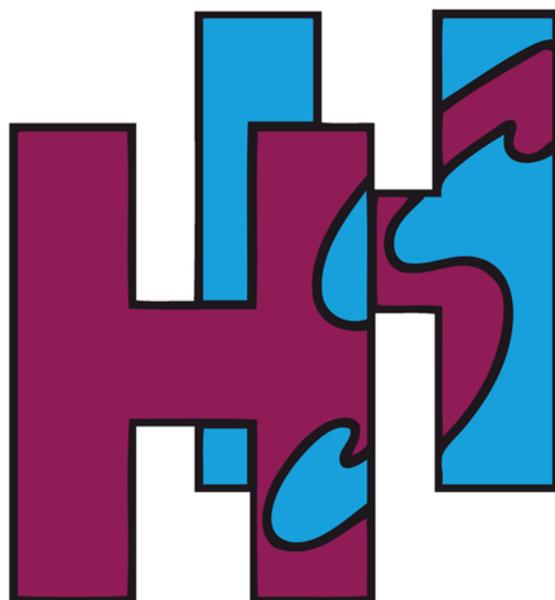


Hellesdon High School

*A Leading Edge Academy where students
Enjoy, Achieve and Succeed*



Part of the
WENSUM TRUST

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A Parents' Guide to Year 10

Welcome to Year 10!

This booklet aims to help you support your child through this important year. It includes information about progress reviews in Year 10 and hopefully will answer some of your questions.

You will have probably already noticed that your child's timetable has changed from Year 9, in some cases quite significantly.

This is because in Year 10, we have moved from three bands (L, R, M) to two bands (L, R). This means that there are two top sets rather than three. There are now six sets in L and R, rather than four each in L, M and R. The band that a student has been assigned to is no indication of their academic progress or attainment.

Due to these changes, some students who were previously in a set one may have been moved into a set two or three. This does not necessarily mean that they have regressed or that they are underachieving. The restructure also means that in some subject areas, sets 2-5 may now be taught in mixed ability sets. If you have any questions about your child's change in set, please contact the head of the department for that subject.

The other addition to the Year 10 timetable is the addition of two option subjects. These are the two-year options that students chose in Year 9. These option subjects will continue for the final two years of school.

Finally, I wish you the best of luck for Year 10 and urge you to seek help from all members of staff as and when you need it. There are many ways in which we can support you.

Mr Stevenson
Head of Year 10

Working together is the best way to ensure that your child reaches their full potential. This booklet explains how we will communicate with you.

We aim to provide:

1. Clear, frequent, straightforward information.
2. Regular opportunities to listen and talk.

We will do this by:

- ✓ A Head of Year Information Evening at the start of the year.
- ✓ Three progress reviews during the year from each subject teacher. All data will be available through the SIMS Parent App.
- ✓ A Parents' Evening in January with subject teachers – an opportunity to talk about progress, coursework, exam preparation and any questions you may have.
- ✓ Communication pathways with Tutors, Heads of Year, Heads of Department and subject teachers. Planners, exercise books and homework can also be used to monitor progress.
- ✓ Use of the SIMS Parent App, which provides secure online access to your child's assessment results, achievement points, attendance lesson by lesson and behaviour marks.

Progress reviews will give you information about...

1. Attitude to Learning Grade: Ready, Respectful, Safe

Grade A:	Grade B:	Grade C:	Grade D:	Grade E:
Your attitude to learning shows that you are always ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are usually ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are sometimes ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are rarely ready, respectful and safe.	There are serious concerns about your attitude to learning.

You show that you are **ready** for learning when you:

- arrive to each lesson on time
- wear your uniform correctly
- have the correct equipment for each lesson
- complete homework to a good standard
- act on advice given to improve your work
- are well-motivated to learn

You show that you have a **respectful** attitude to learning when you:

- take pride in your work
- complete all classwork to a good standard
- are respectful towards staff
- are respectful of the learning of others in your class

You show that you are **safe** when you:

- follow all instructions given, first time
- behave safely during the lesson
- act responsibly towards others

We expect all students to aim for 'A' Grades in all their subjects. We do not expect students to receive 'D' or 'E' Grades and these grades will trigger intervention from us.

2. Student Target Grade Range

All students will receive an aspirational target grade range for each subject. This will be a range of two GCSE grades: for example, a student may receive a target grade range of grade 6-7.

This target grade range will narrow to a single target grade at the beginning of Year 11.

The reason for this grade range is to reflect the challenge of accurately assigning a single GCSE grade in Year 10, as not all of the knowledge and skills will have been taught at this stage. It is also hoped that the grade range will help students to see their progress towards an end of year 11 target grade more positively.

3. Current Working Grade Range

Just like the student target grades, current working grades will also be reported as a range of two GCSE grades in Year 10.

