



Year 10

Key Stage 4 Information Evening

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Important
Dates

Overview of
GCSE's

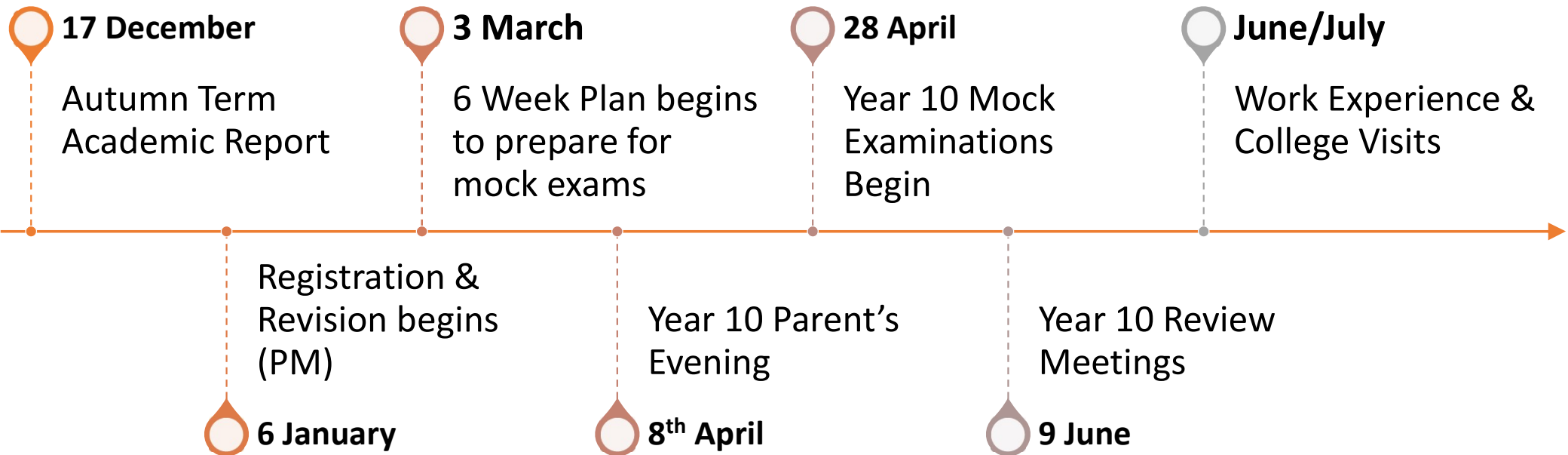
Examinations
& Controlled
Assessment

Secrets of
Success

Achievement
& Homework

Enrichment &
Well Being

Important Dates



This time next year you will be 26 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 4 is aligned with grade C
- Grade 1 is aligned with bottom grade.

