

Welcome

Year 10 Information Evening





Head of Year Overview

Who to contact (admin@hgs.herts.sch.uk)

- Subject teachers/Heads of Department
- Head of Year - Mr Jackson
- Form Tutors

10A – Ms Saunders

10B – Mr Walter

10C – Mr Wright

10F – Ms Collins

10J - Mr Clifford

10P - Ms Lopez

10R - Mrs Bridge

10T - Mr Hanse



Head of Year Overview

Key Threads each morning

- The Resilience Framework
- Preparation and Review - formation of study groups
- Opportunities to give back
 - ◆ Peer Mentorships
 - ◆ Duke of Edinburgh awards
 - ◆ Student Leadership



GCSE English Language & GCSE English Literature

Mrs Batchelor, Head of English



GCSE English Language (AQA)

Paper 1

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

50%

Section A - reading fiction
(1 unseen text)

Section B - Imaginative
writing to describe or
narrate



Paper 2

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

50%

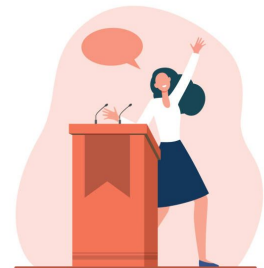
Section A - reading
non-fiction (2 unseen
texts)

Section B - Writing to
present a viewpoint

GCSE English Language (AQA)

NEA (non-examined assessment): Spoken Language - Summer of Year 10

This is a separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)
The preparation and assessment of Spoken Language is a compulsory requirement of the course of study. It will appear on all students' certificates as a separately reported grade, alongside the overall grade issued.



GCSE English Literature (AQA)

Paper 1

**Shakespeare and the
Nineteenth-century
Novel**

40%

Section A: *Romeo and
Juliet* **or** *Macbeth*

Section B: *A Christmas
Carol*

Paper 2

**Modern Texts and
Poetry**

60%

Section A: Modern text:
An Inspector Calls

Section B: *Worlds and
Lives* Poetry anthology

Section C: Unseen poetry



Support

We offer Thrive and Fly sessions to support progress with individuals and small groups.

Creative Writing club runs weekly for all years - a great way to practise for pleasure!

Revision sessions (weekly at lunch) will start following mock exams.

Student / peer mentors will be available to support some students.

At home: BBC Bitesize; revision guides for set texts; use of Google Classroom; please encourage reading (including non-fiction).



GCSE Mathematics

Mrs Kirtland, Assistant Head of Maths



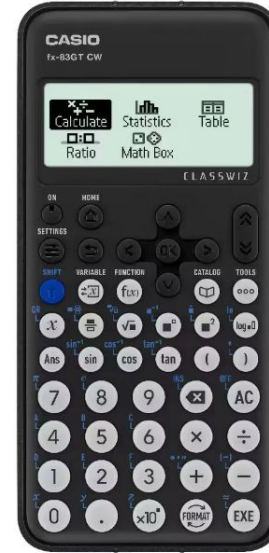
The Course

- Edexcel GCSE 9-1 Mathematics specification
- Two tiers of entry: Higher (grades 9-4) 10X1, 2, 3 and Y1, 2, Foundation (grades 5-1) 10X4, 5 and Y3, 4
- Content: Number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, statistics and probability
- Three exams in the Summer of Year 11, each 1 hour 30 minutes.
Paper 1: non calculator. Paper 2&3: calculator



Equipment

- Calculator: Casio FX-83GTCW
- Protractor
- Pair of compasses



Support

- Thrive and Fly sessions to support progress with individuals and small groups
- Targeted lesson pull out sessions
- M24 for lunchtime help or a space to work
- Year 11: lunchtime revision sessions and Year 12 student mentoring
- At home: Dr Frost, MathsPad, Corbett maths, Maths Genie, OnMaths



Additional Courses

Further Maths GCSE

- AQA Level 2 certificate of Further Maths
- Taught as an extra lesson after school
- Builds on GCSE knowledge and helps develop students for A Level maths
- Two exams in the Summer of Year 11, each 1 hour 45 minutes

Functional Skills

- Taken by green route maths skills groups
- Additional qualification which supports applications for future studies
- Year 10: Level 1, Year 11: Level 2



GCSE Science

Mr Jackson, Head of Year,
Teacher of Science



GCSE Science pathways

Double Science

9 hrs per ftnt

6 x 1h10m exams

Double grade awarded in
“Science”.