This range of two grades is the current standard of work that your child is producing. It will take into account the work that they have produced so far or are working towards at present. It is a teacher assessment and will be informed by:

- ✓ any exam results;
- ✓ any module results or resits;
- ✓ any coursework or controlled assessments completed;
- ✓ current class work;
- ✓ homework tasks.

The reason for this current working grade range is, as mentioned above, to reflect the challenge of accurately assigning a single GCSE grade at this early stage of the course.

A note about GCSE Combined Science

Combined science is two GCSEs rolled into one qualification. Students studying combined science will study biology, chemistry and physics but they won't cover quite as much content as those students sitting separate sciences.

Combined science students will get an award consisting of two equal or adjacent grades from 9 to 1 (e.g. 9-9, 9-8, 8-8 through to 1-1), and it will count as two GCSEs when students apply for apprenticeships, sixth form, or university. If the grades are different, the highest number will always be on the left.

In Year 10, students studying combined science will have their current working grade reported as a range of two GCSE grades, just like other subjects. It is not possible to accurately predict the two grades before the final examination.

Progress Rates

Students will progress at different rates in different subjects. Due to the nature of how subjects are delivered, it may not be possible to achieve the very highest grades until the subject content required is covered in class. This should be considered when comparing current working grades and target grades.

The following 'thermometer' colours will show you how the current working grade range compares to the end of course target grade. Red represents 'hot' (i.e. above target), and blue represents 'cold' (i.e. below target):

Exceeding target range
Meeting target range
1 grade below target range
More than 1 grade below target range

4. Attendance

Attendance at school affects your child's chances of success in school. We expect all students to aim for **100% attendance**.

It is important that we have an accurate record of each student's attendance and the reasons for any absence.

Look at how the following attendance can affect your child's education:

Attendance		Over a Fortnight	Over the school year	Over 5 years
95%	= absent for	½ day	1¼ weeks	½ a term
90%	= absent for	1 day	4 weeks	½ a school year
85%	= absent for	1½ days	6 weeks	¾ a school year
80%	= absent for	2 days	7½ weeks	1 school year
75%	= absent for	2½ days	10 weeks	1 school year + ½ term
70%	= absent for	3 days	11¼ weeks	1 school year + 1 term

Holiday requests will not be authorised by the school as a legitimate reason for absence.

Regular attendance in all lessons is crucial in Years 10 and 11, as every lesson will be covering important exam or coursework content that may not be repeated later in the course.

Is there a link between Year 6 SATS levels and GCSE target grades?

Yes. The levels that your child achieved in English and Maths in their Year 6 SATS tests are used to predict target grades for the end of Year 11. The table below shows how they link:

Year 6 SATS Level in English or Maths	Minimum target grade at end of Year 11
6	8,9
5	7
4	6
3	4,5
2	3

What should I do with the information I receive at each progress review?

- Please take the time to read through the assessments with your child.
- Try to highlight areas of strength and those areas that perhaps need improving.
- Think about some possible questions you may like to ask at each Parents' Evening.
- If you are concerned, contact the relevant member of staff at the school to seek clarification.

And finally, praise and encourage your child for the successes that they have achieved. Self-belief and positive self-esteem is extremely important for any child to make progress and achieve.

When will the exams start?

They have already begun; students will be involved in coursework and controlled assessments in Year 10, both of which will count towards their final grade.

End of year examinations will begin in June 2019.

What happens if my child falls behind?

Subject teachers will monitor your child's progress throughout the year. Should they fall behind with classwork or coursework, their tutor and Head of Year (Mr Stevenson) will be informed.

If the situation cannot be resolved quickly, your child will be expected to attend an academic support session, which runs every week on a Thursday after school. Attendance at these support sessions is compulsory for these students, and non-attendance will be followed up in line with the school behaviour policy.

Help!

We really do appreciate how challenging this year can be for students (and their families) so we have a number of specialists within school who can assist with any issues:

Subject teachers and Year 10 Tutors

Mr Stevenson Head of Year 10

Miss Coubrough Leadership Link for Year 10

Miss Thetford Student Wellbeing

Mrs Warnock Information, Advice and Guidance Co-ordinator

Useful Revision Websites

All subjects:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize

Business Studies:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/business/blog/gcse-igcse-business-studies-revision-notes-master-listing>

<https://quizlet.com/subject/gcse-business-studies/>

<https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/business-studies>

French, German or Spanish:

www.quizlet.com (individual login)

www.thisislanguage.com (individual login - see teachers if you've forgotten your details)

www.espanol-extra.co.uk (see teacher for login details)

www.linguascope.com (intermediate section) (see teacher for login details)

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.languageskills.co.uk (see teacher for login details)

What will happen and when?

Academic Support:

Every Thursday from 3-5pm

Head of Year Information Evening:

Wednesday 19th September 2018

Parents' Evening:

Thursday 10th January 2019

End of Year examinations:

24th June – 5th July 2019

Progress Review Points:

November, February and June