New GCSE grading structure

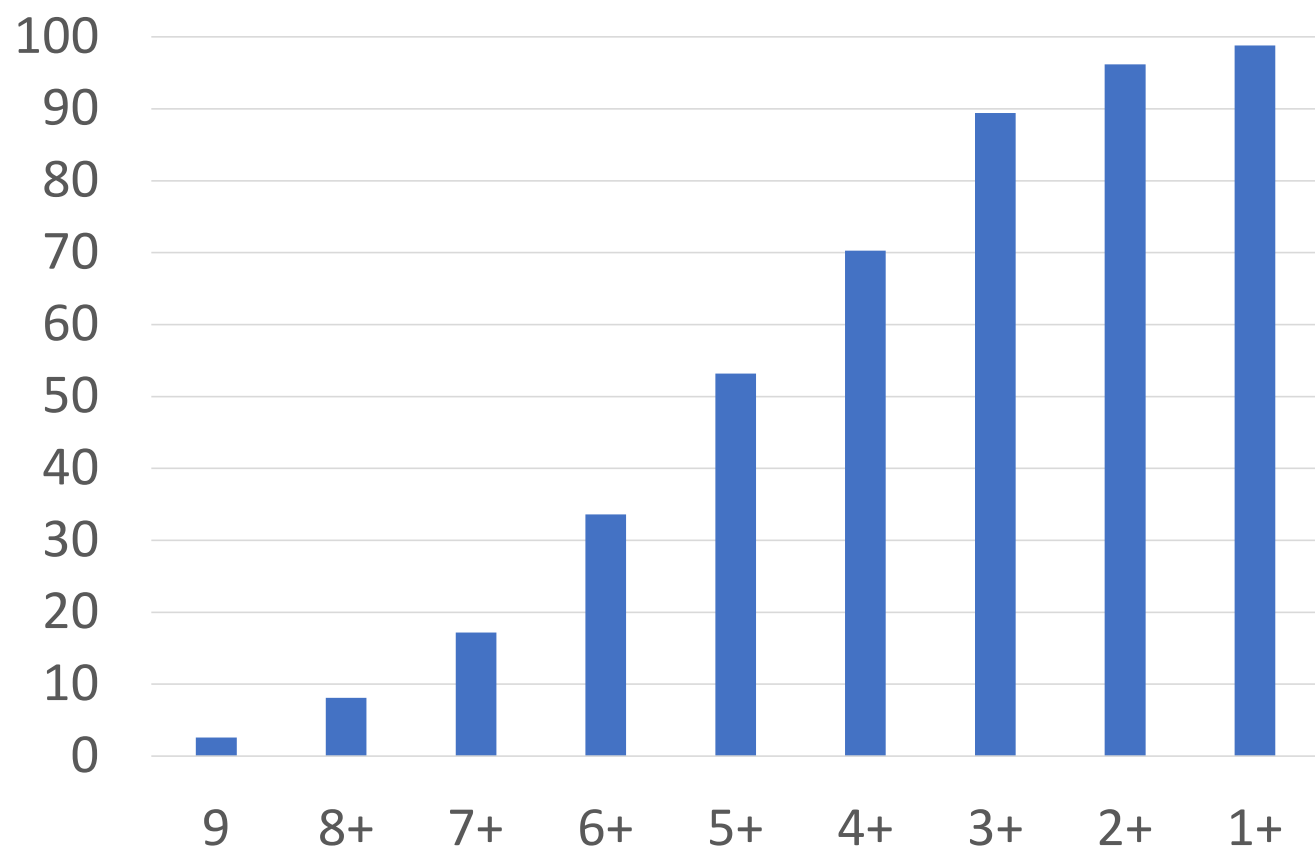
Ofqual

New grading structure	Current 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

GCSE English Language: 2023



Grade	Percentage %
9	2.5
8+	7.7
7+	16.5
6+	32.1
5+	49.1
4+	65.3
3+	86.4
2+	94.5
1+	98.2

AQA Results Statistics June 2023

Attendance

PA%	Progress	Average Grade
95-100	Exceeded Targets in 4 subjects	5.2
90-94.9	One grade below target in 2 subjects.	4.6
80-89.9	One grade below target in 5 subjects	3.8
Below 80	One grade below in 2 subjects, 2 grades below in 8 subjects	2

Attend Today = Achieve Tomorrow!



365 days in a calendar year
190 school days each year
175 non-term days each year

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

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



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
Film Studies	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
OCR Cambridge Nationals (CNAT)	iMedia / Sport / Health and Social Care	10 January 2025 / 15 May 2025 15 May 2026
WJEC L1 / 2 Vocational Award	Retail and Business	5 May 2025 / 5 May 2026
WJEC L1 / 2 Vocational Award	Hospitality and Catering	5 May 2025 / 5 May 2026
WJEC / Eduqas	GCSE Music	5 May 2026
WJEC	GCSE Film Studies	5 May 2026
WJEC	Textiles	5 May 2026
AQA	Design Technology	7 May 2026
AQA	Food Preparation and Nutrition	7 May 2026
AQA	English Spoken Language	7 May 2026
AQA	GCSE PE	7 May 2026
AQA	MFL Speaking Test Recordings	16 May 2026
AQA	Art and Design	31 May 2026

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



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?

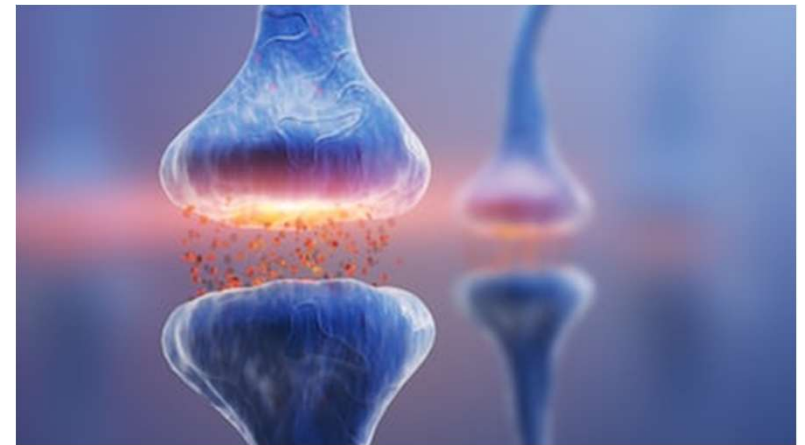
The brain works by **making connections** between ideas.

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**.



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.

