

GEORGE
PINDAR
SCHOOL



Introduction to KS4 Evening

Welcome.



Moor Lane, Eastfield,
Scarborough,
North Yorkshire, YO11 3LW

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Email: hello@gps.hlt.academy
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Tonight we will talk to you about:

GEORGE
PINDAR
SCHOOL



- Introduction - Mr Willis
- Making the Most of Now - Mr Raisin
- Your Welcome Pack - Mr Thompson
- Making the Most of Your Potential - Mr Groak
- Attendance Matters - Mrs Knight
- The Role of Coursework - Mr Bell
- Supporting your Child through KS4- Mrs Brosnan
- Close - Mr Willis

GEORGE
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SCHOOL



Making the most out of now

Mr Raisin (Assistant Vice Principal)



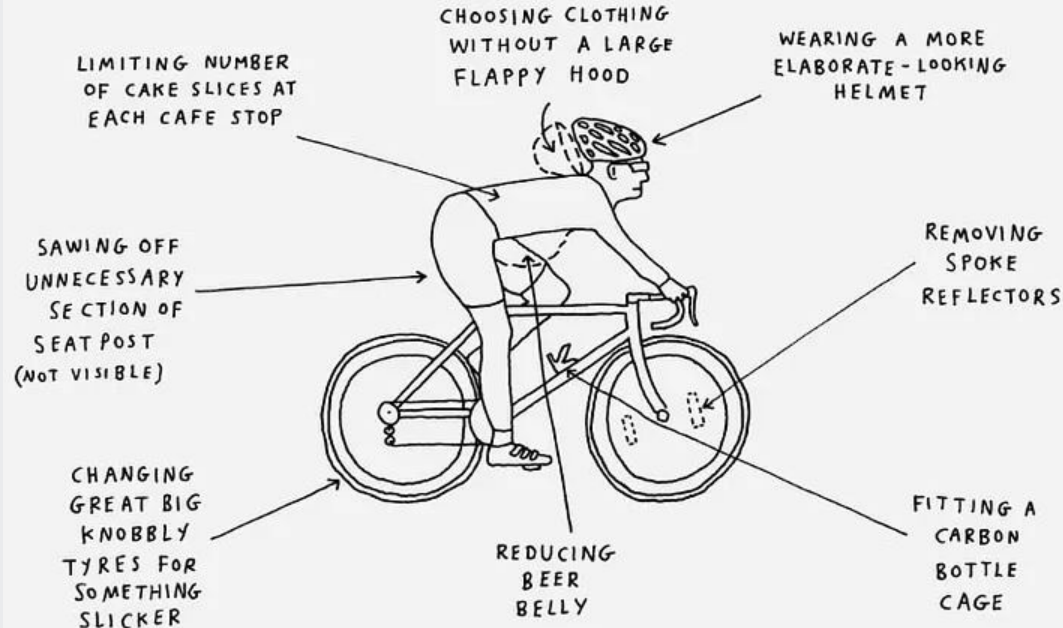
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Get 1% Better Every Day!

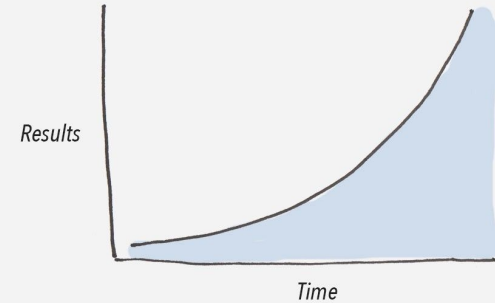
MARGINAL GAINS

HOW THE PROFESSIONALS MAKE SMALL CHANGES TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE



EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

Improvements come slowly in the beginning, but your gains increase rapidly over time.



Your life today is largely the sum of your habits.



Your life today is largely the sum of your habits.

What you repeatedly do and what you spend your time thinking about and doing each day ultimately forms the person you are.

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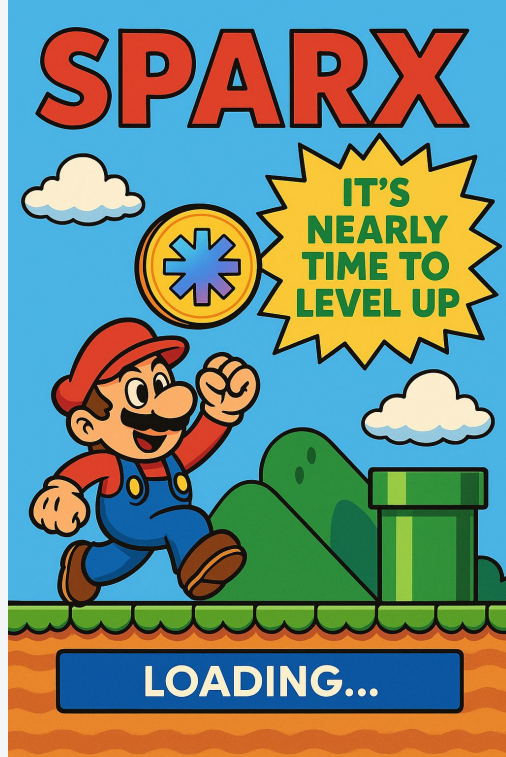
What does this have to do with school success?

Your life today is largely the sum of your habits.

What you repeatedly do and what you spend your time thinking about and doing each day ultimately forms the person you are.

What does this have to do with school success?

If attending school, working hard in lessons and doing homework are not your current habits, you have time to change this!



Sparx Maths and Science

Brand new homework platform last year

Replaces old homework

Effective, innovative, rewarding, useful - it
WILL help you achieve your true potential

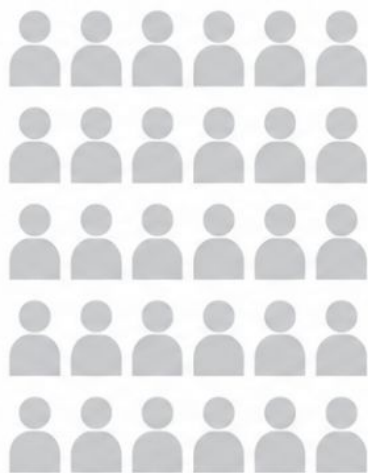
Sparx Facts Summer 2026

PRACTISE
PROGRESS
SUCCEED

The Sub-30% Threshold

0 out of
30

students with a completion rate below 30% met their target grade.



Students with under 30% completion missed their targets by an average of

2.13 grades.



