

Welcome

Year 11 Information Evening





Head of Year Overview

- Preparation for Examinations
- Preparation for the “real world”
- Support for choices on next steps
- Continued opportunities to both be part of and to **lead** the school community



Head of Year Overview

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

- Subject teachers/Head of Department
- Head of Year Mrs Tarbutton
- Form Tutors



11A – Mr Balfe

11B – Mr Sutton

11C – Mrs Coe

11F – Mrs Pearce/Mrs Reynolds

11J - Ms Connolly/Mrs Reynolds

11P - Mr Beardmore-Crowther/Mrs Reynolds

11R - Miss Shaw

11T - Mrs Lingham





Year 11

Our experiences and advice
Evie and Anouska



Year 11:

- It's important your child keeps up with the workload and is understanding what they are being taught
- Allow time for your child to do things they enjoy- balance

Revision

- Once it comes to around the end of February revision needs to be consistent (although little and often throughout the year is helpful)
- Stay organised eg. create a timetable, have your flash cards organised and know how you're going to revise
- Speak to your child and see if you can offer any help throughout year 11
- Quiet working space is so important



★ Know what works for you... and do it!

★ It's all about balance

★ Be disciplined

★ Parents, please be understanding



How can I continue to 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
- Purchase suggested revision guides
- 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?

Your Biology Journey

Further & Higher Education
A Level Biology is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science. Biology can also complement sports science, psychology, sociology and many more.

Careers
A Level Biology can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensic, sports and science communication. The transferable skills you will learn, such as problem solving, are also useful for many other areas, such as law.

Year 7: Evolution and natural selection, selection and variation, Health and Disease, Community Level Systems, Ecosystems.

Year 8: Heredity and Variation, the Cell, Photosynthesis, Respiration, the Transport System.

Year 9: Photosynthesis, Respiration, the Transport System, the Immune System, the Nervous System.

Year 10: The Immune System, the Nervous System, the Endocrine System, the Reproductive System.

Year 11: The Endocrine System, the Reproductive System, the Digestive System, the Circulatory System.

Year 12: The Digestive System, the Circulatory System, the Excretory System, the Respiratory System.

Year 13: The Excretory System, the Respiratory System, the Digestive System, the Circulatory System.

Your Music Journey

Further & Higher Education
Music can be studied as a university degree in many forms - some courses cover lots of different musical skills, whereas others focus specifically on one area such as composing or appraising. You can choose to study particular genres of music such as pop or classical. Many courses focus on music technology or sound production which overlaps with the music industry.

Careers
Music may lead you to a career in or as a performer, composer, song writer, sound engineering, live events production, stage management, journalism, media and communication, music management, teaching, music therapist or as a community musician.

Year 7: Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments.

Year 8: Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments.

Year 9: Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments.

Year 10: Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments.

Year 11: Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments.

Year 12: Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments.

Year 13: Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments, Musical Elements and Instruments.

Your Technology Journey

Further & Higher Education
Studying any Technology at A Level can lead to a wide range of degree course and apprenticeships including BA & BSc courses in Industrial Design and Product Design, Furniture Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Illustration & Communication, Fashion Promotion & Branding, Sustainable Fashion, Fashion Design and digital design. You can also study Civil, Mechanical, Aerospace, Naval and Electrical engineering at degree level. You could also study Fashion Buying or Merchandising as an apprenticeship.

Careers
As well as studying at university, there are a range of apprenticeships and careers you can go into which include Engineer, Product Designer, Graphic Designer, Fabric & Surface Designer, Garment Technologist, Stylist, Fashion Buyer, Brand Director, Mechanic, Plumber, Carpenter, Electrician, Architect, Service Engineer, Aviation mechanic, Furniture maker, Tailor, Examiners, Surveyor, Costume performer, technician and many more.

Year 7: Food & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Design & Technology.

Year 8: Food & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Design & Technology.

Year 9: Food & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Design & Technology.

Year 10: Food & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Design & Technology.

Year 11: Food & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Design & Technology.

Year 12: Food & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Design & Technology.

Year 13: Food & Nutrition, Design & Technology, Design & Technology.

Year 11 Open Evening (in person)

Tuesday 25th November

Year 11 Consultation Evening (virtual)

Thursday 11th December



Year 11 Mock Exam Period

The mock exam periods will take place from:

Monday 3rd November 2025 - Friday 14th November 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Wednesday 4th March 2026



Year 11 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 will be shared in a letter next week.