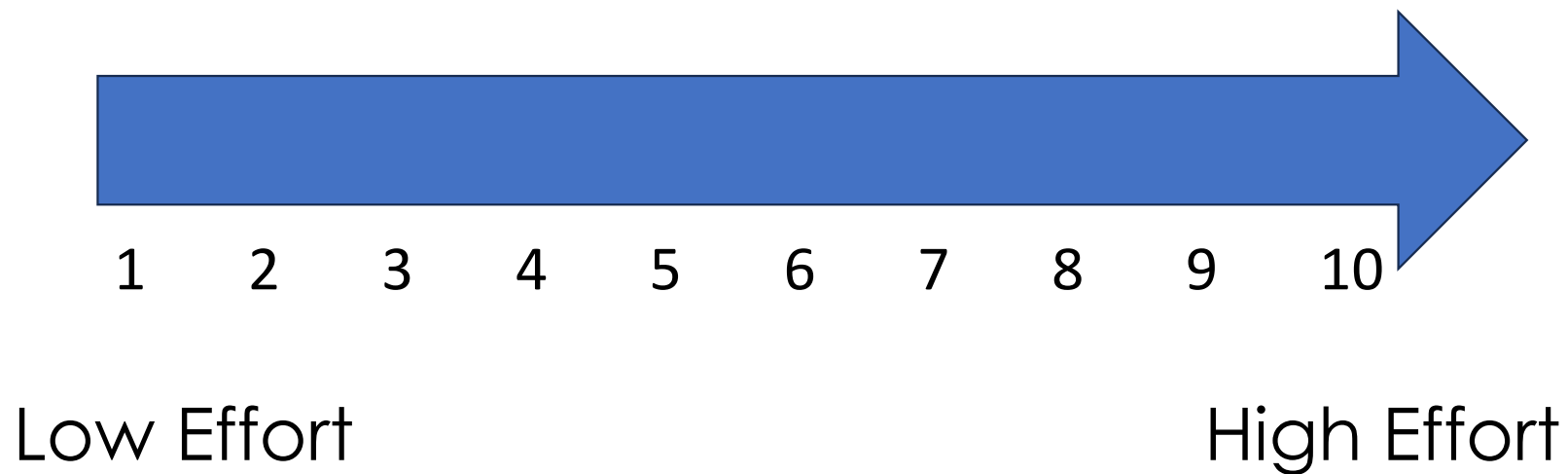
Our Achievement Programme

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



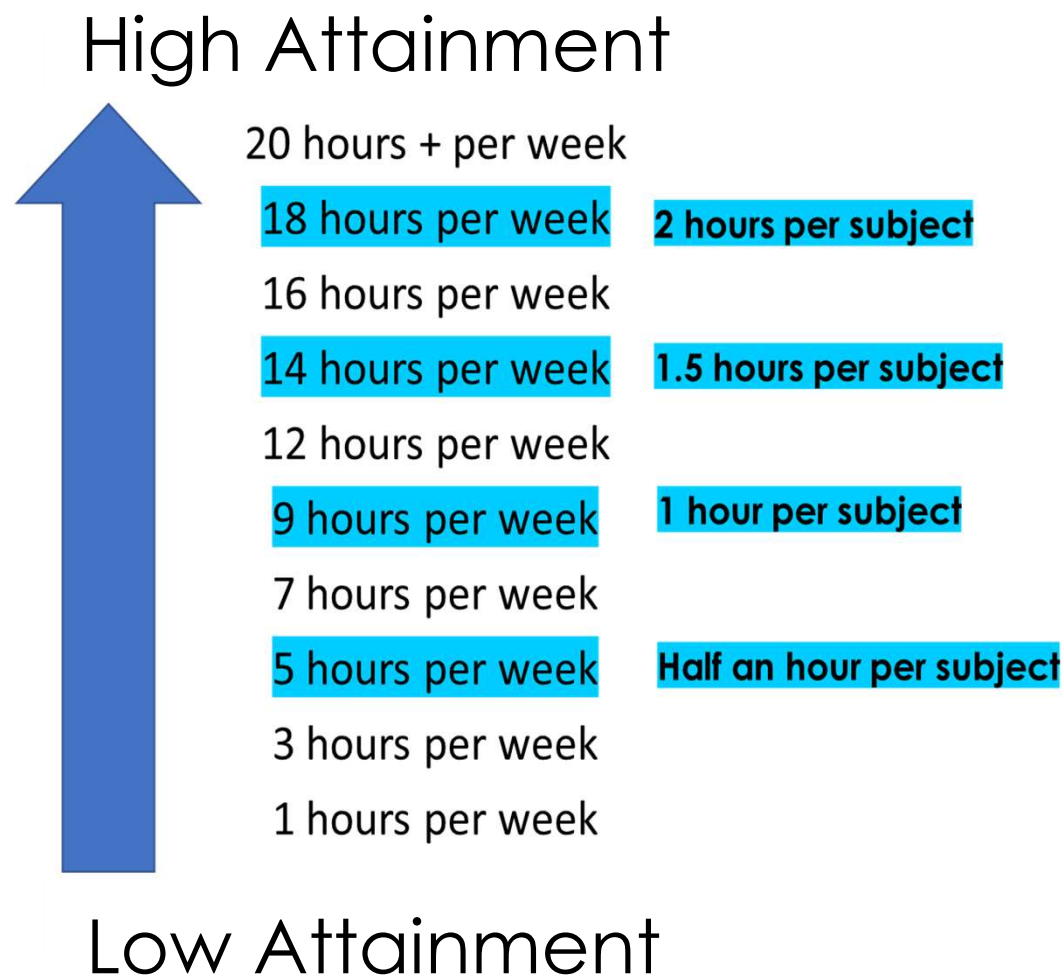
Homework – How Much do you?

Rate your effort on homework on a scale of 1-10



How much work should pupils do at home?

