



Raising Achievement: A Guide for Parents and Carers

2025-2026

HUMMERSKNOTT
ACADEMY

...a school of possibilities.



Introduction

As your child enters Year 11, they are beginning one of the most important and challenging stages of their school journey. The year ahead will be focused on preparing for their GCSE examinations, which will open doors to future opportunities in further education, apprenticeships or employment. We know this can feel like a daunting time for students, parents and carers, which is why this guide has been created to support you in helping your child achieve their very best.

Inside, you will find key dates, an overview of the support available in school, and practical strategies to help your child stay motivated, organised, and confident as they work towards their goals.

Our Expectations of Year 11

Year 11 is a crucial year where students lay the foundations for their future success. At Hummersknott Academy, we encourage all students to live by our values every day:

- **Take responsibility** – arrive at school and lessons on time, fully prepared and equipped for learning.
- **Show respect** – every student has the right to learn in a calm, focused environment, free from disruption or distraction.
- **Show you care** – be an active learner: focus, engage and go the extra mile to achieve their very best.

By embracing these expectations, students not only create the best conditions for learning but also set themselves up for success in their GCSE examinations and beyond. We want every student to make a positive contribution to their future and to be the very best version of themselves.

An Overview of Year 11 2025-2026

Term 1

Date	What's happening?
16/09/2025	Year 11 Information Evening for parents/carers
29/09/2025, 06/10/2025	Assessment Fortnight 1- Students will complete assessments for their subjects
17/10/2025	Year 11 Report 1 to parents/carers
03/11/2025, 10/11/2025	Year 11 Mock Speaking Exams for French and Spanish begin
17/11/2025, 24/11/2025	Assessment Fortnight 2- Students will complete assessments for their subjects
05/12/2025	Year 11 Report 2 to parents/carers

Term 2

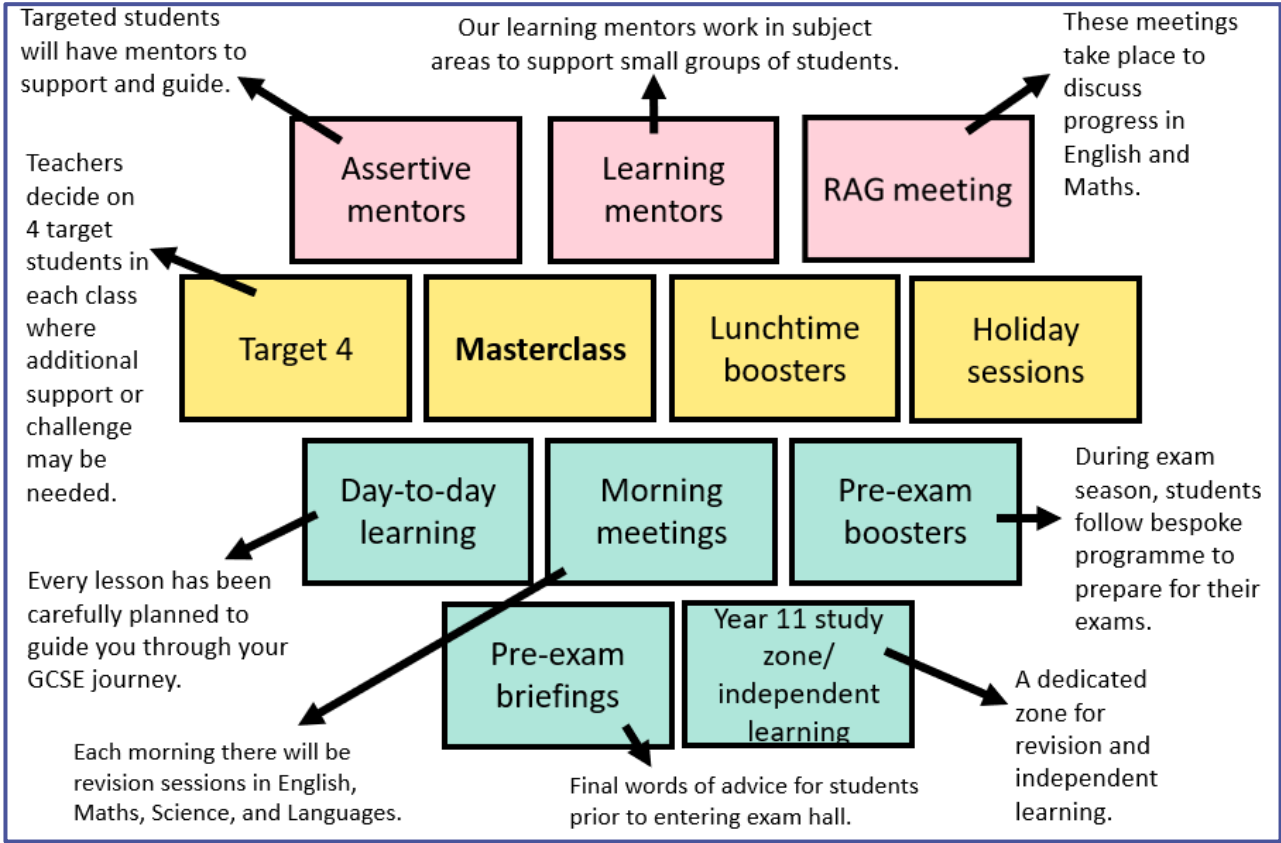
Date	What's happening?
12/01/2026, 19/01/2026	Year 11 mock exams begin
02/02/2026	11H Parents' evening
09/02/2026	11M Parents' evening
02/03/2026	Year 11 Information Evening for parents/carers

