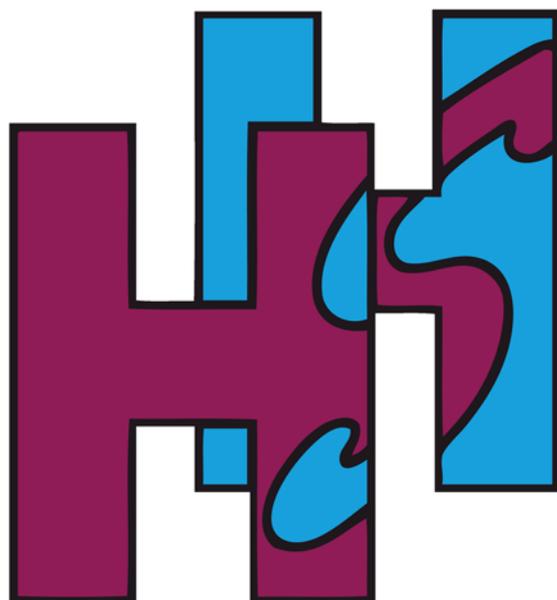


# Hellesdon High School

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



Part of the  
**WENSUM** TRUST

A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal line with a wavy, undulating shape below it, colored in maroon and blue.

## **A Parents' Guide to Year 11**

# **Welcome to Year 11!**

This booklet aims to help you support your child through this important examination year. It includes information about progress reviews in Year 11 and hopefully will answer some of your questions.

As we all know, Year 11 can be a challenging time for students as they are being asked to produce work at a standard they have probably never done before. They may be required to produce coursework and controlled assessments to a deadline and all students need to revise for external examinations. This booklet can help with some of the important dates, useful contacts and advice about the future.

Students will receive pre-public examination (PPE) and public examination timetables from our exams officer closer to the exam periods, as well as detailed information and guidance from teachers. You will also receive a half-termly newsletter (by email) which will contain information about how you can support your child with revision and important dates to remember.

Finally, I wish you the best of luck for Year 11 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 Spillane & Mrs Webb  
Year 11 Leadership Team

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.
- ✓ Two progress reviews during the year from each subject teacher. All data will be available through the SIMS Parent App.
- ✓ Two Parents' Evenings (December and March) with subject teachers to talk about progress, exam revision 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.
- ✓ A half-termly newsletter (by email) which will contain important dates and information about how you can support your child with revision as they progress towards the final exams.

# 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 <b>always</b> ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are <b>usually</b> ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are <b>sometimes</b> ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are <b>rarely</b> 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

All students will receive an aspirational target grade for each subject. This is the final grade we expect students to achieve at the end of the course. The target grade is based on previous attainment from Key Stage 2 tests and our expectations of high levels of progress.

## 3. Current Working Grade

This 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 (from real or pre-public exams);
- ✓ any module results or resits;
- ✓ any coursework or controlled assessments completed;
- ✓ current class work;
- ✓ homework tasks.

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 a grade 7 or above until the subject content required for the highest grades 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 compares to the end of year target grade. Red represents 'hot' (i.e. above target), and blue represents 'cold' (i.e. below target):

<b>Above target</b>
<b>On target</b>
<b>Just below target</b>
<b>More than 1 grade below target</b>

## **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 11, students studying combined science will have their current working grade reported as one GCSE grade, just like other subjects. It is not possible to accurately predict the two grades before the final examination.

## 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 Year 11, as every lesson will be covering important exam or coursework content that may not be repeated later in the year.

## Is there a link between Year 6 SATS levels and Year 11 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 in 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 public exams start?**

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

The external examination series will begin in mid-May 2019, and will finish at the end of June 2019. The exact date will depend on the particular subjects your child is entered for and you will receive a detailed examination timetable prior to the exam season.

## **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 Spillane) 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 Tuesday 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 11 Tutors

*Mr Spillane*                      Head of Year 11

*Mrs Webb*                        Leadership Link for Year 11

*Miss Thetford*                  Student Wellbeing

*Mrs Warnock*                  Information, Advice and Guidance Co-ordinator

## Useful Revision Websites

### All subjects:

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize](http://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](http://www.quizlet.com) (individual login)

[www.thisislanguange.com](http://www.thisislanguange.com) (individual login - see teachers if you've forgotten your details)

[www.espanol-extra.co.uk](http://www.espanol-extra.co.uk) (see teacher for login details)

[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com) (intermediate section) (see teacher for login details)

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)

[www.languageskills.co.uk](http://www.languageskills.co.uk) (see teacher for login details)

## **What will happen and when?**

### **Academic Support:**

Every Tuesday from 3-5pm

### **Head of Year Information Evening:**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### **Parents' Evenings:**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

### **Pre-Public Exam Weeks:**

Two weeks commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Two weeks commencing 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

### **Year 11 Prom:**

July 2019 (date to be confirmed)

### **Public Exam season:**

Mid May to end of June 2019

### **Results day:**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

### **Celebration of Success Evening:**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (subject to confirmation)

# **Moving on to Hellesdon High School Sixth Form**

As an 11-18 school, Hellesdon High Sixth Form is the natural choice for students when they progress beyond Year 11. We are large enough to be able to offer a wide variety of post-16 courses, at both Advanced Level and BTEC, but small enough to support and challenge all students effectively.

Present Sixth Form students are very active within the main school, for example supporting teachers, acting as mentors to younger students and helping to run sports teams.

## **KEY DATES:**

### **Open Evening: Wednesday 31 October 2018 (7-9pm)**

An opportunity to hear from the Director of Sixth Form and look around the subjects offered at A Level or BTEC. Teachers and present students are on hand to answer any questions you may have.

### **Taster Day: Monday 3 December 2018 (all day)**

An opportunity to sample 'taster lessons' in specific subjects. Students also get to see the facilities that Sixth Form offers, including a study centre with 32 networked computers and a comfortable common room.

### **Guidance Interviews (January-February 2019)**

Every student who applies to Hellesdon Sixth Form is offered a guidance interview to discuss possible courses.

Details of the Sixth Form and the application procedure are given in our Sixth Form prospectus. A copy of this is given to all parents/carers on the Open Evening. Further copies can be obtained on request from the Sixth Form Office (e-mail Mrs. C. Fiddament - [cfiddament9nr4@nsix.org.uk](mailto:cfiddament9nr4@nsix.org.uk)), or downloaded from the Sixth Form area of the main school website.