- Research shows in Yr11 students who attain top grades work up to **2 hours per subject per week**.
- Much of that work is **independent study!** i.e. **work they have set themselves!**



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.**
- **2 hours per subject = 18 hours of study = 37 hours free.**

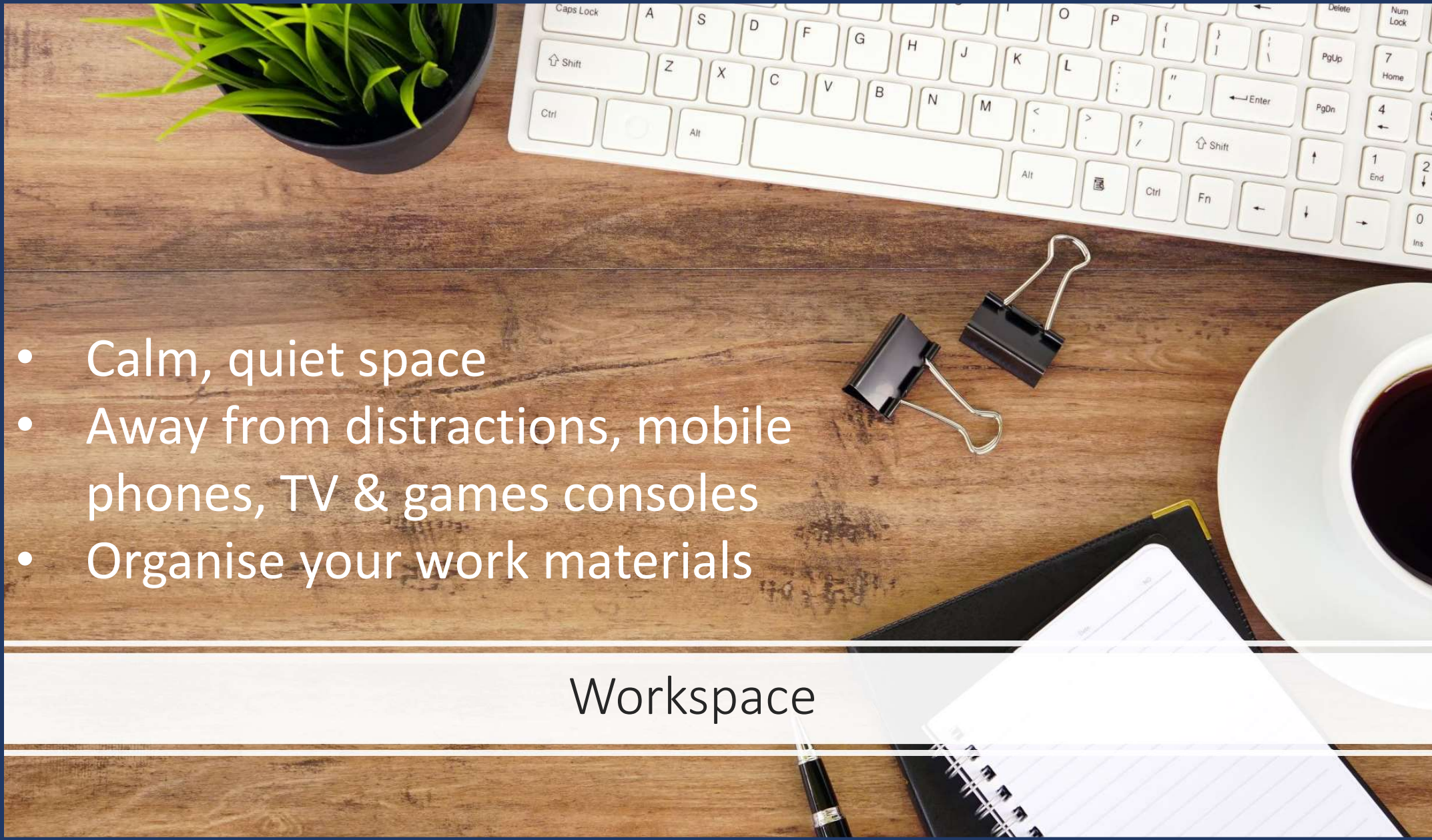
Making a Plan

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							
13:00 am							
13:30 am							Lunch
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		Study 2hrs				Study 3hrs	
16:00 am							
16:30 am							
17:00 am	Tea		Tea	Tea	Tea		
17:30 am							Tea
18:00 am	Study 1hr	Tea			Football		
18:30 am			Study 2hrs	Study 2hrs		Tea	
19:00 am							
19:30 am	Dance	See Mates					
20:00 am							

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



Homework & Study

A summary of research Studies found that **pupils who did regular homework achieved on average 0.64 of a grade better** than those who did not.

John Hattie 2012

The **Education Endowment Foundation** found that in secondary school regular homework would boost student's performance by

5 months per year.



Class Charts App

- Log in instructions.