Report 1	wc 05/12/25
Report 2	wc 25/03/26



Public Exams

- Written exams: These will take place from mid May until the end of June
- NEA (Non-Examined Assessment): Subject specific deadlines will be shared by the class teacher where there is an NEA involved
- Your child must be available for exams up to and including the published contingency day (end of June).
- Results Day is ***Thursday 20th August 2026***



Public Exams

- By the end of January your child will receive their statement of entry
- It is your child's responsibility to check for any errors or omissions
- By mid March your child will receive their final exam timetable which includes the room and seat number for each exam



Public Exams

- The Data & Exams team, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Pargeter and Mrs. Adams will send out numerous emails containing a variety of important information from this point forward
- Your child must remember to check their emails!



Public Exams

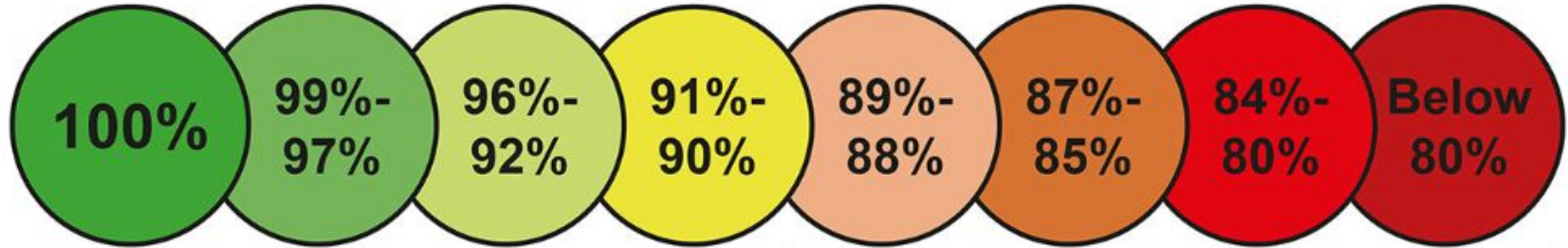
- If they have any questions your child needs to either email exams@hgs.herts.sch.uk or pop in to see them in their office located next to M7
- If your child is unsure, it is so important that the ask and do so sooner rather than later
- It is important to remember that there is no such thing as a silly question!



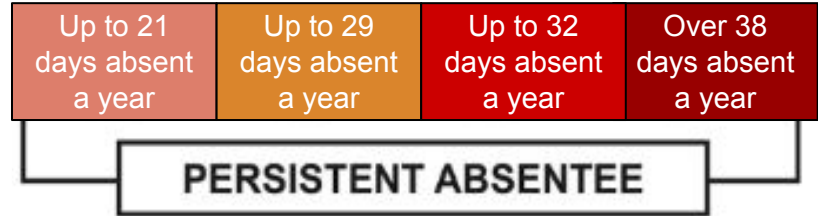
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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**.

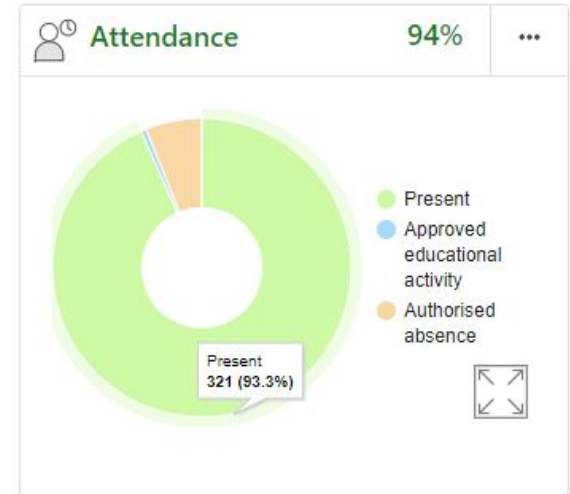


Attendance - Go4Schools



Your child's attendance will be visible this year.

You will be able to check your child's attendance by using your parental login for Go4Schools.



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

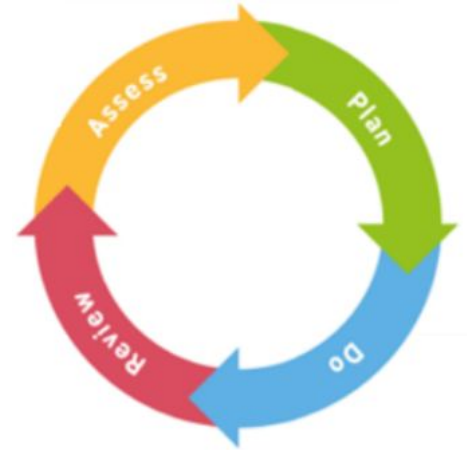
Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

SEND Support

Key contacts:

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

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.
- January 2026 is the deadline for school to apply for access arrangements unless there is a late injury.