3 individual teachers for
each strand with 3
lessons per ftnt each.

Triple Science

14 hrs per ftnt

6 x 1h45 exams

Separate unlinked grades
awarded in Biology,
Chemistry and Physics

3 individual teachers for
each course



Combined Science

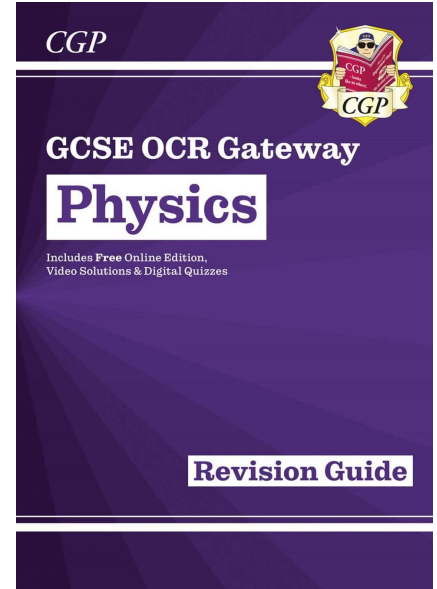
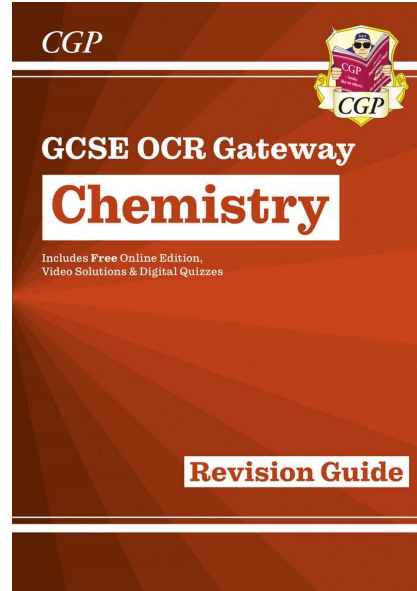
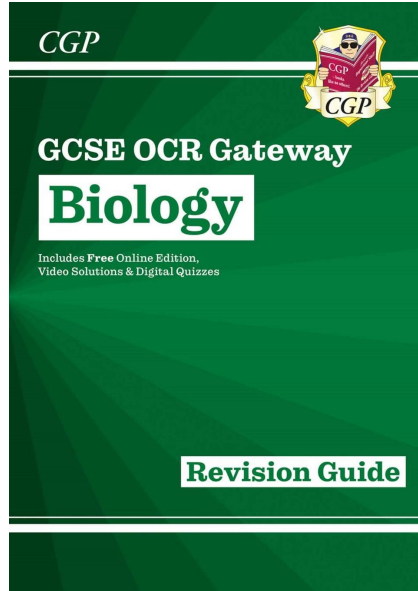
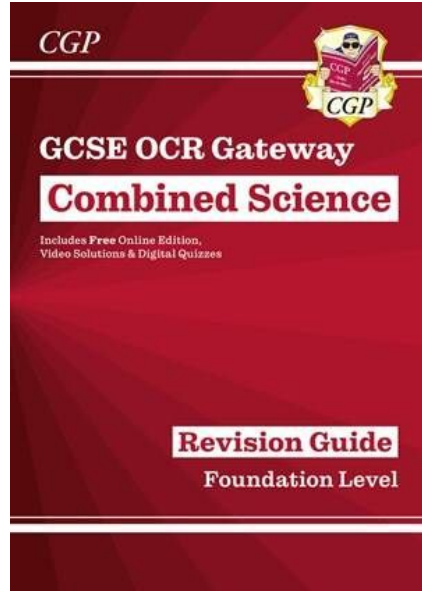
- Combined Science has a unique double grading system to reflect the fact that the qualification is worth two GCSEs.
- This course is taught at higher and foundation levels - with final tier of entry decisions being made in yr11.
- Entry requirement for A levels in science from the double strand is a “7/6” (+ a grade 6 in maths)