Keep up to date with your homework & behaviour

LOG IN GUIDE

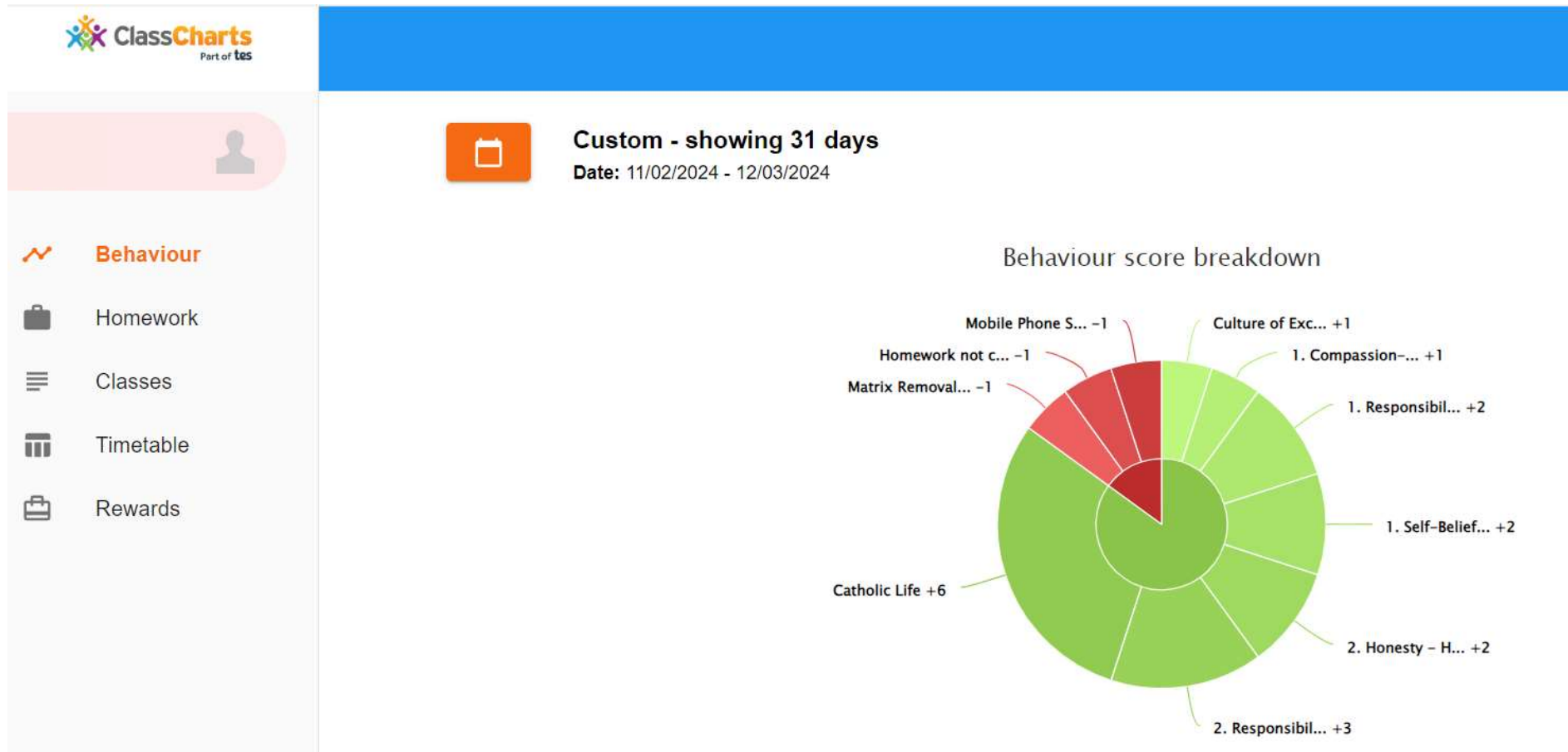
1. Go to www.classcharts.com/student/login
2. Enter your student access code,
remember to keep this safe!
3. Click Log-in!

