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Year 9 into 10 Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Welcome

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Graeme Martin – Deputy Headteacher (Year 10/11)

Catherine Fell – Pastoral Lead (Year 10)

The aim of the evening is for Parents of Year 9 students to leave with:

- Structure of Lessons (GCSE/Level 2)
- Coursework and Controlled Assessment
- Effective study habits and working practice
- Student wellbeing
- Access arrangements and examination support
- Key dates
- Parent questions

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Structure of Lessons (GCSE/Level 2)

Why is learning hard?

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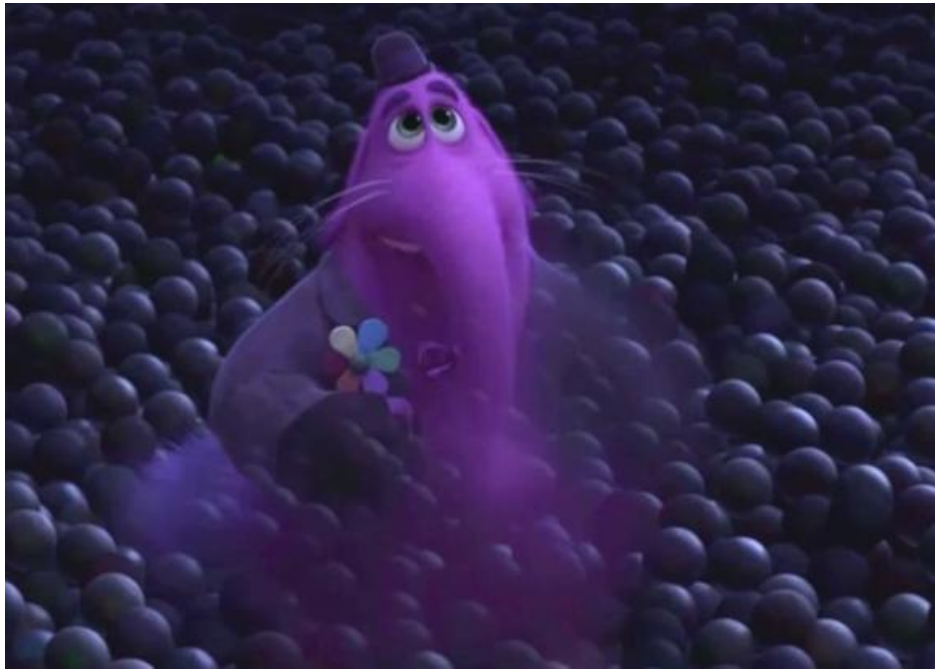

What do we do in lessons?

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"Retrieval" quizzes at the start of every lesson to help students remember and retain information in their long-term memory.

What do we do in lessons?

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Regular opportunities to practice exam questions under exam conditions in the classroom.

SILENT STUDY

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Exam Practice

What do we do in lessons?

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Feedback in exam questions at regular intervals. The feedback is designed to move students up a grade. **Students should respond to the feedback to show they have understood and can make progress.**

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Coursework and Controlled Assessments

What is Coursework/Controlled assessment

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As students move into Year 10, many subjects begin controlled assessments or coursework components that contribute directly to their final GCSE grade.
These tasks are designed to assess skills that cannot be tested in a written exam, such as research, practical work, extended writing, or creative production.

Expect:

- Longer-term assignments completed over several weeks
- Deadlines set by departments that must be met
- Work completed in class under supervised conditions (for controlled assessments)
- Independent homework tasks that support or prepare for assessed work
- Clear guidance from teachers on what students can and cannot do independently

Controlled assessments are tightly regulated, meaning students must complete the work independently, without external help. Coursework may allow more freedom, but still requires students to follow strict rules about originality and referencing (this includes AI).

How Students Can Succeed

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1. **Stay Organised -** Keep track of deadlines in a planner or digital calendar

2. Use Class Time Wisely
• Controlled assessments are often completed in lesson time
• Teachers can only give limited feedback — so its really important to make annotations around work where whole class feedback/instructions are shared.