MORE PRACTICE



HIGHER PROGRESS



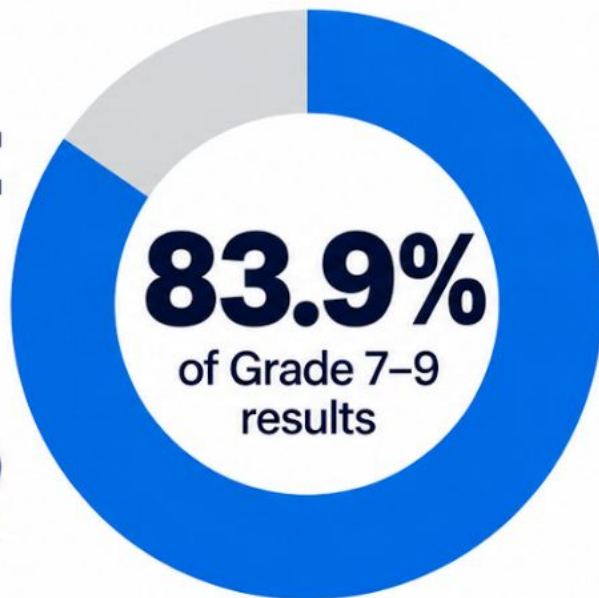
BRIGHTER FUTURES

Sparx Facts Summer 2026

PRACTISE
PROGRESS
SUCCEED

Top-Tier Attainment (Grades 7–9)

83.9% of all Grade 7–9 results (47 out of 56 students) were earned by students with an 80%+ Sparx completion rate.



47 out of **56**

Grade 7–9 results were earned by students with an 80%+ completion rate.



MORE PRACTICE



HIGHER PROGRESS



BRIGHTER FUTURES

Sparx Facts Summer 2026

PRACTISE
PROGRESS
SUCCEED

Students with **80%+** completion



110 out of **119**
secured a Grade 4
or higher.



HIGHER COMPLETION. BRIGHTER OUTCOMES.

Students with **under 50%** completion



25 out of **55**
secured a Grade 4
or higher.



COMPLETION MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE.



MORE PRACTICE

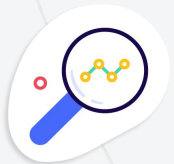


HIGHER PROGRESS

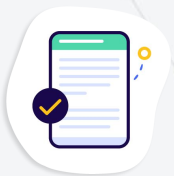


BRIGHTER FUTURES

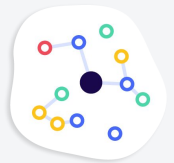
What is Sparx?



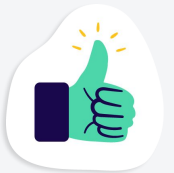
Homework that is made for you



Support to ensure you can get every question right



Gets you thinking hard and therefore – learning!



Practice on what you're learning about in class

What does Sparx look like in Maths?

The screenshot displays the Sparx Maths user interface. At the top, a blue header bar contains the 'Sparx Maths' logo on the left, and user information '170 XP Mr Pollock' and a notification bell icon on the right. A 'Menu' button with a hamburger icon is also present. Below the header, a light blue sidebar on the left lists four categories: 'Compulsory' (marked with a star), 'XP Boost' (marked with a lightning bolt), 'Target' (marked with a crown), and 'Independent Learning' (marked with a lightbulb). The main content area features a greeting 'Hey Mr Raisin' and a progress indicator '0/1' in a circular badge. Below this, a message states: 'This is your personalised Compulsory homework. You need to answer every question correctly to complete it.' A section titled 'Introducing Sparx Maths' shows a progress bar at 11% and three task cards: 'About Sparx Maths' (1:35, 'Completed'), 'Try some questions' (about 5 minutes, 'Start >'), and 'Sparx Maths Tips' (0:39, 'Locked').

Sparx Maths

170 XP Mr Pollock

Menu

Compulsory

XP Boost

Target

Independent Learning

Hey Mr Raisin

0/1

This is your personalised Compulsory homework. You need to answer every question correctly to complete it.

Introducing Sparx Maths

Bookwork 11%

About Sparx Maths
(1:35)

Completed

Try some questions
(about 5 minutes)

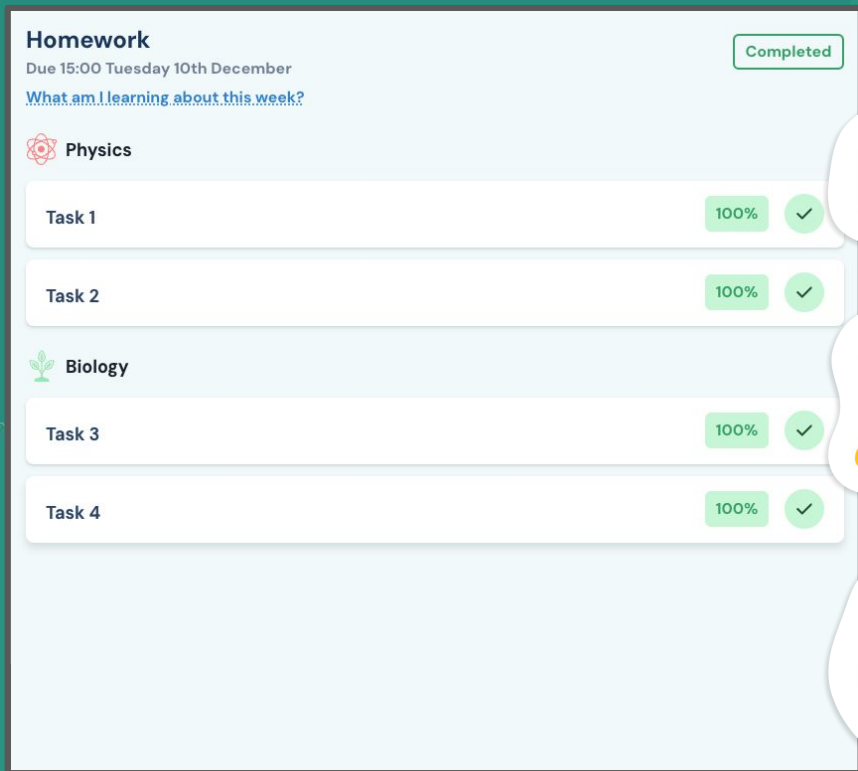
Start >

Sparx Maths Tips
(0:39)

Locked

Your compulsory homework will be available in the top left corner of the screen.