ACCESS CODE

6LKEQRAX

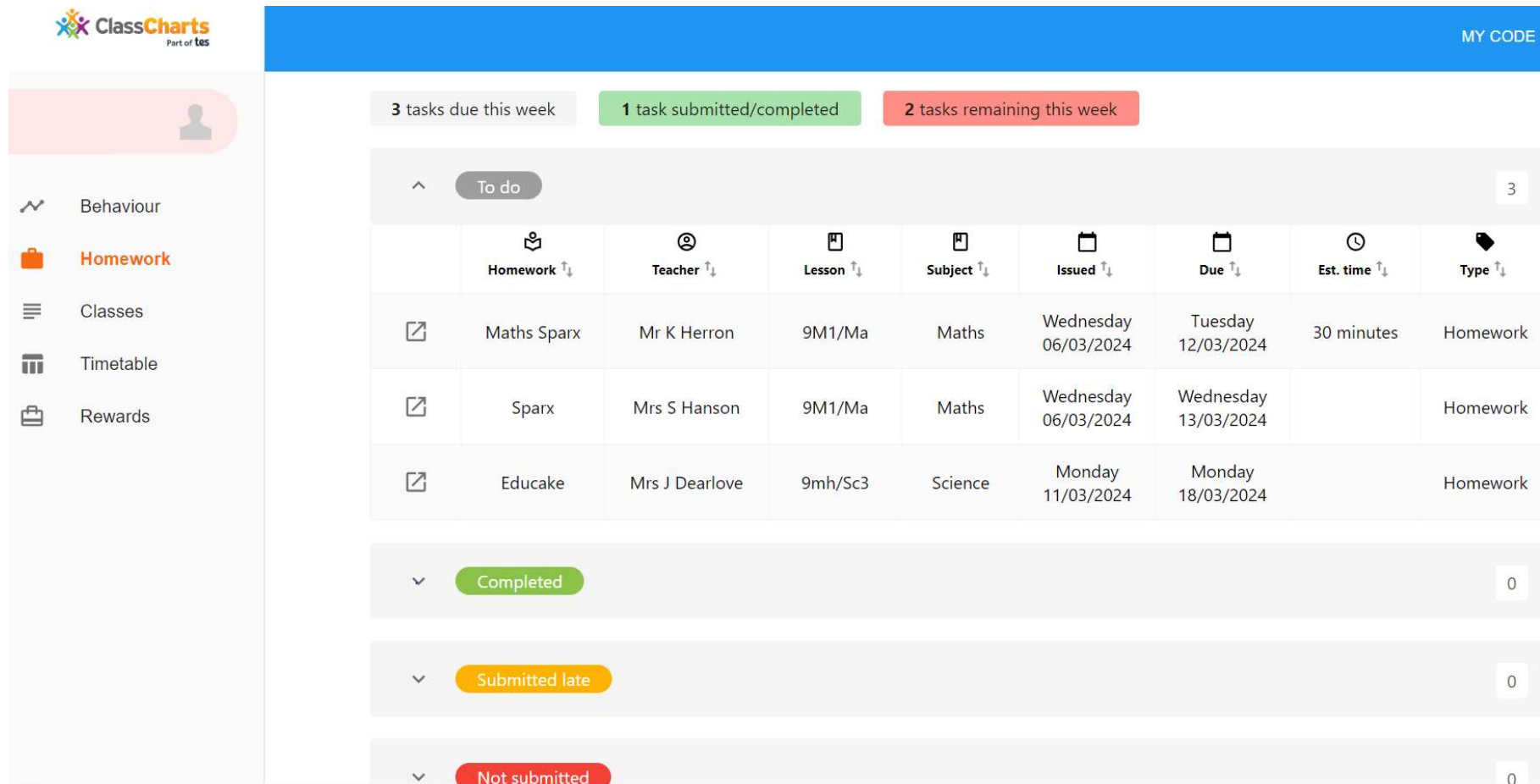
Class Charts App

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



Class Charts App

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

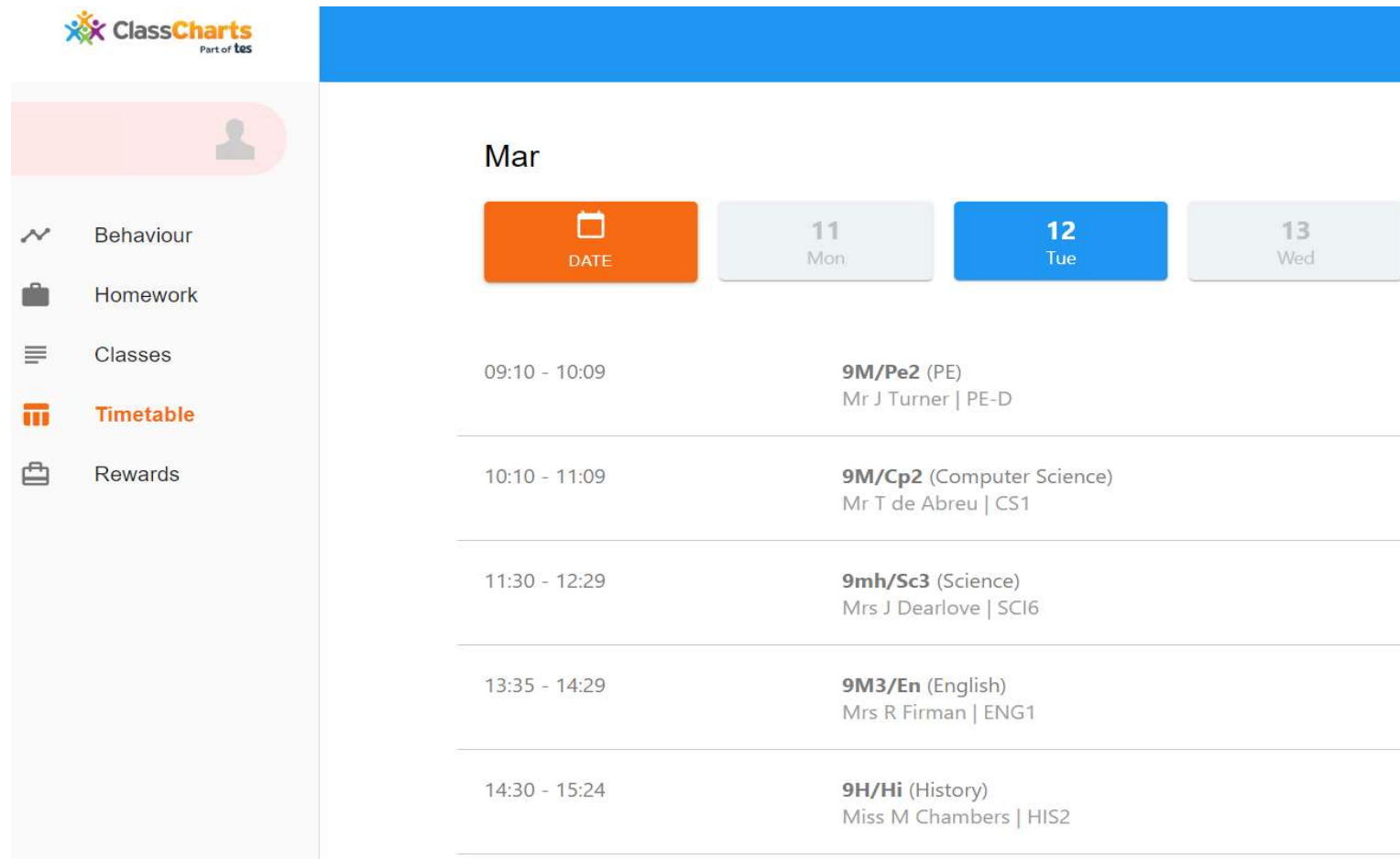


The screenshot shows the ClassCharts app interface. At the top, there's a blue header with the ClassCharts logo (Part of TES) on the left and a 'MY CODE' field on the right. Below the header, there are three status boxes: '3 tasks due this week' (grey), '1 task submitted/completed' (green), and '2 tasks remaining this week' (red). The main content area is divided into sections for 'To do' (3 tasks), 'Completed' (0 tasks), 'Submitted late' (0 tasks), and 'Not submitted' (0 tasks). The 'To do' section contains a table of homework tasks.

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

Class Charts App

- You can check your lessons for the day.



The screenshot shows the ClassCharts app interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options: Behaviour, Homework, Classes, Timetable (highlighted), and Rewards. The main content area displays the month of March with a calendar view where the 12th is selected. Below the calendar is a list of lessons for the selected day, including time slots, lesson names, and teachers.

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 Monday, Tuesday & 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



- Home
- About Us
- Governance
- Information
- Parents
- Curriculum
- Catholic Life
- News and Events

