Welcome

GCSE Information Evening 2026

Winterhill School
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How have GCSE Expectations Changed?

01 GCSE Grades

- Grade 9–1 replaced Grades A*–G.
- **Grade 4** is a 'pass' – **Grade 5** is a 'strong pass'.

02 Exams and Coursework

- The majority of subjects are **100% exam**, with a higher number of exams per subject.
- Resits in English and Maths if Grade 4 not achieved, but **all GCSE subjects matter**.

03 Challenging Content

- The expected standard is high, making early, regular revision increasingly more vital to success.
- Students need to know more, and therefore, remember more.

04 Accessing next steps

- **At least 5 GCSEs** at Grade 4 or above, including **English and Maths**.
- Many colleges will expect **Grade 5 or above** in the subjects most relevant to the course.

The Class of 2026

- **Grade 9 Success** | Students achieved across multiple subject areas, some achieving Grade 8 & 9 in all subjects.
- **Grade 7+** | Over 10% of students achieved high-tier grades across English, Maths, and Science combined.
- **Core Pass Rate** | Nearly two-thirds achieved a grade 4 in both English & Maths, with over 40% achieving a Strong Pass (grade 5+).
- **Grade 4+ Average** | Year 11 cohort averaged above a Grade 4 across **every** subject
- **Above National Standards** | Outstanding Key Stage 4 progress performance, significantly above national average.

The Year Ahead

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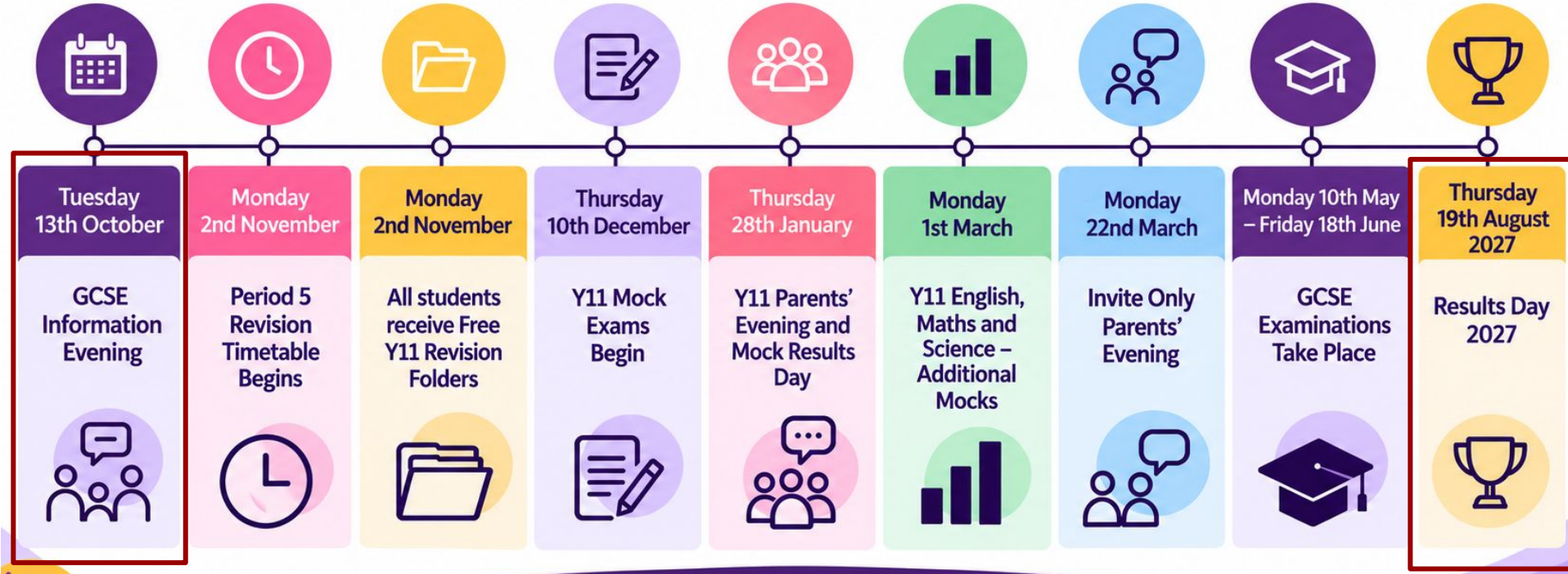
Year 11 Key Dates

SUPPORTING SUCCESS AT EVERY STAGE



Revision at Home

The Cycle of Effective Home Revision

1 Plan

- Check your timetable and upcoming exams.
- Set clear, realistic goals.
- Choose what to revise and when.