99
98
88
87
77
76
66
55
54
44
43
33
32
22
21
11

Triple Science

- Students are taught biology, chemistry and physics as separate qualifications following the standard 9-1 grading system.
- Entry requirement for A levels in science from the triple strand is a grade 6 in the relevant science (+ a grade 6 in maths)
- All content in double science is also within the triple course - but some topics are met in greater depth and some additional topics are added.
- Importantly - Module titles / sizes / order / content is NOT the same as in the double course in all cases. Please ensure that your daughter uses the correct revision materials!

All students are given a CGP revision guide (most students received their guide(s) on Monday.)



We also use [Educake](#) (last year HGS students answered one million questions!)

Year 10 GCSE Curriculum

Further to the Year 9 GCSE Options process in early 2025, your child will now commence their GCSE qualifications culminating in public examinations in May/June 2028.

Most students in the school will achieve a GCSE in the following subjects:

English Literature

English Language

Mathematics

Combined or Seperate Science
(Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Your child will also commence their 3 or 4 'option choices' including a wide variety of subjects not previously studied at Hitchin Girls' School.

Some non-examined lessons such as Learning for Life will also continue into Year 10 and 11.



Requests to change options

These are actively discouraged as we have complete confidence that students made informed choices over a period of months where they spoke with their parents/carers, their teachers and attended the various information events collecting and absorbing information.

We are now at the point where any request for an options move will be refused as it is essential that students now focus on their GCSE studies and are not distracted. In our experience from this point it is more important that families and staff support and reassure the child that they have made the correct decision and it was a fully informed one.



How we will support your child in their GCSEs

- Provide a rich and engaging learning experience
- Provide extra-curricular activities such as clubs, visits and activities to enrich their studies
- Develop study and work skills that will support them in the next two years and beyond
- Signpost towards resources such as free tools, apps and paid revision guides
- Provide opportunities for student leadership to further broaden their perspective
- Encourage debate and a curiosity for learning
- Manage their workload and support their physical and emotional wellbeing

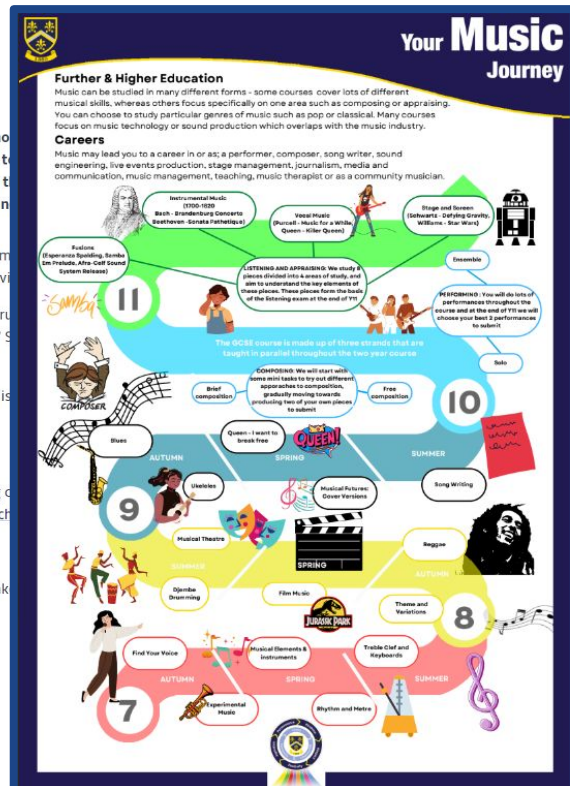
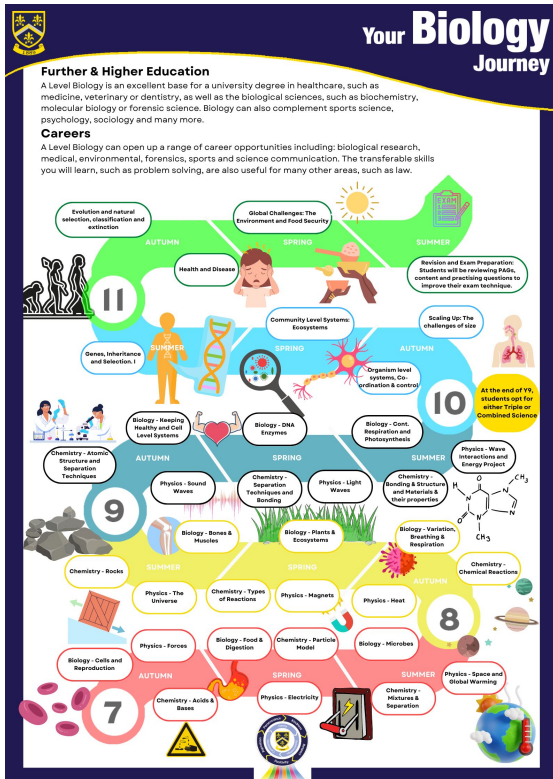