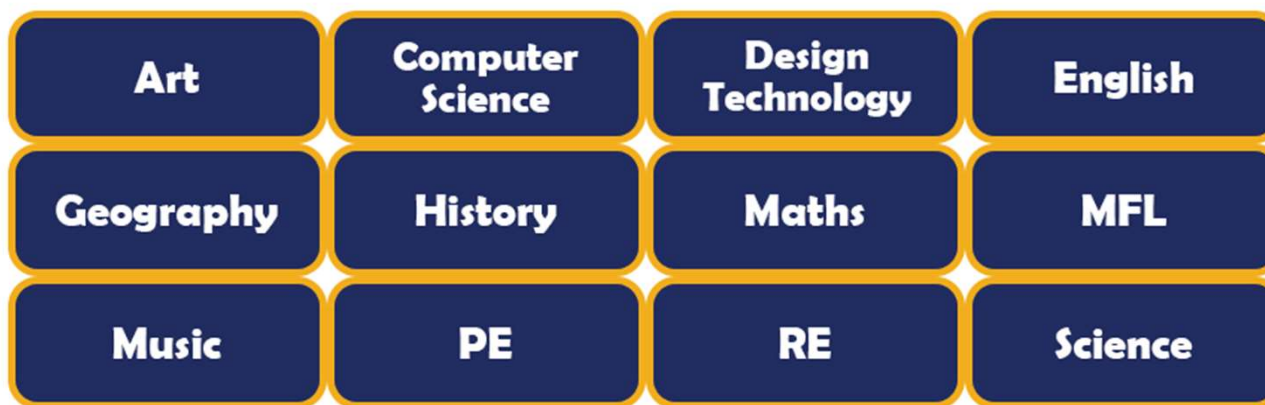
Curriculum And Subject Information

- Key Stage 3
- Year 10
- Year 11

Curriculum and Subject Info

Home / Curriculum and Subject Information

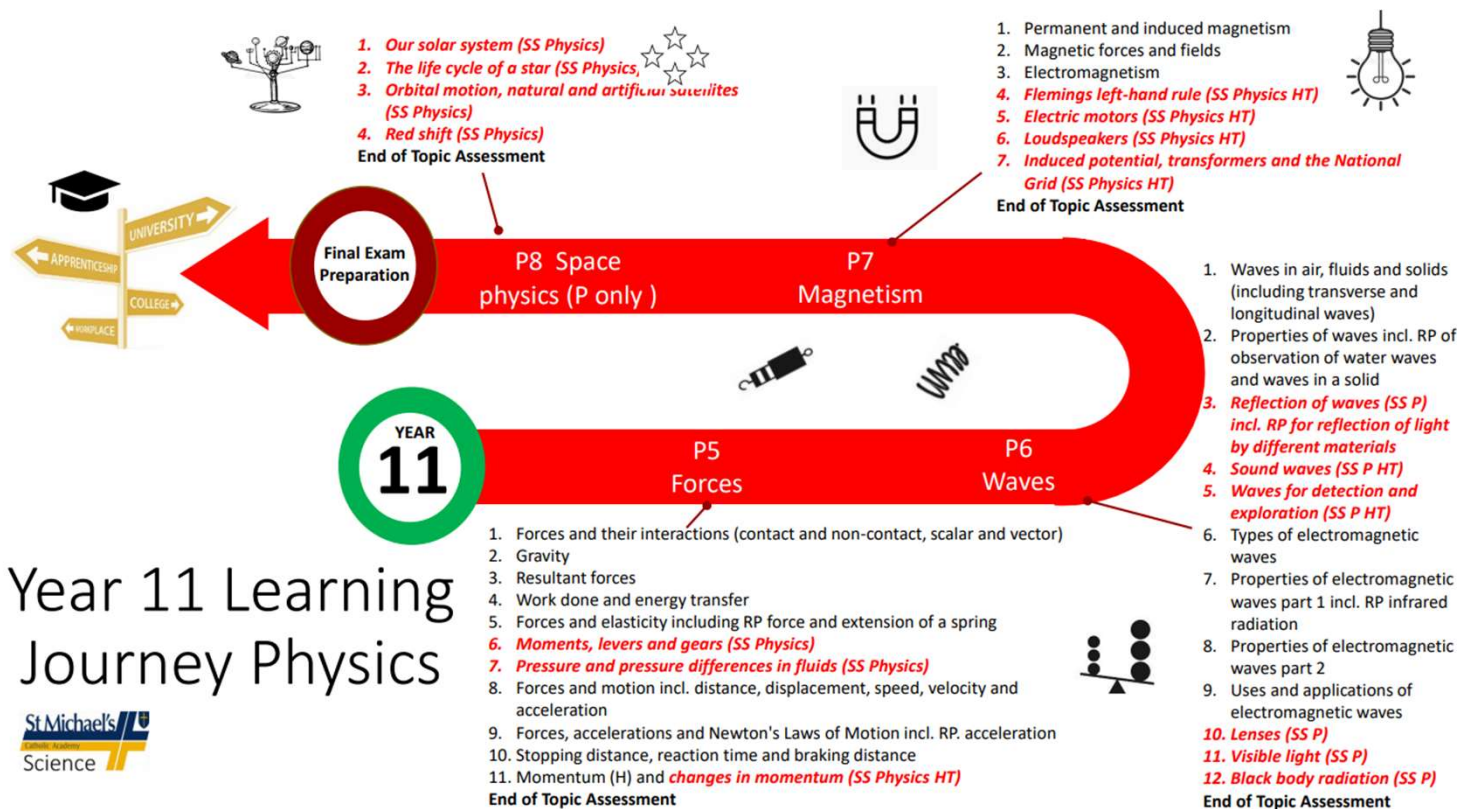
Curriculum Information



GCSE/BTEC/CNAT



Curriculum Information



English

- All students study both Language and Literature.
- Assessment is 100% exam.
- Students sit 4 English exams at the end of Y11: 2 for each qualification.
- Everything we study in Y10 is examined at the end of Y11.

AQA GCSE English Language

PAPER 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)

SECTION A
Reading and responding to a fiction text.

SECTION B
Creative writing – descriptive or narrative writing.

Exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes

PAPER 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

SECTION A
Reading and responding to non-fiction texts.

SECTION B
Transactional writing – writing to present a viewpoint.

Exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes



AQA GCSE English Literature

PAPER 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40%)

SECTION A
Shakespeare
'Macbeth'

SECTION B
Dickens *'A Christmas Carol'*

Exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes

PAPER 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (60%)

SECTION A
Priestley *'An Inspector Calls'*

SECTION B
Power and Conflict
Poetry
Anthology

SECTION C
Unseen
Poetry

Exam: 2 hours and 15 minutes



Language

- Revision for Language is different – but it can be done!
- Students need to have a clear understanding of the questions and the skills they need to display in their responses.
- Completing practice questions is the best way to prepare for this.

Literature

- Students are provided with their own copies of the texts by school.
- Exams are closed book.