Term 3

Date	What's happening?
20/04/2026, 27/04/2026	GCSE Language speaking exams begin GCSE Art and photography exams take place
04/05/2026- 26/06/2026	GCSE Exams
20/08/2026	Results Day

Our Raising Achievement Offer 2025-2026

In addition to the key dates already outlined, we offer a programme of bespoke study support for Year 11 students across the academic year. These are designed to complement and strengthen independent revision, providing valuable opportunities for students to deepen their understanding and prepare effectively for their examinations.



What is the Year 11 Masterclass?

The Masterclass programme provides dedicated subject support sessions held every Tuesday, Thursday*, and Friday from 3:15–4:15pm throughout the academic year. These sessions are open to all students studying the subject and are designed to give focused, additional guidance in preparation for GCSE success.

Each subject team will set the focus and location of their sessions, and details will be regularly updated via the Academy’s social media channels and the Year 11 Zone. To help students make the most of this opportunity, refreshments will be provided, and a rewards system is in place to recognise those who attend consistently.

**Please note that some Thursday sessions have been scheduled for Monday where there are parents’ evenings.*

What are ‘lunchtime boosters’?

Lunchtime booster sessions are led by subject staff and are designed to both support and challenge students. Class teachers will invite targeted students to attend, and the focus of sessions will vary across the year. Students will be informed directly by their teachers when sessions are available.

Masterclass Programme 2025-2026*

	W/C	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
1A	1-Sept-25				
1B	8-Sept-25				
2A	15-Sept-25		English	Science	Languages
2B	22- Sept-25		Geography	Maths	DT
3A	29-Sept-25		History	PE	Art/Photography
3B	6-Oct-25		Science	RS	English
4A	13-Oct-25		DT	H&SC	Maths
4B	20-Oct-25	Computing/ Drama	Business		
OCTOBER HALF-TERM					
5A	3-Nov-25	PE/Computing/ Drama	DT	English	History
5B	10-Nov-25		Art/Photography	Music	Science
6A	17-Nov-25		Maths	Languages	English
6B	24-Nov-25		Geography	PE	
7A	1-Dec-25		Art/Photography	H&SC	RS
7B	8-Dec-25	Maths	Science		DT
8A	15-Dec-25		PE	Computing/ Drama	
CHRISTMAS					
8B	5-Jan-26		Maths	Languages	H&SC
9A	12-Jan-26				
9B	19-Jan-26				
10A	26-Jan-26				
10B	2-Feb-26				
11A	9-Feb-26	English	Computing/ Drama		Art/Photography
11B	16-Feb-26		H&SC	DT/ PE	
FEBRUARY HALF-TERM					
12A	2-Mar-26		Business	Science	Art/Photography
12B	9-Mar-26	History	PE		Geography
13A	16-Mar-26		Languages	English	Maths
13B	23-Mar-26		Art/Photography	DT	Science
14A	30-Mar-26				
EASTER					