Thrive and Fly

This is the term we use to describe our academic interventions programme.

Thrive and Fly sessions aim to support those young people who, for whatever reason, are not currently achieving their full potential in school.

‘To unlock in them the thing that is currently keeping them stuck.’



‘To improve life chances and outcomes, especially for those who are struggling to fly’



Who will lead Thrive and Fly sessions?

Specialist English Intervention tutors:

Miss Walker and Mrs McDonald

Specialist Numeracy/Maths Intervention tutors:

Miss Gregory and Mrs Bridge

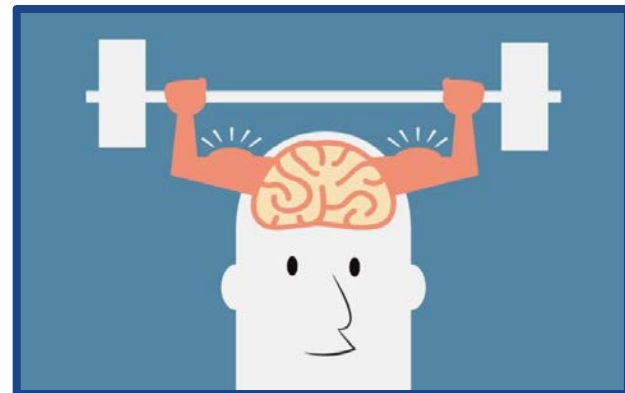


"You can't go back and
change the beginning,
but you can start
where you are and
change the ending."

— C.S. Lewis



REVISION TIMETABLE						
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
Maths	English					
Biology	Spanish					
History						



How can you best support your child with revision?

Ensure that they have created a revision timetable - NOW! This is an essential tool to use consistently throughout Year 11, not something to start in October!

Have a copy of their revision timetable somewhere that members of your family can see so that they are aware of times when revision needs to come first.

What should it look like?

[illegible][illegible]

Time	Saturday 23 rd of April	Sunday 24 th of April	Monday 25 th of April	Tuesday 26 th of April	Wednesday 27 th of April	Thursday 28 th of April	Friday 29 th of April
8:00			Back to school				
9:00							
10:00		Drama					
11:00	Macbeth	Science					
12:00							
1:00							
2:00							
3:00							
4:00	Unseen poetry	Unseen poetry					
5:00				Music	Science		
6:00							
7:00	Music	Language – paper 1	Conflict poems		O&T	Science	Maths
8:00	Maths			Maths	Music		
9:00							

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
School 9.00 - 15.00	School 9.00 - 15.00	School 9.00 - 15.00	School 9.00 - 15.00	School 9.00 - 15.00	Homework 10.00 - 12.00	General Revision 10.00 - 11.30
Homework 16.00 - 16.40	Homework 16.00 - 16.40	Homework 16.00 - 16.40	Homework 16.00 - 16.40	Homework 16.00 - 16.40	General Revision 13.00 - 14.00	Homework 12.00 - 13.30
Chemistry 17.00 - 17.40	English 17.00 - 17.40	History 17.00 - 17.40	Maths 17.00 - 17.40	English 17.00 - 17.40	General Revision 17.00 - 18.00	General Revision 16.30 - 17.30
Dinner Maths 18.40 - 19.20	Dinner French 18.40 - 19.20	Dinner Biology 18.40 - 19.20	Dinner Physics 18.40 - 19.20	Dinner Geography 18.40 - 19.20	Dinner	Dinner