* What does Sparx look like in science?



The screenshot displays a 'Homework' section with a 'Completed' status badge. It lists two subjects: Physics and Biology. Under Physics, there are two tasks, 'Task 1' and 'Task 2', both marked as '100%' complete with green checkmarks. Under Biology, there are two tasks, 'Task 3' and 'Task 4', also marked as '100%' complete with green checkmarks. A link 'What am I learning about this week?' is visible at the top of the homework list.

Subject	Task	Progress
Physics	Task 1	100% ✓
	Task 2	100% ✓
Biology	Task 3	100% ✓
	Task 4	100% ✓



A task completes when all questions are correct, you will then gain XP



A homework is complete when all tasks are 100% complete



The tailored levels and support Sparx provides means everyone should be able to complete 100% of their homework

Built-in Accessibility Features

- ❑ Image zoom - All images in Sparx can be enlarged by clicking on them
- ❑ Use zoom controls in the top left corner to adjust magnification

The screenshot displays the Sparx Maths interface. At the top, a blue header bar contains a back arrow, the text "Sparx Maths", and user information "0 XP Demo Student" along with a "Menu" button. Below the header, a navigation bar shows tabs for "1A", "1B", "1C" (which is selected and highlighted in dark blue), "1D", "1E", and "Summary". The main content area has a white background. At the top of this area, a dark blue box displays "Bookwork code: 1C". To its right, a calculator icon with a red 'X' is accompanied by the text "Calculator not allowed". The instruction "Round the number on the calculator to the nearest 100." is centered. Below the instruction is a green calculator interface. The calculator's display shows "430". The keypad includes a "SHIFT" button, a directional pad, and various mathematical function buttons such as $\frac{\square}{\square}$, $\sqrt{\square}$, x^2 , x^3 , $x^\square$, $(-)$, x^{-1} , π , $\%$, and $x!$. Below the calculator is a "Zoom" button with a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom of the interface, there are three buttons: "< Previous", "Watch video" (with a play icon), and "Answer".

Built-in Accessibility Features

- ❑ Video captions for hearing impairments / EAL learners
- ❑ English captions available for all videos
- ❑ Toggle captions on/off using the three dots menu in video player
- ❑ Captions enabled by default

Sparx Maths

O XP Demo Student Menu

1A 1B 1C 1D 1E Summary

Bookwork code: 1C

Calculator not allowed

Round the number on the calculator to the nearest 100.

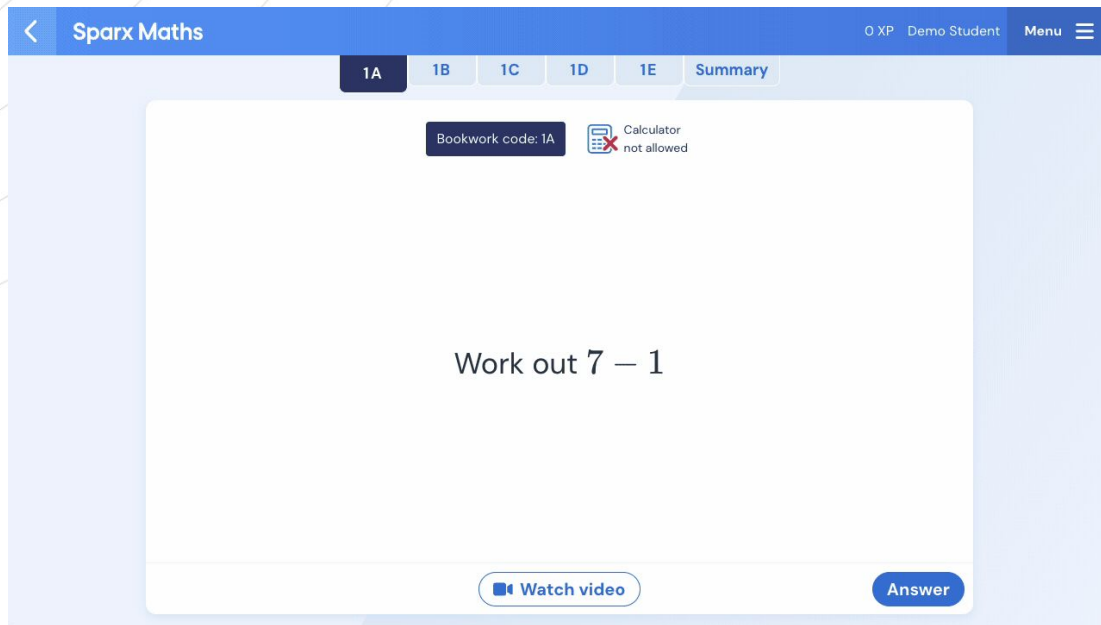


Zoom

Previous Watch video Answer

Built-in Accessibility Features

- ❑ Colour & contrast settings to reduce visual stress
- ❑ Students can select from different colour overlays to improve reading comfort
- ❑ Adjust settings via the Settings page
- ❑ Colour choices optimised for users with colour vision deficiencies



Supporting specific needs - Browser features and extensions

☐ Visual impairments

- ☐ Suitable for users with colour blindness
- ☐ Compatible with most screen magnification tools
- ☐ Clear contrast ratios in interface design

☐ Hearing impairments

- ☐ All videos include captions
- ☐ Written instructions provided alongside video content
- ☐ No audio-dependent features

Supporting specific needs - Browser features and extensions

- ❑ Dyslexia support
 - ❑ Option to use OpenDyslexic font via browser extensions
[OpenDyslexic](#)
 - ❑ Adjustable colour overlays
 - ❑ Clear, consistent layout and navigation
- ❑ Low ability learners
 - ❑ Fundamentals curriculum bridging KS2 to KS3

Benefits of Sparx:

Supercharge your learning

- Personalised learning
- Instant feedback and support
- Boost your confidence
- Save time, learn more
- Preparation for success

Rewards for Completion: Get Ready to Earn!



All students need to complete 100% of their homework on time each week by the deadline



Wednesday to Wednesday

Rewards: It's all about the XP?

How will I be rewarded in school for my XP points?

Each student completing their Sparx homework will receive one new 'Sparx Maths' or 'Sparx Science' **stamp in their planner per week**. This is worth 5 normal stamps!

These stamps can be used to buy the usual prizes, so completing homework will get you faster access to: Queue jumps! Home bakes! And the rest!

As the term goes on we are also going to organise raffles, certificates, postcards, and more!