- Having a strong understanding of the text is key – students need to know quotations from memory.



Wellbeing: Leisure & Enrichment

- Full Enrichment Programme at School: Over 25 clubs for Yr10
- Plan in time to do the things you enjoy
- Make time to do things as a family





Our Enrichment Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Girls Football Club After School (All years) CCL	Board games RDi/EMc Lunchtime Ma8	Girls Netball Club After School (All years) LDU	Language Club Humanities7/8	CAD club DT1 SMA
Trampolining Club After School LDU	Debate Club ENG6 BEJ/CNA	All year groups: Lore and Order Sci7 CFI	Y10 Girls PE Lunch Club LDU	SVP and Faith in Action every week B lunchtime.
Boys Basketball After School ARa	Maths Homework Club CBU Maths 5	Harry Potter Club English 7 Week B Lunchtime (12:45)	Y10 Lunch Boys Football MUGA ARA	Music Clinic Lunchtime every week from 12:45pm. MU1
Game Development Club After School (CS1 – TDA)	Chess Club LRC		Badminton/ Table Tennis Club After school (All years) CCL	Diverse History (All Years)
Team Maths challenge - DLL/SHA Maths 4	Warhammer LRC		Manga and Anime Club Eng 8 Lunchtime LRY	Cinema Club 3:30-4:30 HUM6
Maths Crafts – SCH/KHU Maths 1			Rugby Club with Billingham rugby	
			Music Appreciation Society	

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 Elsherif, 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

Thank you



Pastoral Support: Miss Chambers & Mr Price

SEND Support & Access Arrangements: Mrs Abbs

Attendance: Mr Scott

Examination Arrangements: Dr. Frank

Wellbeing: Mrs Carey

Study Skills & Habits: Mr McAuley & Mrs Fishburn

Science: Mrs Benvin-Duffield, Mrs Dearlove & Mrs Stewart.

English: Mrs Dodds

RE: Mr Macaulay

Refreshments will be served in the dining hall with the opportunity to speak to teachers.