Be organised and specific!

2 Study Actively

- Use effective methods (e.g. past papers, flashcards, practice questions).
- Focus in short, manageable sessions (e.g. 25–50 minutes).
- Remove distractions.

Work hard and smart!

3 Check Understanding

- Test yourself regularly.
- Try exam-style questions.
- Identify what you know well and what you find tricky.

Be honest with yourself!

4 Identify Gaps

- Look at topics you struggled with in tests or revision.
- Make a note of what you need to improve.
- Ask for help if needed (teachers, friends, online resources).

Find and focus on the missing pieces!

5 Improve and Practise

- Go back to tricky topics.
- Use different techniques (e.g. summary notes, mind maps, explain to someone else).
- Practise again until you're more confident.

Turn effort into progress!

6 Review and Repeat

- Keep revisiting topics over time (spaced practice).
- Check your progress.
- Adjust your plan and set new goals.
- Keep the cycle going!

Small steps lead to big results!

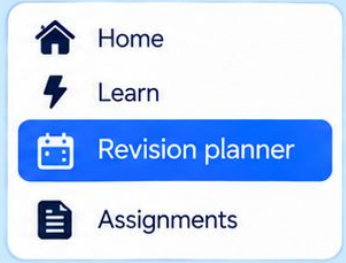
REVISE SMARTER AT HOME WITH SENECA

SENECA

1 Log in to Seneca

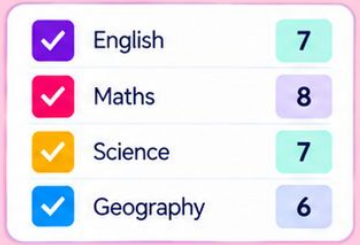
Go to **app.senecalearning.com** and log in with your school account.

2 Open the Revision Planner



Click on **'Revision planner'** in the menu.

3 Add your GCSE subjects and target grades



Choose your subjects and set your target grades.

4 Set when you can revise

Tell Seneca when you cam study each week so it creates a plan that fits around you.

Why use it?

- A personalised weekly plan
- Balanced subjects and manageable time targets
- Catch-up prompts if you miss a session
- Short breaks and rewards

Winterhill students have Seneca Premium access.

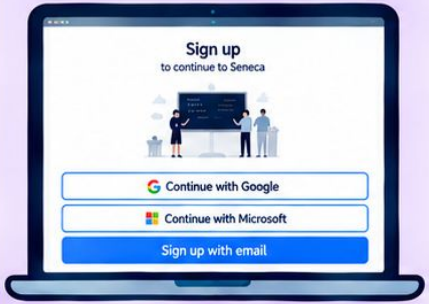
This gives you access to all Seneca GCSE revision content.

Start your plan:

app.senecalearning.com

1 Create your parent account

You will receive an email from your child's teachers with an invitation to join. Click the link in the email to be taken to the Seneca platform.



Sign up using the same email address you received the invitation from.

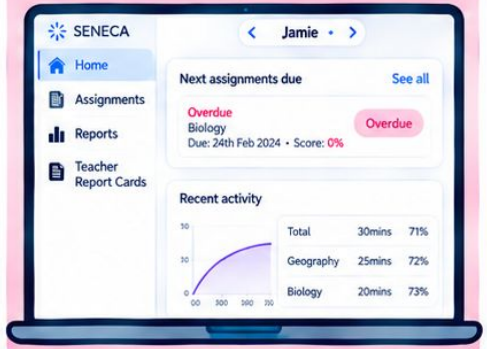
2 Connect to your child

After signing up, you'll see a pop up asking if you'd like to connect to your child. Click **'Accept'**.