Also...students must now complete their Sparx homework if they want to gain access to the 3G football pitch at lunch times!

But the real reward...



Be a champion

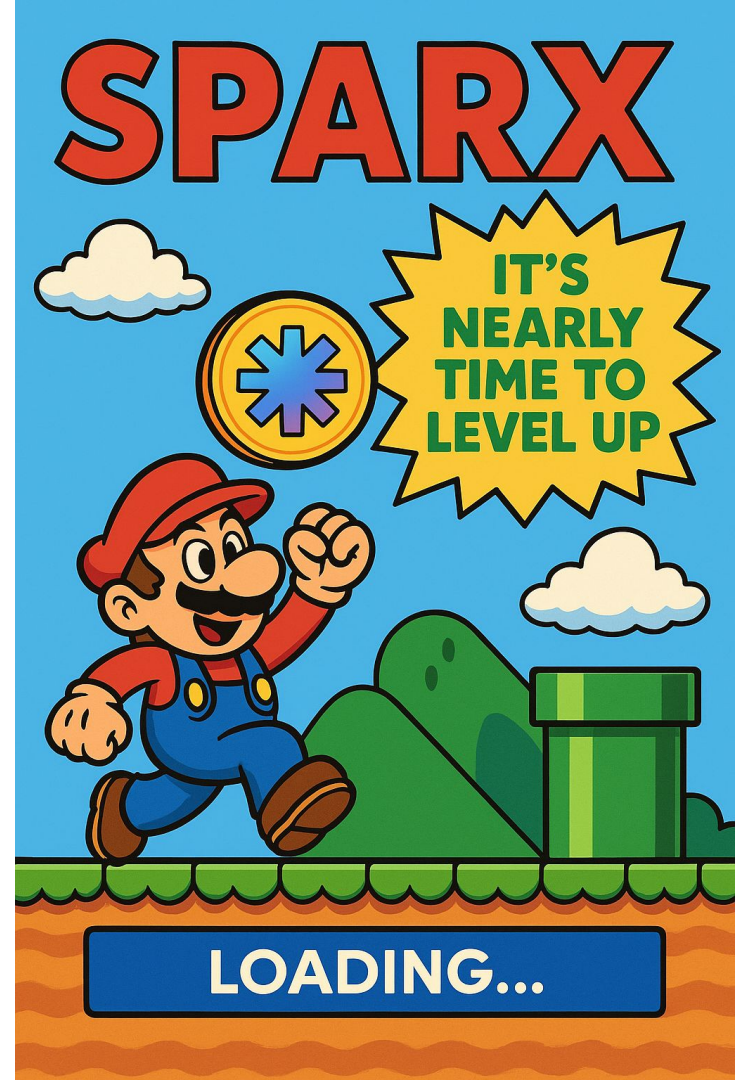
What if I'm struggling?

Homework clubs (library and Beacon)

Support on the GPS website

Teachers

And key staff...

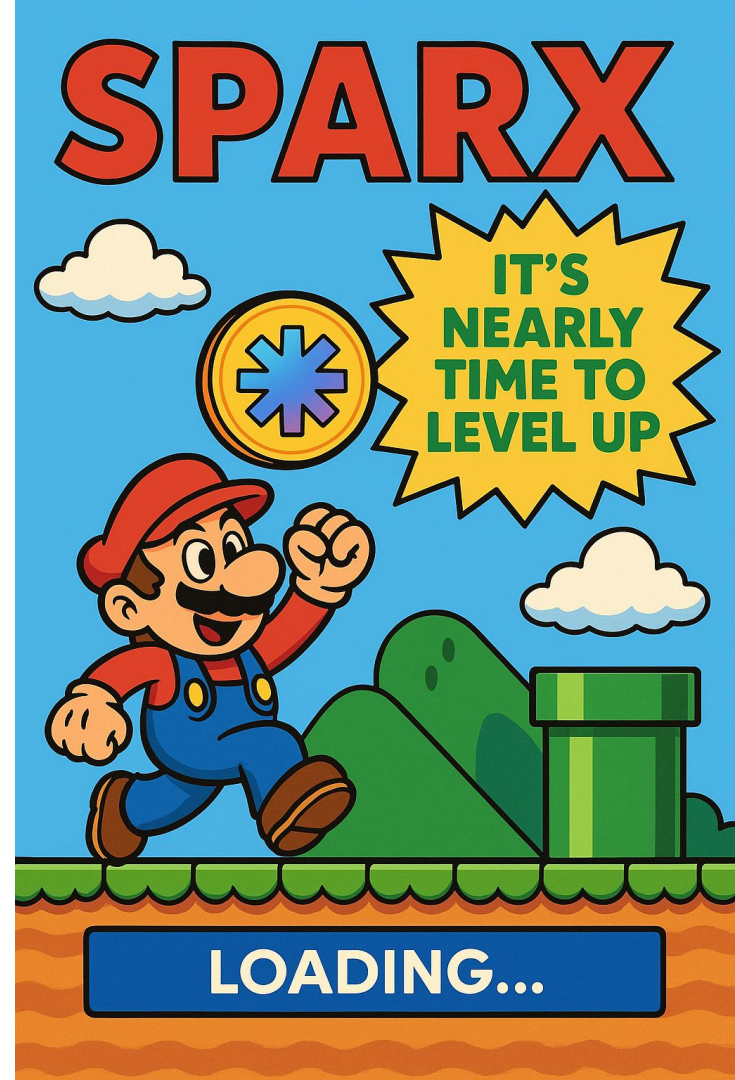


Be a champion

Sparx Maths - AWG

Sparx Science - HBV

Sparx - general - LRA



Our school
website is also
here to help you...

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING - THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER - 5-7PM

Principal: Jonny Willis ☎ 01723 582194 ✉ hello@gps.hlt.academy

GEORGE PINDAR SCHOOL 

Who we are ▾ Key Inform ▾

Curriculum ▴ Work with us ▾

Welcome
Proud, Independent, Neighbourly, Determined
Principal's Welcome

- Our Curriculum
- Subject Information
- Careers
- Exams
- Sparx Learning
- Reading

Res

Stream

Classwork

People

Marks

+ Create

Topic filter

All topics

 Collapse all

...as is Google Classroom

1) Motion



L1 Speed

Posted 9 Sept



2) Distance Time Graphs (14.09.26)

Edited Yesterday



L3 Acceleration (15.09.26)

Edited Yesterday



L4 Velocity Time Graphs (16.09.26)

Posted Yesterday



L5 Terminal Velocity (17.09.26)

Posted Yesterday



L6 Uniform Acceleration (18.09.26)

Posted Yesterday

To have the biggest impact, make all of these marginal gains:

- ❑ Be in school
- ❑ Arrive to school on time
- ❑ Be equipped (stationary pack and planner)
- ❑ Participate fully in lessons
- ❑ Put in the effort outside of school too

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What's in the pack I've received tonight?

