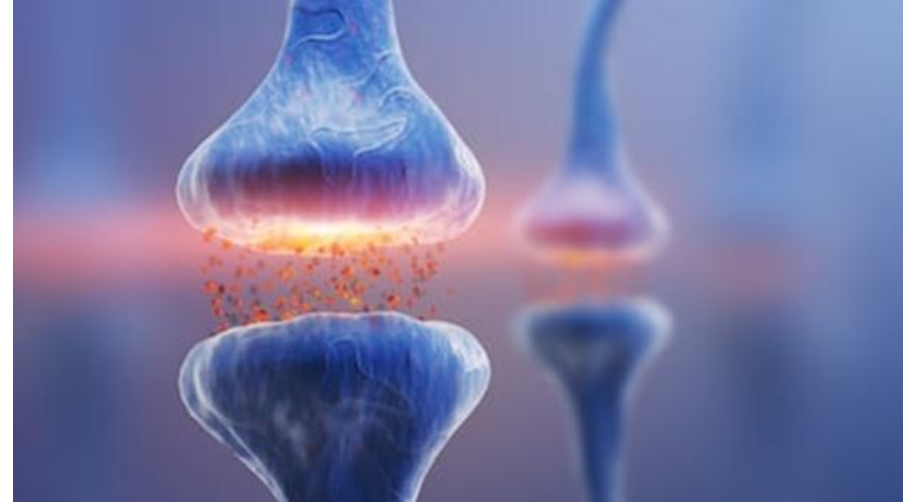
The brain works by **making connections** between ideas.

The brain **links new knowledge** to **what we already know**.

As we learn connections grow.

Connections that are used frequently become permanent connections.

Connections that are not are removed in a process called **pruning**.



Homework & AI

- Many good AI powered Apps: Sparx, Duolingo
- Most **open AI platforms & chatbots** are **only suitable for users 18+** because of the **lack of parental controls and safeguards**.
- AI is a language learning model, it tells you what it thinks you want to hear, which is **not always true or correct**.
- AI uses limited web based sources of information, which may be **biased, prejudiced, poor quality, inaccurate**.



Homework & AI

Do:

- Monitor carefully what your children are using and doing with AI.
- Use apps specifically designed for learning like Sparx, Duolingo.
- Use school models, research, prompts, hints.
- Help you plan and structure answers.
- Review and feedback on your work.
- Check spelling, refine language.
- Ask AI where it gets it's information from.
- Apply your own critical thinking.

Do not

- Allow children to use open AI products & social chatbots.
- Share personal information on AI
- Use AI to do your work for you.
- Use AI to give you answers to maths problems
- Use AI to write responses, essays and answers for you.
- Assume AI is correct, carefully check any responses you get.

Growth Mindset – the power of Yet!

"I can't do that yet . . . I'll practice until I do get it "

"I cant do that because I'm no good at Maths"



Research shows a Growth Mindset makes a difference of **one and a half grades!**

- **People with fixed mind sets believe a fiction:**
- that their brain is not capable of making new connections.
- People with a growth mind set believe the truth:
- that you can!
- People with a growth mindset also realise that learning requires a lot of effort.

Our Achievement Programme

Quality First
Teaching

Signature
Pedagogy

Achievement
Assemblies

Targeted In
Class support

Rigorous
Assessment

3 Week & 6
Week Plans

Summer Mock
Examinations

PM Reg &
Revision

Mentor
Support

After School
Revision

Holiday
Homework

Collapsed
GCSE
Timetable



Planning Your Time

- There are **168 hours in a week**
- 8 hours sleep / night = **112** waking hours
- 2 hours/ day eating / washing / dressing etc
98 hours left
- 38 hours in school + 5 hrs travel time **55 hours left**
- **1 hour per Subject = 9 hours of study = 46**
hours free per week!
- **1.5 hours per subject = 13.5 hours of Study =**
41.5 free.