You can connect to more than one child using the same account.

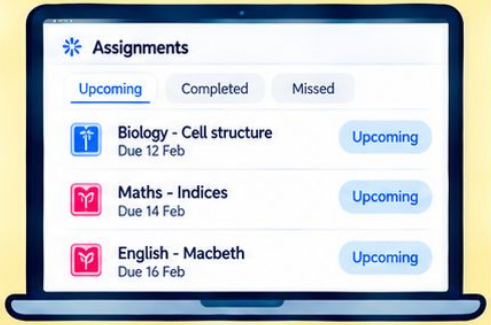
3 Explore the homepage

Here you can see an overview of your child's assignments and activity. If you're connected to more than one child, switch between them using the arrows next to their name.



4 View assignments

See your child's upcoming, completed and missed assignments. Click on an assignment to preview the questions set.



This is a preview only.
Your child must complete assignments via their own account.

5 View reports

The Reports page shows weekly and monthly reports with a breakdown of subjects, key strengths and key weaknesses.

Helps you see progress over time and identify areas to support.

6 Live feed of activity

See a live feed of your child's recent activity, including which topics they have studied and how long they spent on each session.

7 Teacher report cards

Your child's teachers can send personalised report cards directly to your account.
Hover over your name in the top right and click **'Teacher Report Cards'**. You can then view report cards by subject and see detailed insights of your child's study and results.

Period 5 Revision Timetable

When is Period 5?
Period 5 runs from **3:00 – 4:00 pm**.

Attendance
Session attendance is tracked on Go4Schools the same as P1–4.

Rewards
We reward regularly for consistent attendance; however the main reward is the benefit of structured revision.

Free support
Revision is additional time for students to receive input from their teachers, to ask questions and prepare fully for their exams.
Private tutoring can be anything from £25–£40 an hour.

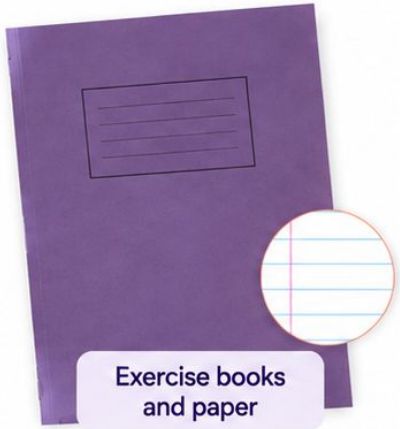
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Science	Staff Meeting Night	Computer Science & iMedia Art Drama Product Design	English	Sport Studies Sport Science
Week 2	History Religious Studies Food Preparation & Nutrition	Staff Meeting Night	Geography Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Business Studies Music	Maths	Health & Social Care (H&Soc)