Mr Thompson (KS4 Impact Lead)



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What's in the information pack and why?

Hit the Ground Running Calendar

-  Because we don't want you to miss opportunities.
-  Because we want you to get ahead.

“FAQs” and “How to”

-  Because your time is precious so we want you to have the answers before you start.

Revision Strategies

-  Because you need some ideas about where to start.

Information about your courses

-  So you all know what's expected of you.
-  To make sure you're revising for the right exam.

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Making the most of YOUR potential

Mr Groak (Vice Principal)



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Key Parental Questions

school

volunteer_activi
sm

Key Parental Questions

school

“What grades is my child likely to get when they sit their GCSEs?”

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Key Parental Questions

school

“What grades is my child likely to get when they sit their GCSEs?”

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sm

“What can I do to help?”



GRADES EXPLAINED

NEW GRADES

OLD GRADES

9
8
7

A*
A

6
5
4

B
C

3
2
1

D
E
F
G

U

U

GCSE Estimates

A Massive Database

This deep pool of historical student data allows us to predict GCSE performance with high accuracy.

500,000

Students Sit Exams Annually

5 Million

Students Tracked Over 10 Years

Personalized Match

From millions of records, we isolate thousands of students who share your exact key characteristics:

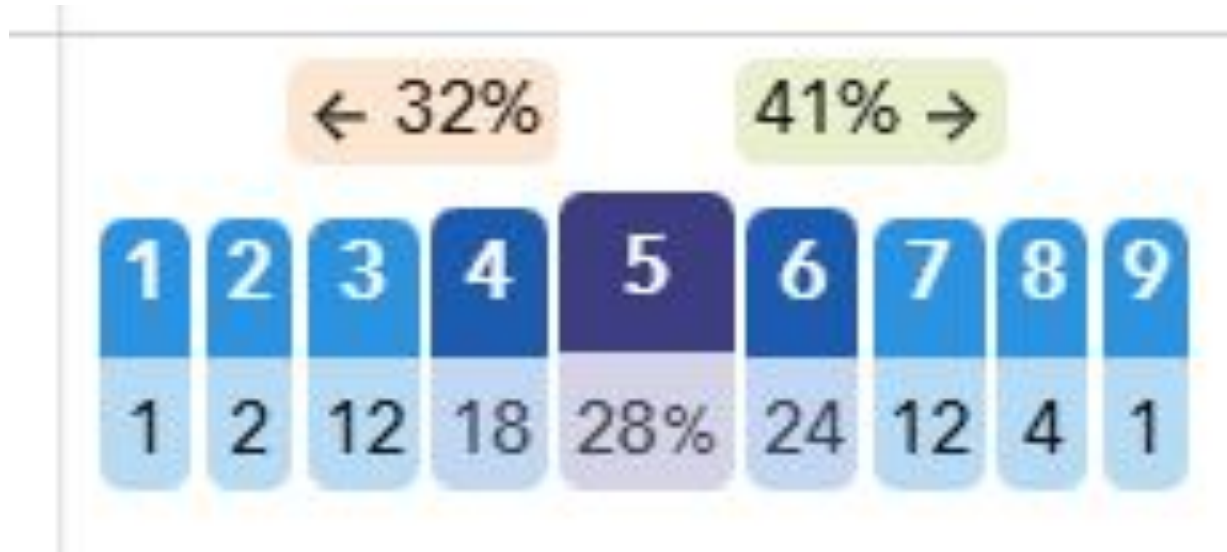
Gender

Age

Prior Attainment (Primary SATs)

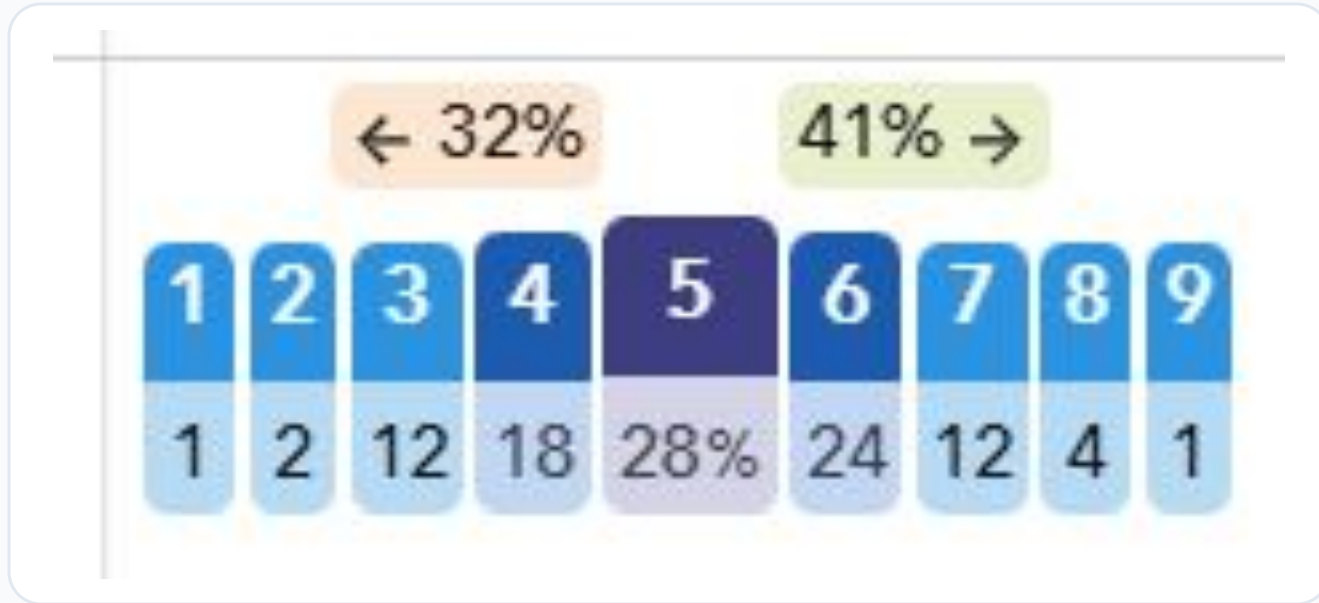
Range of English GCSE grades

Average Ability Student (84,000)