How can I support my child in their GCSEs?

- Take an active interest in their studies
- Enrich their learning with conversations that might relate to areas of study, i.e. news stories
- Keep an eye on what is being studied presently so that you can play an active role
- Support and communicate regularly with your child's teachers
- Regularly log into Go4Schools and attend virtual consultation evenings
- Give your child a safe and quiet work space that they can use - try not to tidy it!
- Support them to have appropriate 'down time' and manage their time effectively



Where can I find out what my child is studying?



Year 10 Tutor Evening (in person)

Wednesday 19th November 2025

Year 10 Consultation Evening (virtual)

Thursday 4th June 2026



Year 10 Mock Exam Period

The mock exam period will take place from:

Monday 13th April 2025 for 1-2 weeks



Year 10 Assessment and Reporting Calendar

At any point during your child's education at HGS, you can log into Go4Schools to monitor their most recent assessments in each subject. In addition, you will receive two reports that detail their engagement with learning along with tips on what they could do to improve this. More information on these was shared in a letter last Friday.

Report 1	wc 15/10/25
Report 2	wc 13/05/26





DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD





THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an international organisation bringing together thousands of young people towards a common goal, working together to facilitate their own experiences and to help others.

Why do DofE?

- ▶ Develop qualities and attitudes you need to become a rounded and confident individual
- ▶ Meet new people and make new friends
- ▶ Prepare for the working world
- ▶ Through volunteering, gain work experience and learn to work in a real world setting
- ▶ Develop skills in the wilderness (gold level)
- ▶ Form new bonds and make new memories
- ▶ Gain experiences to put on UCAS or CV

BRONZE 2026

- ▶ Mrs Edwards will be introducing the award to students in an assembly on Tuesday 30th September
- ▶ A letter to parents will follow with all information and details of how students can enrol.
- ▶ Unlike in previous years numbers will not be restricted and there will be opportunity for all students to take part if they wish.

Find out more

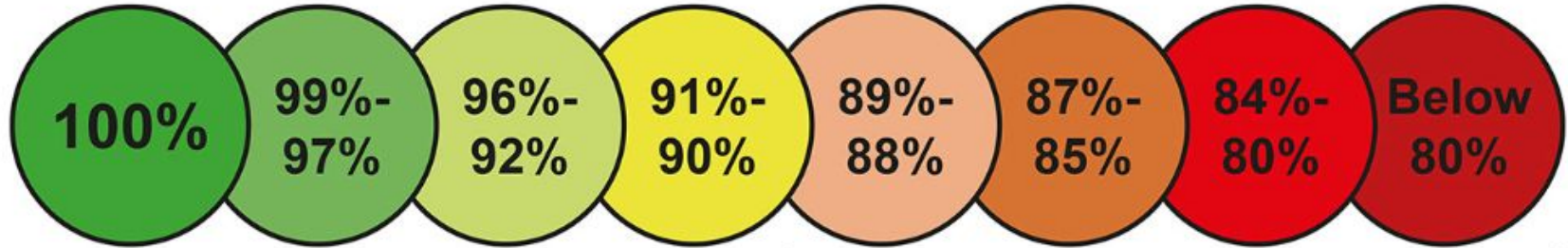
- ▶ Check out the DofE website for more information
- ▶ There is a general information noticeboard where you line up to go into the dining room.
- ▶ Complete the google form on the letter sent to parents after the assembly and return by 24th October.