Making a Plan

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 am							
9:30 am							
10:00 am						Room Tidy / Jobs	Mass
10:30 am							Visit Nan
11:00 am							
11:30 am							
12:00 am							
12:30 am							Lunch
13:00 am							
13:30 am							Study 2hrs
14:00 am	R&R 15m	R&R 15m	R&R 15m	R&R 15m	R&R 15m		
14:30 am						Lunch	Study 2hrs
15:00 am							
15:30 am							
16:00 am		Study 2hrs				Study 3hrs	Tea
16:30 am							
17:00 am							
17:30 am	Tea		Tea	Tea	Tea		Tea
18:00 am							
18:30 am	Study 1hr	Tea			Football	Tea	
19:00 am							
19:30 am		See Mates	Study 2hrs	Study 2hrs			
20:00 am	Dance						

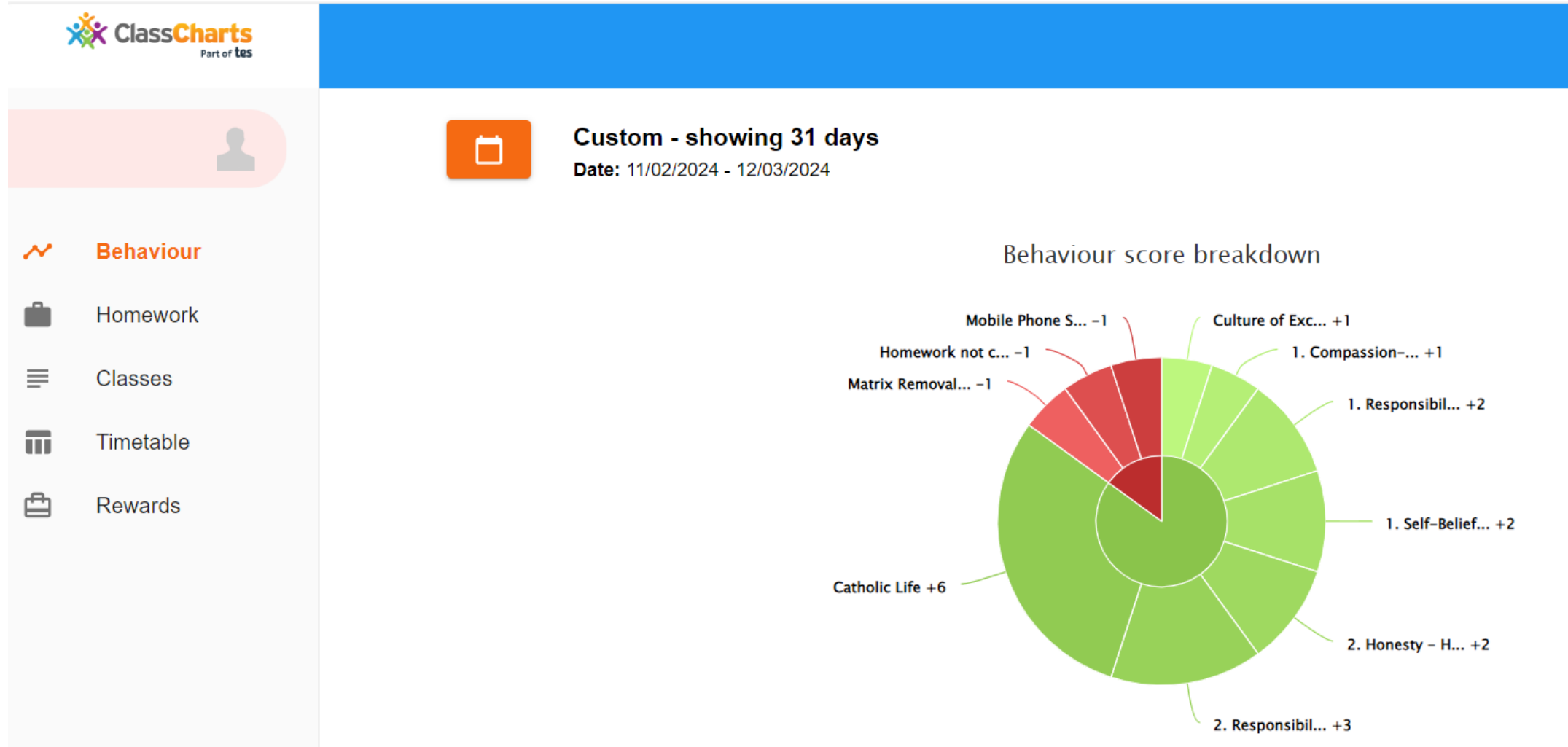
Our Library is Open from 8:30 am and after school each day for homework and revision.