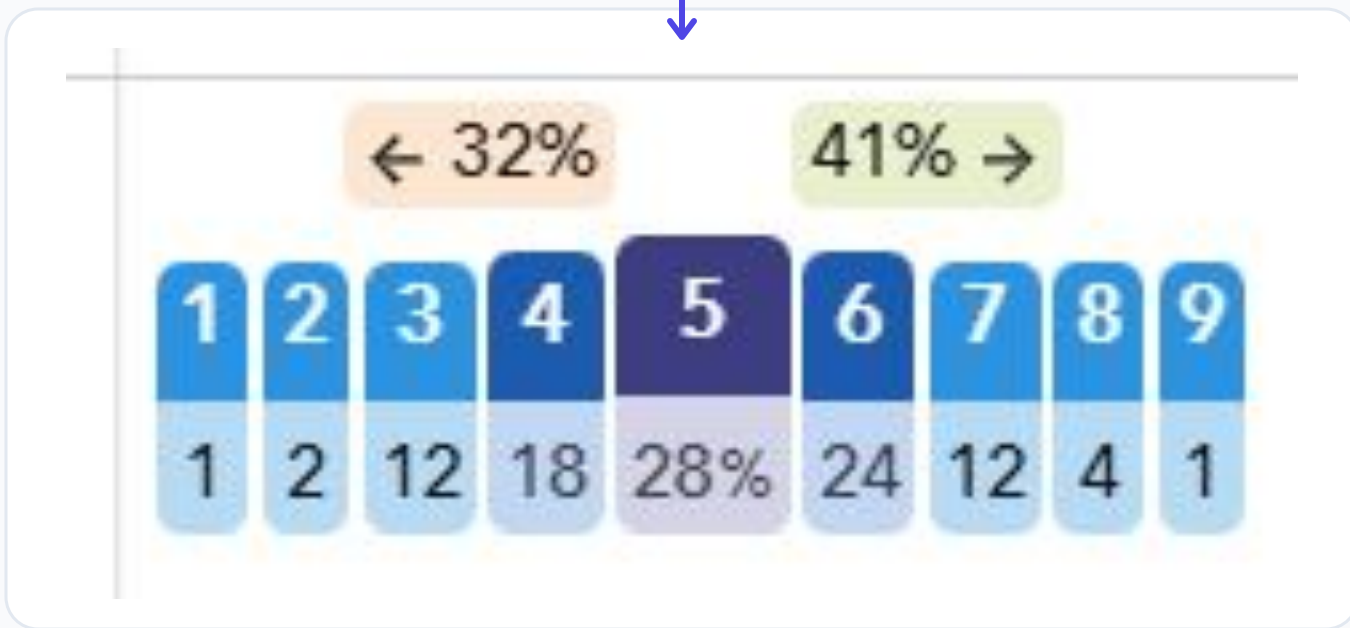
How can students who were national average at end of Y6,

get such different results at GCSE?

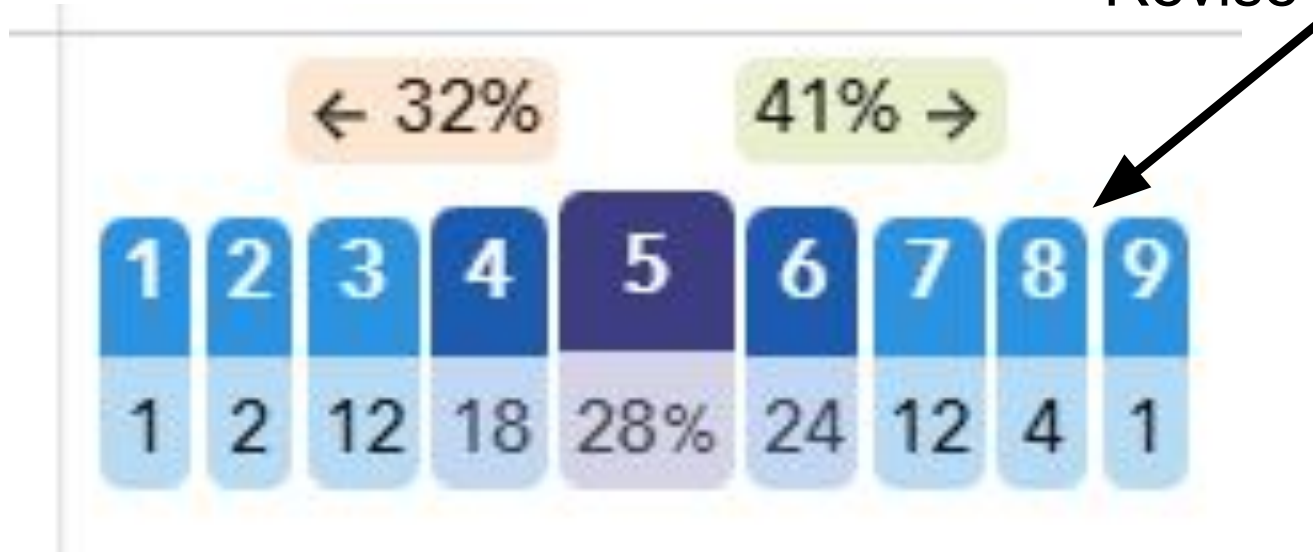


With positive habits, good attendance, and some luck...