*Please note that this is our core offer and there will be additional opportunities for different groups of students throughout the academic year.

Revision Support for Parents and Carers

Our Recommendations for Wider Healthy Habits

Sleep



Sleep is crucial for the developing teenage brain. A lack of sleep leads to:

- Reduced memory and concentration.
- A lack of energy.
- An increased emotional state.

Diet



Research proves the link between eating breakfast and improved academic performance.

Food with high sugar content leads to energy crashes throughout the day.

Fresh air



Daily exercise and time outdoor reduce the stress hormone (cortisol) that affects wellbeing and stress levels.

It also boosts physical and mental health.

Phones



Phones should not be used when studying as it splits attention and lowers concentration.

You should not use your phone an hour before going to bed.

You don't have to battle this alone. If you are struggling to get your child to develop healthy habits, you can contact their Year Manager or Form Tutor for support.

Conditions for Study

The ideal conditions for revision are:

- in a quiet space
- with a desk/solid surface and sat on a chair
- with organised resources
- no distractions- phones, music, tv or games console
- short bursts
- not just before going to bed

Effective Revision Strategies

Summary: self-quizzing



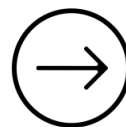
Created by Justin Blake from Noun Project



Created by Aileen Coggett from Noun Project



Created by Ruana Nelli Handri from Noun Project



Created by WPL from Noun Project

1. Identify knowledge	2. Review and create	3. Cover and answer	4. Self-mark and reflect	5. Next time
Identify the knowledge/content you want to cover	Spend 5-10 minutes reviewing content (textbooks, knowledge organisers, exercise book etc. Create 10 questions on the content	Cover up your knowledge and answer the questions from memory Take your time and answer in full sentences Make sure you write down your answers so they can be checked afterwards	Go back to the content and self-mark your answers in a different coloured pen. Which areas were you confident with? Where were there gaps in knowledge?	Revisit the areas where there were gaps in knowledge, and include these same questions next time

Summary: Brain dumps



1. Identify knowledge

Identify the knowledge/content you want to cover

2. Write it down

Take a blank piece of paper/ white board and write down everything you can remember about the topic (without any prompts)

Give yourself a time limit eg 5 minutes

3. Organise information

Once you cannot remember any more use different colours to highlight/underline words in different groups/topics

This helps you to link information.

4. Check understanding

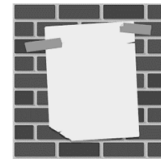
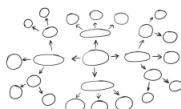
Compare your brain dump to your knowledge organiser or book and check for understanding

Add any key information you have missed in a different colour so you can prioritise looking over this.

5. Next time

Revisit the areas where there were gaps in knowledge, and include these same questions next time

Summary: Mind maps



1. Identify knowledge

Identify the knowledge/content you want to cover

2. Identify sub-topics

Place the main topic in the centre of your page and identify sub topics that will branch off

3. Branch off

Branch off your sub topics with further detail.

Try not to fill the page with too much writing so it becomes overcrowded.

4. Use images and colour

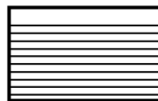
Use images and colour to help topics stick in your memory

5. Make it visible

Place completed mind maps in places where you can see them frequently.