3. Read Instructions Carefully - Encourage your child to re-read the task and success criteria before starting

4. Plan Before Writing - Mind-maps, bullet points, or paragraph plans help structure ideas

5. Avoid Last-Minute Work - Coursework is designed to reward **consistent effort**, not rushed work

6. Keep Work Original -
•Students must produce their own work
•Copying from the internet or AI tools risks disqualification
•Encourage them to research widely but write in their own words

Study Seminars.

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- Students will have the opportunity throughout the year to attend our study seminars.
- These sessions are scheduled after school using class charts.
- Unless stated otherwise students selected for study seminars have been specifically chosen by their teachers for bespoke support – this could be for a particular topic, skill or coursework
- We schedule these sessions via ClassCharts – it will initially show as an alert – similar how detentions are listed
- However, once the seminar has been attended the incident will be removed.
- Given staff time and resource preparation we ask commitment from students – should the study seminar not be attended the study seminar will be converted to a detention.
- There will be an opportunity for parents 'opt-out' of the study seminar program – information on this will follow

ClassCharts

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Effective study habits and working practice

Homework and Revision

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Students in Year 10 should expect to complete around 2 hours of homework each evening.
The aim is to build strong study habits early so that Year 11 feels manageable rather than overwhelming.
Homework will continue to be set on ClassCharts.

Revision Throughout the Year

Revision shouldn't begin in March of Year 11 — it should build gradually from the start of Year 10.

Advising your child:

- After each topic, students create revision notes, mind-maps, flashcards, or summary sheets.
- These notes should be kept safely and organised into a personal revision folder at home.
- By the time PPEs and GCSEs arrive, students already have a full set of resources ready to use.

Where to find resources: https://www.southamcollege.com/parents/year-10

Where to find strategies on how to revise:
https://www.southamcollege.com/parents/year-10

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Top Tips

10 top tips for exams.pdf
Biology 8-9 Top Tips.pdf
Chemistry 8-9 Top Tips.pdf
English Language 8-9 Top Tips.pdf
English Lit 8-9 Top Tips.pdf
Maths 8-9 Top Tips.pdf

Revision Resources

Revision Strategy Ideas and Tips

Maths

Science

Revision Guides

Revision Guides

Please consider:

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Homework on ClassCharts

Revision

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Student Wellbeing

Pastoral Care/Wellbeing

Maintain a healthy routine

- Stick to regular sleep, balanced meals, and some physical activity — even short walks or stretching.
- A stable routine helps reduce stress and improves focus.

Use active revision strategies

- Break study into shorter, focused sessions with clear goals.
- Use methods like practice questions, flashcards, or teaching someone else instead of just rereading notes.

Build in downtime

- Schedule short breaks and activities they enjoy (music, sports, gaming, reading).
- Downtime prevents burnout and helps the brain consolidate learning.

Stay connected

- Talk to friends, family, or teachers about worries.
- Sharing how they feel reduces anxiety and helps them feel supported.

Manage stress positively

- Practice relaxation techniques like deep breathing or mindfulness.
- Focus on what can be controlled (effort, preparation) rather than worrying about results.

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Access Arrangements and Exams

Support with exams:

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Two main categories: Centre Discretionary and Externally Assessed

Centre Discretionary:

- Smaller scale interventions which can be arranged by the centre (e.g. use of a coloured overlay, fidget toy)
- They do not require external testing or assessment
- Evidence is provided by classroom teachers
- Evidence/recommendations can come from external agencies

- All are made official through SEN.

Externally Assessed:

- More formal arrangements that must be assessed and accepted by the various exam boards
- Students **must** be tested well in advance of the exams to ensure that this is a documented 'regular way of working' for students.
- Evidence is provided from external agencies

- All are made official through SEN.

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Key Dates

Key Dates for the Year:

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- PPE 1 – 15th – 25th March
- Reports – Thursday 19th November (Progress reports), Thursday 11th March (Progress reports), Thursday 6th May (Progress and PPE results)
- Parent evening: 17th June