- Calm, quiet space
- Away from distractions, mobile phones, TV & games consoles
- Organise your work materials

Workspace


Class Charts App

- You can keep updated on your virtue and behaviour points.




Class Charts App

- You can keep updated on your homework set and submitted.



MY CODE



Behaviour

Homework

Classes

Timetable

Rewards

3 tasks due this week












1 task submitted/completed

2 tasks remaining this week

^

To do

3

	 Homework ↑↓	 Teacher ↑↓	 Lesson ↑↓	 Subject ↑↓	 Issued ↑↓	 Due ↑↓	 Est. time ↑↓	 Type ↑↓
	Maths Sparx	Mr K Herron	9M1/Ma	Maths	Wednesday 06/03/2024	Tuesday 12/03/2024	30 minutes	Homework
	Sparx	Mrs S Hanson	9M1/Ma	Maths	Wednesday 06/03/2024	Wednesday 13/03/2024		Homework
	Educake	Mrs J Dearlove	9mh/Sc3	Science	Monday 11/03/2024	Monday 18/03/2024		Homework

▼

Completed

0

▼

Submitted late

0

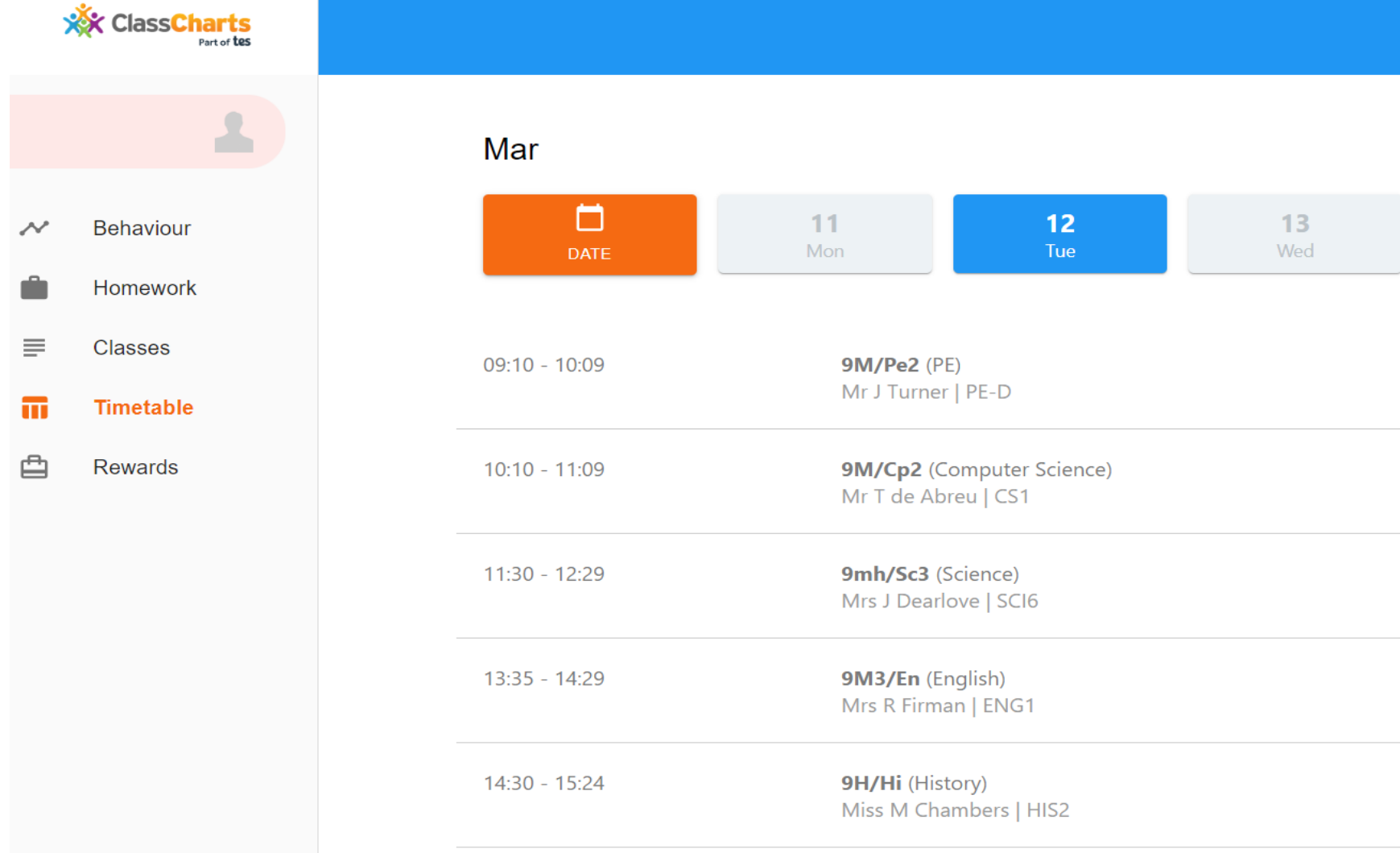
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Not submitted