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | RESILIENCE

Ready to Learn, Ready to Succeed

Organised revision materials

Highlighters and pens



Exercise books and paper

Create a revision timetable

Revision cards and key notes

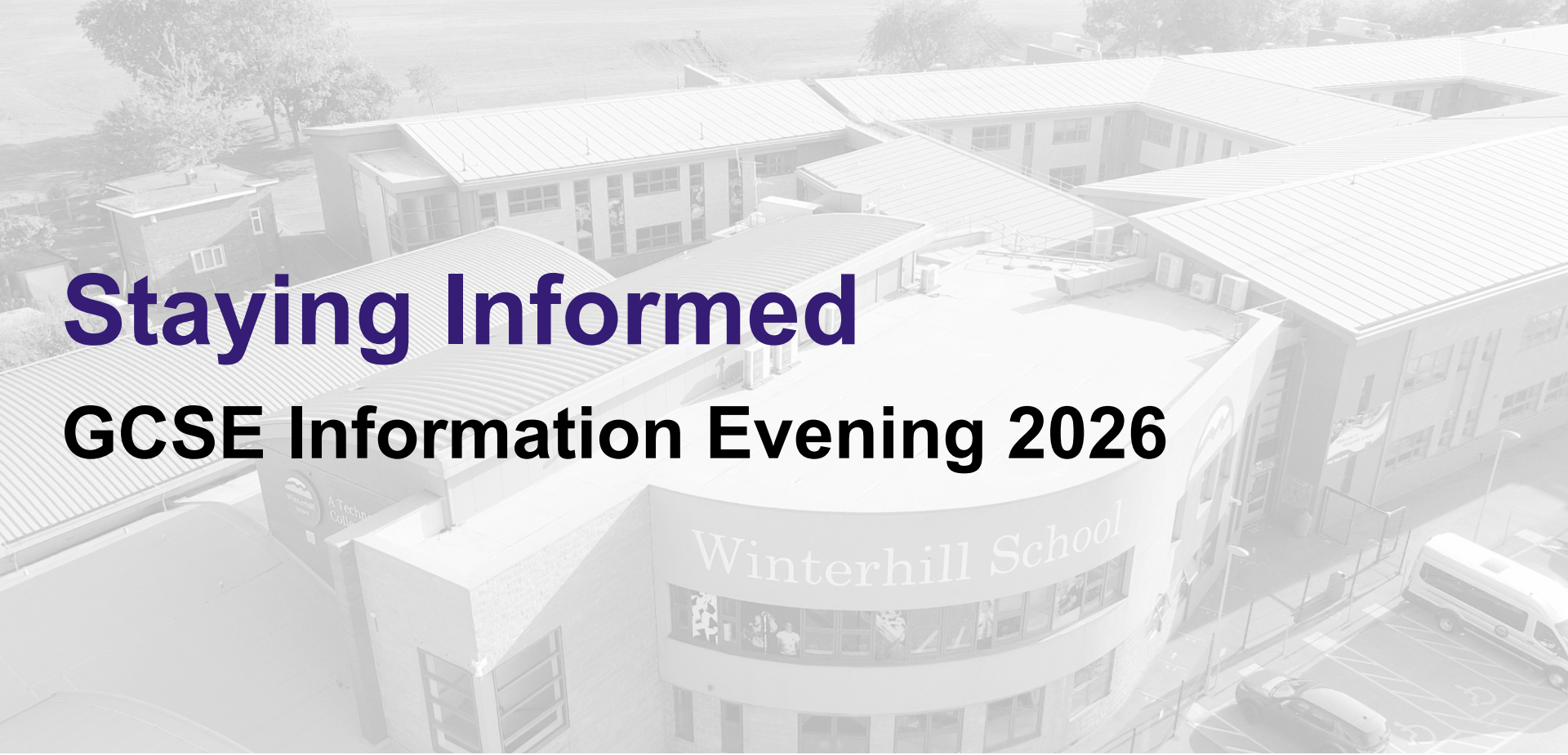
Use Seneca for home learning and revision

A bag with everything you need

Y11 REVISION

- TIMETABLE
- REGULAR BREAKS
- PRACTICE PAPERS
- SENECA
- GOOD SLEEP

Effective Revision Ideas to try at Home (VIDEO)



Staying Informed

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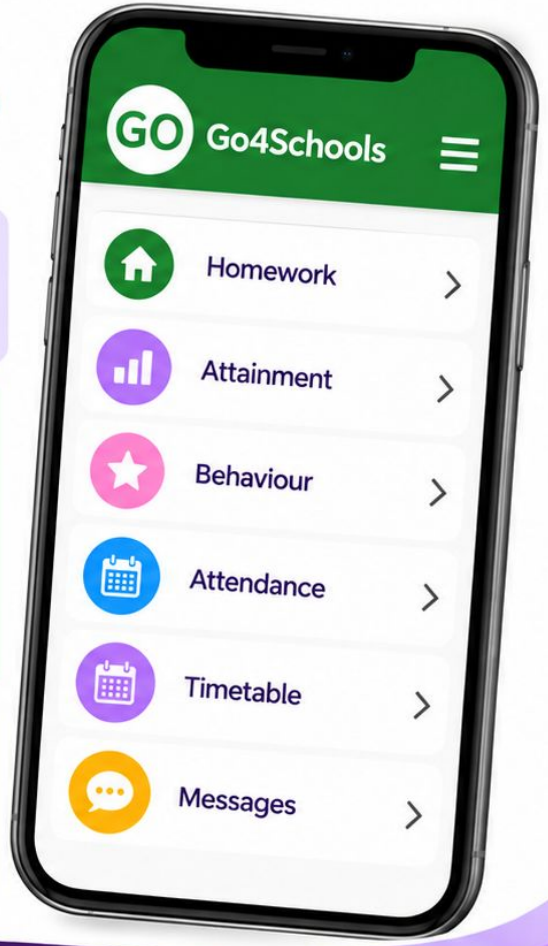
Go4Schools