...this is the likely grade



Excellent attendance
Clear focus / no distractions
Complete homework, build good study
habits
Revise for tests



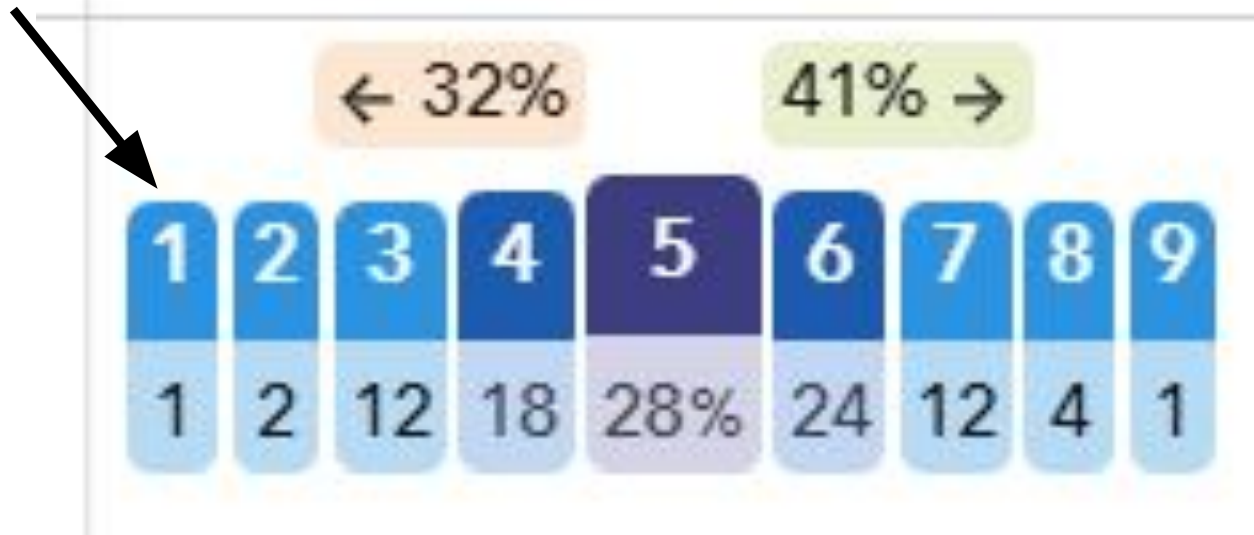
Poor attendance

Late to lessons

Distracted behaviour

Miss coursework deadlines

Little or no independent study outside of school



We will ...

Use this information

When we find that your child is at risk of underachieving, and missing their potential, we will intervene.

If necessary, we will contact you



We will ...

Use this information

When we find that your child is at risk of underachieving, and missing their potential, we will intervene.

If necessary, we will contact you

You will ...

Speak to your child about their education

- What have they done today?
- What do they enjoy?
- Over time: How do you want to use your education for further study or employment?

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Attendance Matters

Mrs Knight (Assistant-Vice Principal)



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Scarborough,
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EVERY LESSON COUNTS.

Every lesson builds towards GCSE success.



ATTENDANCE



LEARNING



PRACTICE



CONFIDENCE



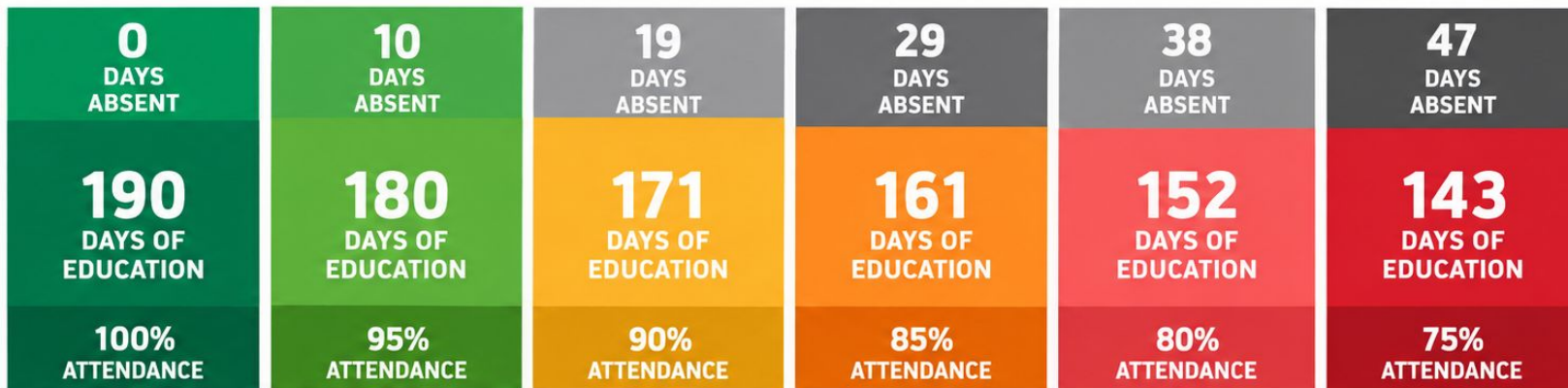
GCSE
OUTCOMES

#ProudToBePindar
#EveryDayCounts



EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Good attendance and timekeeping are key to your learning outcomes.



3
SCHOOL DAYS
LOST PER YEAR



6.5
SCHOOL DAYS
LOST PER YEAR



10
SCHOOL DAYS
LOST PER YEAR



13
SCHOOL DAYS
LOST PER YEAR



19
SCHOOL DAYS
LOST PER YEAR

#ProudToBePindar
#EveryDayCounts



WHY ABSENCE MATTERS MORE IN YEAR 10

Three reasons:

1

GCSE content is cumulative

A missed concept can become a problem later.



2

Lessons can't always be recreated

-  Teacher explanations
-  Modelling
-  Class discussion
-  Questioning and feedback
-  Practical work
-  Opportunities to practise

3

Catch-up has a cost

Students have to learn the missed material while keeping up with the new material.



“ Absence doesn't remove the work — it moves the work somewhere else. ”

#ProudToBePindar
#EveryDayCounts

PERSISTENT ABSENCE:



What does it mean?

10%+
of possible sessions
missed



Attendance is
measured in sessions.
Two sessions =
one school day.



Authorised absence



**AUTHORISED
ABSENCE**

Can be for a good reason,
**but the learning time
is still missed.**



Not the same as
good attendance



**NOT THE SAME
AS GOOD ATTENDANCE**

The aim is to be in school
as much as possible.

“

**The key threshold isn't 80% or 70%.
Once absence reaches 10%, we need to take it seriously.**

”

#ProudToBePindar
#EveryDayCounts



ATTENDANCE ISN'T JUST ABOUT GCSE GRADES

Regular attendance supports:



Curriculum
knowledge



Memory
and retention



Practice
and feedback



Classroom
participation



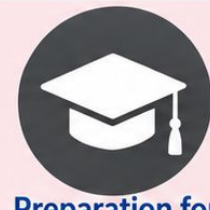
Peer
relationships



Punctuality
and routines



Confidence
and independence



Preparation for
post-16 education,
training or employment

#ProudToBePindar
#EveryDayCounts



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Parents can help by:



**Prioritising
school attendance**

Avoid unnecessary
absences and
arrive on time.



**Communicating
early**

Contact school early
if there are any
barriers to attendance.