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Class Charts App

- You can check your lessons for the day.



The screenshot displays the ClassCharts app interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options: Behaviour, Homework, Classes, Timetable (highlighted in orange), and Rewards. The main area shows a calendar for March with the 12th selected. Below the calendar is a timetable for Tuesday, March 12th, listing lessons from 09:10 to 15:24.

Mar	
DATE	
09:10 - 10:09	9M/Pe2 (PE) Mr J Turner PE-D
10:10 - 11:09	9M/Cp2 (Computer Science) Mr T de Abreu CS1
11:30 - 12:29	9mh/Sc3 (Science) Mrs J Dearlove SCI6
13:35 - 14:29	9M3/En (English) Mrs R Firman ENG1
14:30 - 15:24	9H/Hi (History) Miss M Chambers HIS2

Extended Learning Time

Extended Learning Time is additional support to help pupils complete homework.

ELT runs Thursday & Friday Lunchtime for Year 10 in CS2 from 12:30 pm to 1 pm

Pupils will be referred if they miss a piece of homework or can come along on to complete homework.

Subject specialist teachers will be on hand to support pupils with homework.

You will receive notifications for ELT referrals via the classcharts app.

Curriculum Information



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Curriculum And Subject Information

[Key Stage 3](#)



[Year 10](#)