STAY INFORMED AND SUPPORT LEARNING

Via the **Go4Schools app** or the website:

- **Homework set**
- **Current attainment**
- **Behaviour / Rewards**
- **Attendance information**

The app allows you to access this information **'live'** and therefore, provides guidance for the support from home.



RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | RESILIENCE

Progress

GO 4 Schools: Current model	
Above target	1
On target	3
Below target	4
Well below target	1

Attainment

Combined Science

Current Grade : 6/5
End of KS4 Target : 6/6

Destinations

Current Grade : Return to Sixth form A levels

English Language

Current Grade : 6
End of KS4 Target : 4

English Literature

Current Grade : 6
End of KS4 Target : 4

French

End of KS4 Target : 4

Geography

End of KS4 Target : 4

Progress

Summary - Current Grade

Subject name Grade value

Biology	Chemistry	Computer Science	Drama	Music	PE CORE	Physics	Tutor
7	7	6	6	Level 2 Distinction	-	9	-

Residual legend

GO 4 Schools: Current model Well below target Below target On target Above target

Subject	Expected Gr
Biology, Mr A Shaw, Miss S Warburton	7

Sheet summary	
Mock Exam result	7
iology EOTT	9
ology EOTT	-
ude to Learning	Engaged

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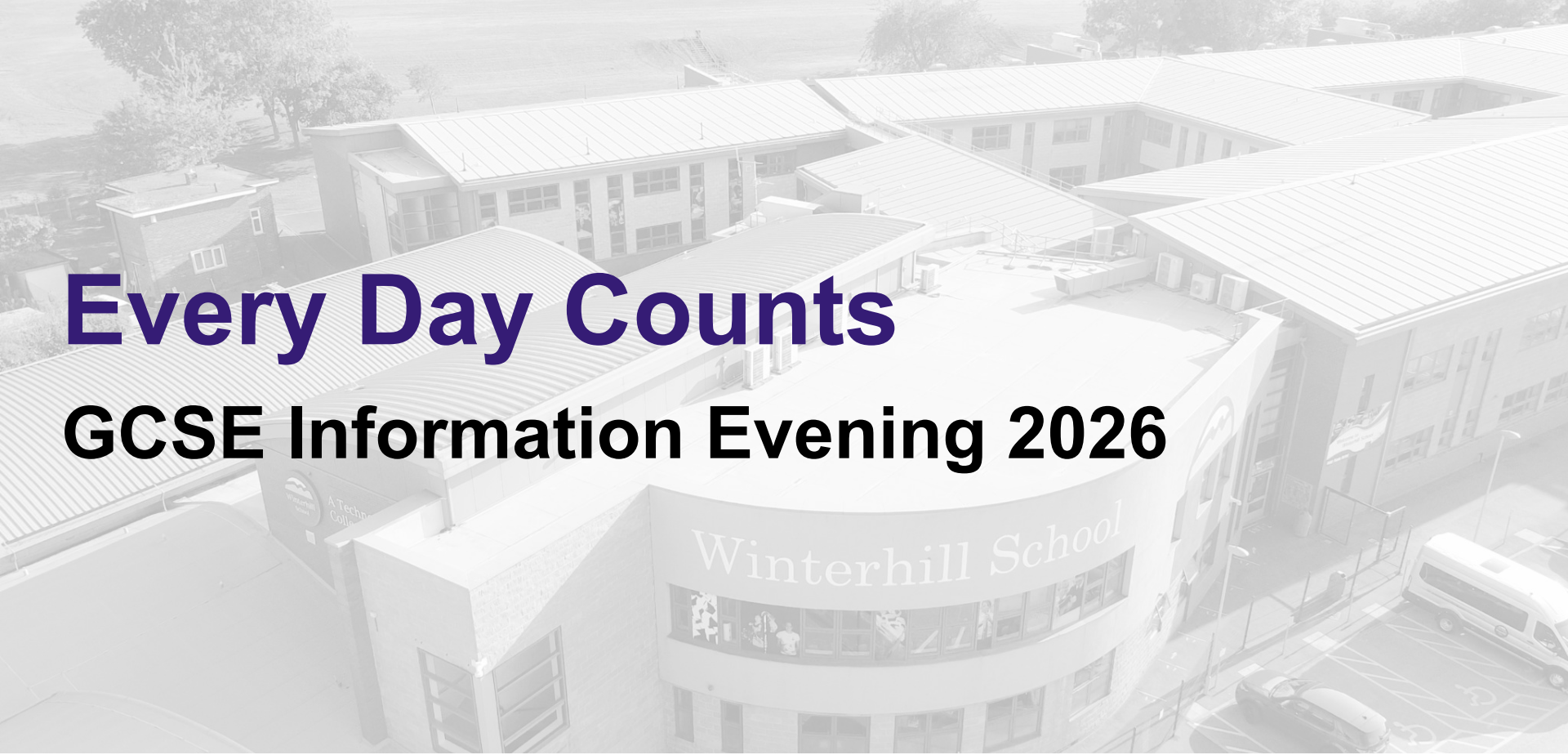