Use them to test yourself on what you can remember

Summary: How to create flash cards



1. Identify knowledge

What topic are you creating flashcards are?

Where is the correct information? (textbook/ exercise book etc)

Make sure you are aware of common misconceptions and mistakes

2. Colour coding

Use different coloured flash cards (if possible) for different topics

This helps with organisation NOT recall

3. designing

1 question per flash card

Make them concise and clear

Use as little prompts as possible so you brain must work to remember information

No extended answers

4. using

Write your answers down then check or say them out loud. This makes it very obvious where gaps in knowledge are

Do not just re-read flash cards once made

Shuffle the cards when using the,

Use the Leitner system to improve memory

5. feedback

How have you performed when you look back at answers?

Is there anything you need to revise in more detail?

Is your knowledge secure? Now you can move on to applying knowledge in exam style questions

Recommended Revision Guides for GCSE

Subject	Recommendations
English Literature	CGP or York Notes- English Literature AQA/ Macbeth/ An Inspector Calls/ A Christmas Carol/ Power and Conflict Poetry
English Language	Oxford Revise AQA GCSE English Complete Revision and Practice
Maths	GCSE Edexcel (9-1) Maths* <i>*Please note that there are separate guides for Foundation and Higher tiers</i>
Science	CGP- Combined Science Trilogy AQA – Higher or Foundation CGP Biology/ Chemistry/ Physics AQA (separate guides for each science)
French	Pearson AQA GCSE French Revision Guide- for 2026 exams (new specification) CGP French AQA Complete Revision & Practice (for exams from 2026)
Spanish	Pearson AQA GCSE Spanish Revision Guide- for 2026 exams (new specification) CGP Spanish AQA Complete Revision & Practice (for exams from 2026)
History	CGP History Edexcel
Geography	CGP Geography AQA
Religious Studies	Oxford AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Islam Revision Guide:(GCSE Religious Studies for AQA)
Physical Education	GCSE - CGP- 9-1 GCSE Physical Education AQA OCR Cambridge Nationals- CGP Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies
Health and Social Care	Cambridge National Level 1/Level 2- Health and Social Care
Business Studies	CGP Business Edexcel Revision Guide
Computer Science	CGP OCR Computer Science (J277) <i>Available to order via Mr Jackson on School Gateway</i>
iMedia	Cambridge National Level 1/Level 2 Creative iMedia Revision Guide <i>Available to order via Mr Jackson on School Gateway</i>
DT	CGP Design & Technology AQA
Food	CGP Food Preparation & Nutrition AQA
Drama	Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Drama
Music	GCSE- Edexcel Music (9-1)/ CGP Edexcel Music BTEC Revision provided by class teacher – no set text

Should you have any additional queries regarding revision guides, please contact your child's subject teacher.

Exam Access

Some students in Year 11 are eligible for additional examination access arrangements. These arrangements can only be awarded by the **SENDCO** and students have to be eligible against the criteria determined by the JCQ (JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications).

Any requests for seating in a smaller room for mental health reasons **MUST** be accompanied by supporting evidence from CAMHS or a hospital specialist. GP letters **cannot** be used as evidence.

If you have any queries relating to examination access arrangements, please contact the SENDCO in the first instance.

Who can you contact for support?

The wellbeing and safeguarding of children at Hummersknott Academy is our top priority. There are numerous avenues for support available.

All staff can be contacted by an email to enquiries@hummersknott.org.uk marked for the attention of that member of staff.

Should a parent, carer or child require advice or guidance, for example help with revision strategies or exam preparation, they should please feel free to reach out in the first instance to their child's **form mentor** or **class teacher**.

Head of Year 11 - Mr Davies - mdv@hummersknott.org.uk

Year Manger for Year 11- Mrs Kirby - ack@hummersknott.org.uk

Assistant Headteacher, Raising Achievement – Mrs Raine – lrn@hummersknott.org.uk

Assistant Headteacher, Independent Learning – Mrs Egan – leg@hummersknott.org.uk

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.”

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