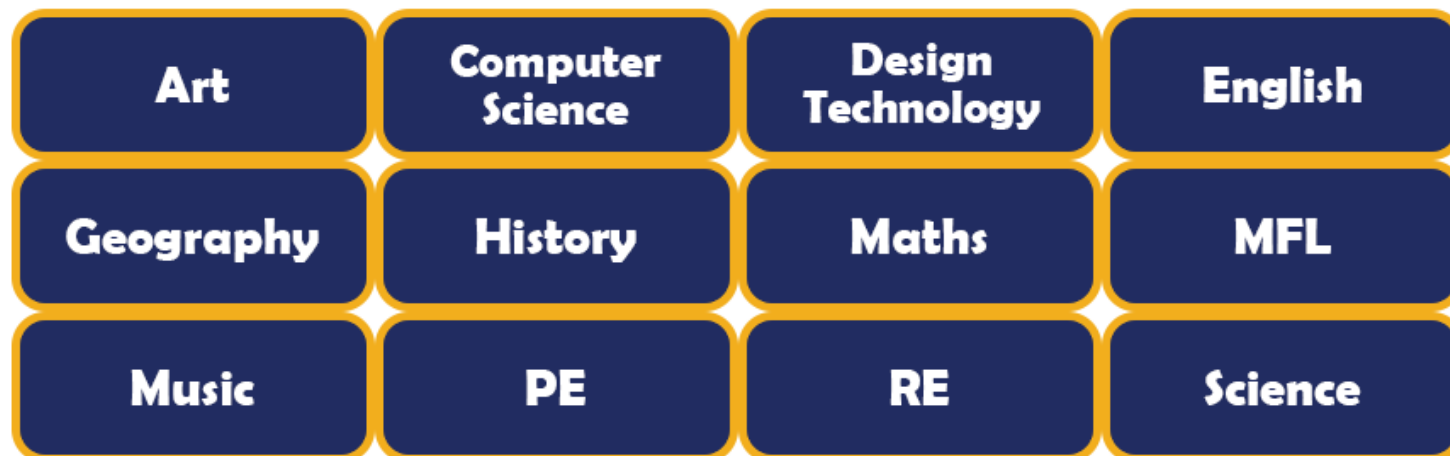
[Year 11](#)



Curriculum and Subject Info

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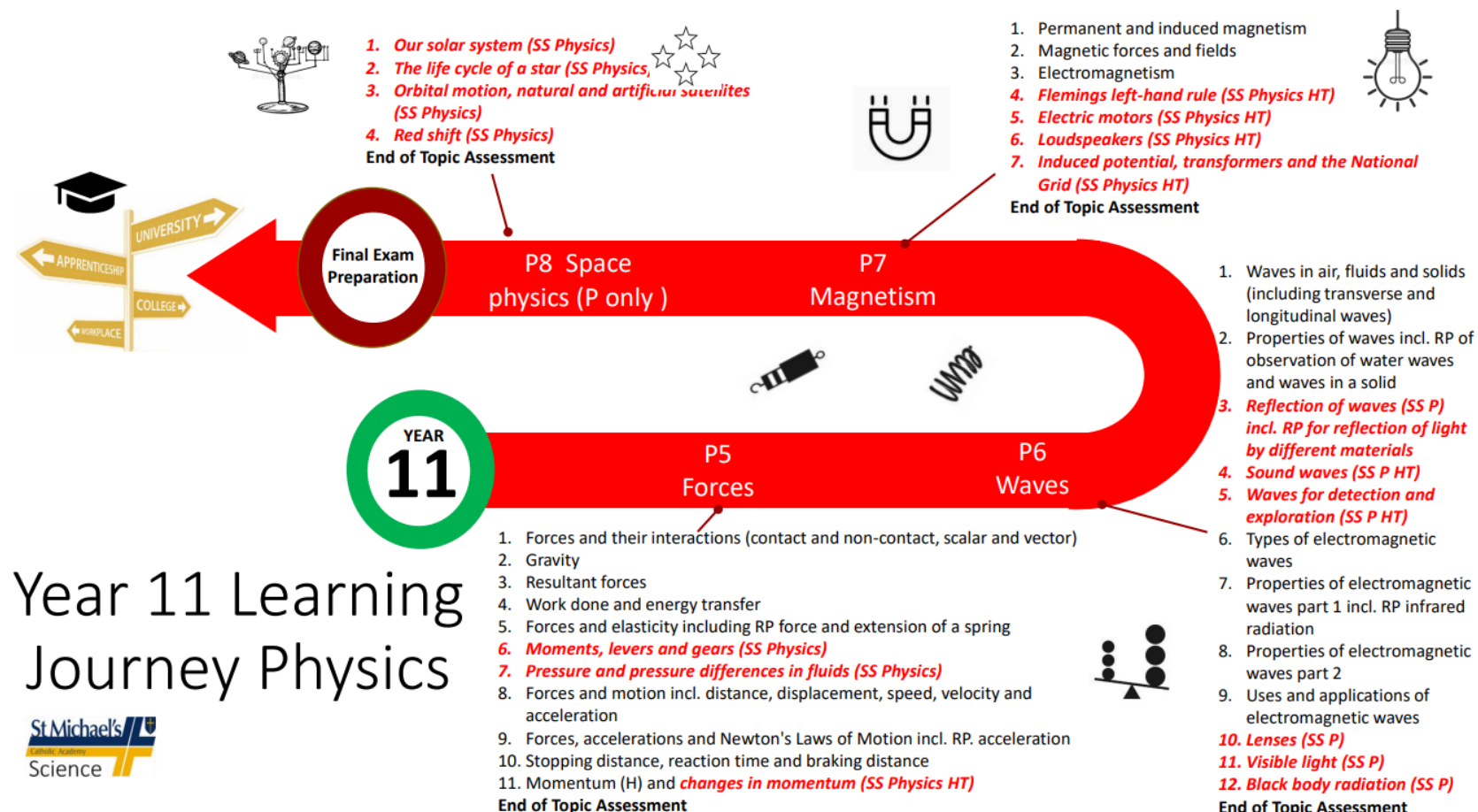
Curriculum Information