Every Day Counts

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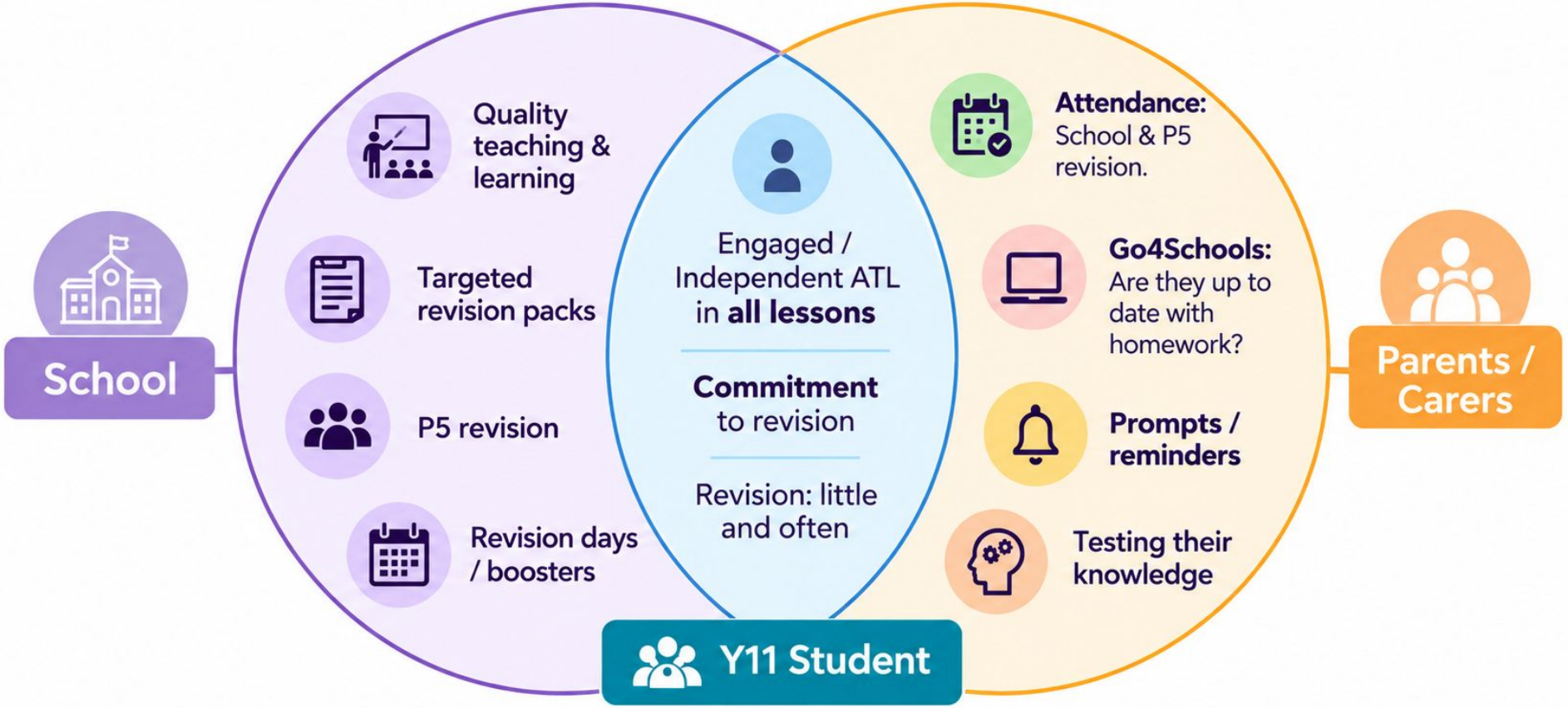
Every Day Counts