<https://www.dofe.org/do>

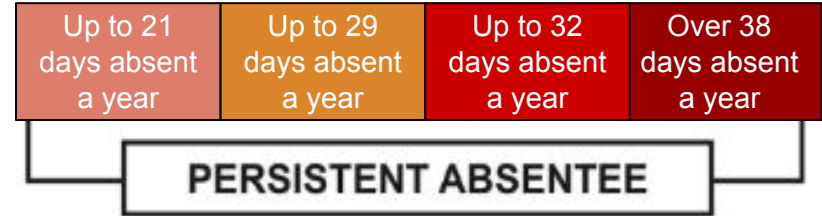
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Exceptional attendance for all = 97%+ daily attendance

Attend today, Achieve tomorrow



Attendance impacts of academic outcomes, the **more** school students miss, the **less** likely they are to achieve their potential.



Which CIRCLE is your child in?



Attendance

National data and our historical data shows that students who have attendance above 90% make better progress and achieve better GCSE outcomes than those whose attendance is below 90%.

- In **2025** GCSE results at HGS, students with an attendance above 90% on average achieved or exceeded their target grade with a **progress value of 0.26 in each subject**.
- At 97-100% attendance this increased to an **average of 0.37 grades** above their target in each subject.
- Those that were sub 80% attendance on average missed their target grades by **-1.83 grades in each subject**.



Absence during term time

- Absence from school can only be authorised in **‘exceptional’** circumstances and must be requested in advance.
- Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period. This is the equivalent of 5 school days.
- Holidays are highly unlikely to be deemed ‘exceptional’ circumstances and therefore will be unauthorised, with the likelihood of a penalty fine being issued for a week’s holiday.



Working together to improve school attendance

Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities

August 2024

Unauthorised absence

- **First Offence - £160** per parent per child, reduced to **£80** per parent per child if paid within 28 days.
- **Second offence (within 3 years) - £160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days.
- **Third or further offences (within 3 years)** - a penalty notice is not issued but the case will be presented to the **Magistrate's Court by Hertfordshire**. Fine up to **£2500** per parent per child



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

FIRST OFFENCE

1

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after **19th August 2024**.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

SEND Support

Key contacts:

- Mrs Cole = Assistant Headteacher and SENCO
- Miss Lennon = Assistant SENCO
- Mrs Virdee = Inclusion Administrator

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please contact the team so we can work with you to establish a plan to support them.



SEND Support

SEND interventions

There are 8 LSAs at HGS. They will work in the classroom with some students and also deliver a range of interventions which take place during registration, at lunch and in exceptional circumstances, during lessons.

The team runs homework club every lunch time.



Access Arrangements

The Learning Support Department and the Exams team work together to ensure that students receive access arrangements in line with JCQ regulations.

Key things to note:

- To receive access arrangements, this **MUST** be the students normal way of learning.
- Evidence **MUST** be provided of need from teaching staff.
- Medical evidence may need to be provided.
- Testing cannot take place prior to year 9.
- The school deadline for applying for access arrangements is the end of January 2027, unless there is an unexpected injury needing adjustments.



Access Arrangements

Key things to remember:

Reader =



Small Room = Classroom sized room

Rest Breaks = Need medical evidence

Extra time = Must have evidence from teachers and testing by access assessor or medical letter



Thank you

Year 10 Information Evening