GCSE/BTEC/CNAT



Curriculum Information



Enrichment Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	KS3 Languages Club, Humanities 8	Darts Club Maths 6	Textiles Club: Felt Poppies DT3	Manga and Anime Club ENG 8	Y11 Football The AG
12:45-1:15	Duke of Edinburgh Silver (Year 10) DT1 Week B Fortnightly	Board Games and Cards Club Maths 5	Y11 LitFlix: GCSE English Lit Catch Up Club ENG 4	Newspaper Club ENG 6	
	Choir Mu1	Rosary Group (October only) Chapel at 1pm	Week A: Y9 and Y10 Netball Sports Hall	Harry Potter Club ENG7	
	Y7 Football The AG	Y8 Football The AG	Y9 Football The AG	Careers Drop In- Dining Hall	
	Girls Badminton Sports Hall	KS4 Badminton Sports Hall	Girls Table Tennis Dance Studio	Y10 Football The AG	
			What Went Well Wednesday	Girls Just Dance Dance Studio	
After School	Y7 and Y8 Boys Football The AG	Homework Club LRC	Homework Club LRC	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze (Year 9/10) DT1 Week B fortnightly	
3:30- 4:00	Girls Football The AG	Warhammer LRC	Running Club School Field	Week B: SVP/Faith in Action in the chapel	
	Homework Club LRC		Sports Leaders Sports Hall	Homework Club LRC	
				Rugby Club School Field	
				Badminton Sports Hall	
				Hockey The AG	

Wellbeing: Healthy Lifestyle



Eat Well

- Balanced diet, plenty of vitamins, minerals & fibre
- Avoid food high in salt, fat and sugar.
- Drink water stay hydrated,
- Avoid sugary drinks and energy drinks.

Sleep Well

- Good routine, digital detox from 9pm,
- In bed by 10 pm, no distractions – 8 -10 hours sleep.



Well Being: Communication & Support

- Speak to your family
- Communicate with School
- Talk to pastoral Tutors, PLM
- Life Coach: Karen Stephenson
- Safeguarding Team: Mr Scott, Mrs Carey, Mrs Booth, Mrs Abbs.
- Highlight worries early – We are all hear to help



Exam stress guidance

Available on our website

- [Pearson](#) - Exam Stress and Wellbeing
- [Place2Be](#) – Navigating Exam Season free resources
- [Mind](#) – Exam stress information for 11-18 year olds
- [Anna Freud Mentally Healthy Schools](#) – Academic and exam stress
- [Young Minds](#) – Exam stress
- [Ofqual](#) – Coping with exam pressure – a guide for students
- [Charlie Waller](#) – Healthy approach to exams
- [Rise Above](#) - Exam Stress? No #problem!



Anna Freud
Mentally Healthy Schools