School Attendance %	Grade Progress end of Y10 to end of Y11	Progress compared to national	Average Grade in GCSEs
95+	0.96 grades in Y11	+0.76	6
90-95	0.5 of a grade in Y11	+0.58	5
85-90	0.28 of a grade in Y11	-0.08	4
80-85	0.46 of a grade in Y11	+0.09	3
75-80	0.15 stayed the same	-0.60	3
70-75	0.15 no progress	-0.90	2
<70	-0.42 loss of progress	-1.6	1

Attendance Band (%)	P8* Score - 2026	Average Grade - 2026
95-100	+0.76	5.2
90-95	+0.58	4.8
85-90	-0.08	3.1
80-85	+0.09	3.5
75-80	-0.60	2.2

How can I support my child with their revision?



Additional Support

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Additional Support

Mr Dogan
Year 11: Head of Year

Mr Mason
Year 11: Behaviour For Learning Leader

Mrs Smith
Operational SEND Lead

Careers at Winterhill

1 to 1 careers appointments and career planning

Assemblies to support with guidance, career motivation and skill development

Daily drop ins for careers questions and support

Further education offers and sessions with external providers

Support with college/sixth form applications and submissions. CV advice.

Mrs Tania Ashton-Bray
Careers Lead/Advisor

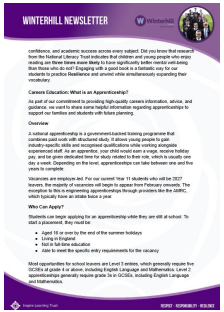
careers@winterhill.org.uk

This evening in the blue gym

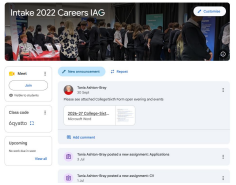
For more information:

School website

Weekly Parent/Carer Newsletter



Google Classroom



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What's Next?

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Subject Stalls

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Meet the Subject Leaders

Speak to subject leaders from all subjects about the curriculum, revision and expectations.

Careers Support

Explore career pathways, find out about post-16 options and ask questions.

SENDCO Support

Speak to our SENDCO about support, provision and advice available in school.

Free Revision Guides

Collect free revision guides in English, Maths and Science.

Y11 Data Reports

Find out about your child's progress and how to support their next steps.

Next Steps: Thomas Rotherham College

TRC
THOMAS ROTHERHAM COLLEGE
PART OF INSPIRE LEARNING TRUST

Speak to TRC about post-16 options and transition to college.