**Building
good routines**

Support consistent
routines at home.



**Taking minor illness
seriously**

Follow the school's
guidance and keep
in touch.

#ProudToBePindar
#EveryDayCounts



**Don't think
"How much school
have they missed?"**



Think:

**"What learning
did they miss?"**



**What lesson
did my child miss?**



**What did they
miss out on
learning?**



**When and how
will they catch
it up?**

**#ProudToBePindar
#EveryDayCounts**



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The role of Coursework and what you can do

Mr Bell (Assistant-Vice Principal)



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Which Year 10 subjects include coursework?

Often called “coursework” or “Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)” — marked work completed across the course, not in the exam hall.

1

Art & Design
60% NEA

2

Construction
60% NEA

3

Engineering
60% NEA

4

Child Care
60% NEA

5

Hair and Beauty
60% NEA

6

Health and Social Care
60% NEA

7

Hospitality and Catering
60% NEA

8

iMedia
60% NEA

9

Music
60% NEA

10

Performing Arts
60% NEA

11

Sports Studies
60% NEA

What coursework actually involves

Three things make it very different from a written exam:

60%

of the final GCSE grade in that subject — it genuinely counts.

Weeks or months

to complete each piece, worked on alongside other homework.

Fixed deadlines

with little or no opportunity to redo work once it's submitted.

Keeping on top: the pay-off

Steady, regular progress changes the experience completely.



Stronger, more reflective work

Time to draft, get feedback and improve produces noticeably better marks than a rush job.



Grades banked early

Marks secured well before study leave take pressure off the exam season that follows.



A calmer, more confident student

No deadline panic — just steady progress your child can see and feel good about.



Skills that carry forward

Planning, drafting and independent research are exactly what A-level and beyond demand.

How you can help at home

Small, regular check-ins make the biggest difference — not last-minute pressure.

1

Ask about deadlines regularly

A quick weekly “what's due, and when?” keeps coursework visible instead of forgotten.

2

Create a settled work space

A consistent, quiet spot and routine time for coursework helps it get done, not just planned.

3

Encourage early drafts

Praise a rough first attempt started early over a polished one rushed the night before.

4

Flag problems to school early

If your child is stuck or behind, contact the subject teacher before the deadline — not after.

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Supporting your child through KS4

Mrs Brosnan (SENDCo)



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Specialist Exam Arrangements/Access Arrangements

Access Arrangements are pre-examination adjustments put in place for candidates based on evidence of need and normal way of working.

If your child currently has specialist exam arrangements, such as a seat in a small room, 25% additional time, supervised medical breaks, access to a reader or reading pen you have already been contacted.

Students have been assessed based on needs and their learning profiles within the classroom and have already been using them in our classrooms and during mock examinations.

If you feel your child should have been considered for an access arrangement please contact me- the sooner the better.

During Y10 and balancing KS4...

“

Stress, stress, stress - everyone is stressed! Young people are stressed by revision, and parents are stressed by getting the kids to exams on time, and making sure the house is clean and food is ready.

”

Parent

Plan and schedule “check in time” with your child- ensure they know when you will be free to have an uninterrupted conversation about how they are feeling. Include conversation about how everyone else in the family may be feeling- including siblings who are not taking exams.

Family duties- your child might need a bit more flex or less chores at home during the run up to key deadlines, mocks and main examination periods. Try and remember to communicate this with all family members for understanding.

During Y10 and Y11...

Prioritise: plan routines in advance and encourage your child to work with the teaching staff to work out what is most important to complete and revise ready for assessments

Revision Time Management- Keep it varied- switching topic every 20-minutes will help your child manage and stay focussed.

Talk about it- struggling to remember things can make your child feel less confident and unprepared for homework deadlines and exams. Try asking your child questions about what they have read, ask them to explain a topic or concept to you by drawing a picture or using words.

Keep as many routines as possible to ensure your child continues to feel stable e.g. if you visit a grandparent each week, keep the visit.



During KS4...

Remember, this is a hectic time and academic demand is more than ever!

Put time aside for shared meals, walks, or film nights to maintain family connection and a sense of “life beyond exams”.

Model calm behaviour. Your tone and pace can help set the mood for the house.

Prepare for wobbles. When motivation dips, a snack, chat, or bit of humour can work better than a lecture.



Recognising and responding to a mental health crisis

Year 10 is stressful..!

Possible warning signs include:

- Talking or writing about feeling hopeless, trapped, or like a burden
- Self-harming or seeking means to do so
- Major changes in mood, appetite, or sleep
- Withdrawing completely from friends, family, or usual activities
- Intense irritability, anger or restlessness
- Expressions of wanting to disappear or not wanting to live.



If your child needs help / support...

If you feel your child needs urgent help

Call 999 for emergency services.

Take your child to A and E



If you feel your child needs urgent help but the situation is not immediately life threatening

Call NHS 111 and select the mental health option, or use [111 online](#). 111 can provide urgent advice and tell you where you can get help. This service is open 24/7

Get an urgent on-the-day appointment with a GP by phoning your GP surgery or going into the surgery. These appointments are as much for mental health concerns as physical ones: you won't be wasting anyone's time.

If your child needs to talk to someone...

Childline



If you're under 19 you can confidentially call, chat online or email about any problem big or small.

Sign up for a free Childline locker (real name or email address not needed) to use their free 1-2-1 counsellor chat and email support service.

Can provide a BSL interpreter if you are deaf or hearing-impaired.

Hosts online message boards where you can share your experiences, have fun and get support from other young people in similar situations.

Opening times: 24/7

0800 1111

 [Childline](#)

Papyrus



Offers confidential advice and support for young people struggling with suicidal thoughts, as well as family and friends; and information about how to make a safety plan.

Its helpline service - HOPELINE247 - is available to anybody under the age of 35 experiencing suicidal thoughts, or anybody concerned that a young person could be thinking of suicide.

There is a chat service available on the website.

Opening times: 24/7 every day of the year

0800 068 4141

88247

pat@papyrus-uk.org

 [Papyrus](#)

Shout



Text SHOUT to 85258.

Shout provides free, 24/7 text support for young people across the UK experiencing a mental health crisis.

All texts are answered by trained volunteers, with support from experienced clinical supervisors.

Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus.

Texts can be anonymous, but if the volunteer believes you are at immediate risk of harm, they may share your details with people who can provide support.

Opening times: 24/7

 [Shout](#)

GEORGE
PINDAR
SCHOOL



Any questions?



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