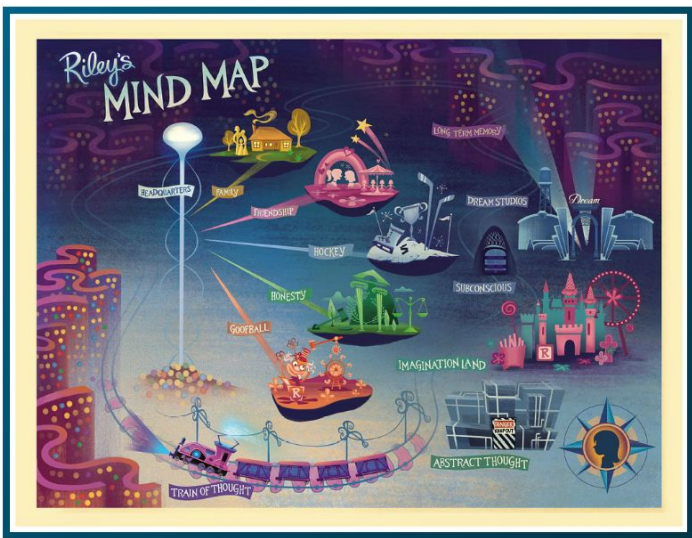
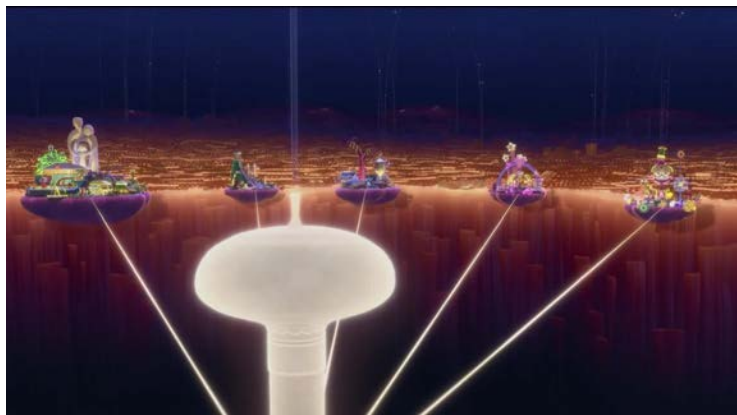


How can you best support your child with revision?

- Ensure that they have a **quiet, appropriate space to work and revise**; a **space that only they tidy up** - being able to leave their revision as they need it when they return is important.
- Talk to them about their routines and systems and **ask them how you can best support them** with these.
- Let them ***teach*** you - ask them questions about it but do not fill in the gaps for them; be present and listen to their replies. If possible ask supplementary questions to support them to extend and deepen their knowledge.
- **Ensure that they are getting enough sleep!** This is essential as it is when we sleep that what we learn during the day embeds.

The **learning** pyramid





Absolutely key to everything is your child feeling that they have turned their

Pathways through the jungle \longrightarrow into \longrightarrow Super highways



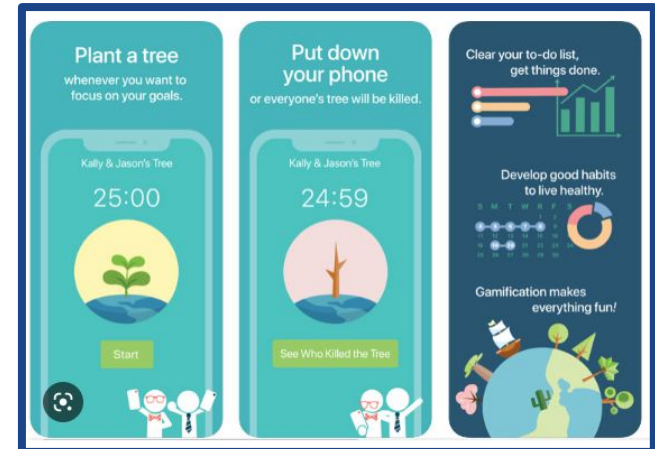
Initial neural pathway connection
= short term memory



Embedded neural super highway
connection = long term memory



- How do I support my child to do successful revision/exam preparation?
- Students should not be revising on their own in the bedrooms for hours on end!
- Students need a mixture of approaches and study buddies or groups can be highly effective.
- Do not get into battles about phones - find a good compromise and you may want to look at the Flora app to support them.



Should my child listen to music while they are working/revising?

Research undertaken by psychologists [Perham and Currie, 2014, Applied Cognitive Psychology](#) shows that if you want to EMBED, RETAIN and truly LEARN the information in front of you that you should do this in a quiet (ideally silent) environment.

The findings -

- Students who revised in quiet environments performed more than 60% better in an exam than their peers who revised while listening to music that had lyrics.
- Students who revised while listening to music without lyrics (55%) did better than those who had revised to music with lyrics.
- It made no difference whether students revised listening to songs they liked (38%) or didn't - both led to a reduction in their subsequent test performance (37%).



Benefits of Silence

Concentration



Creativity

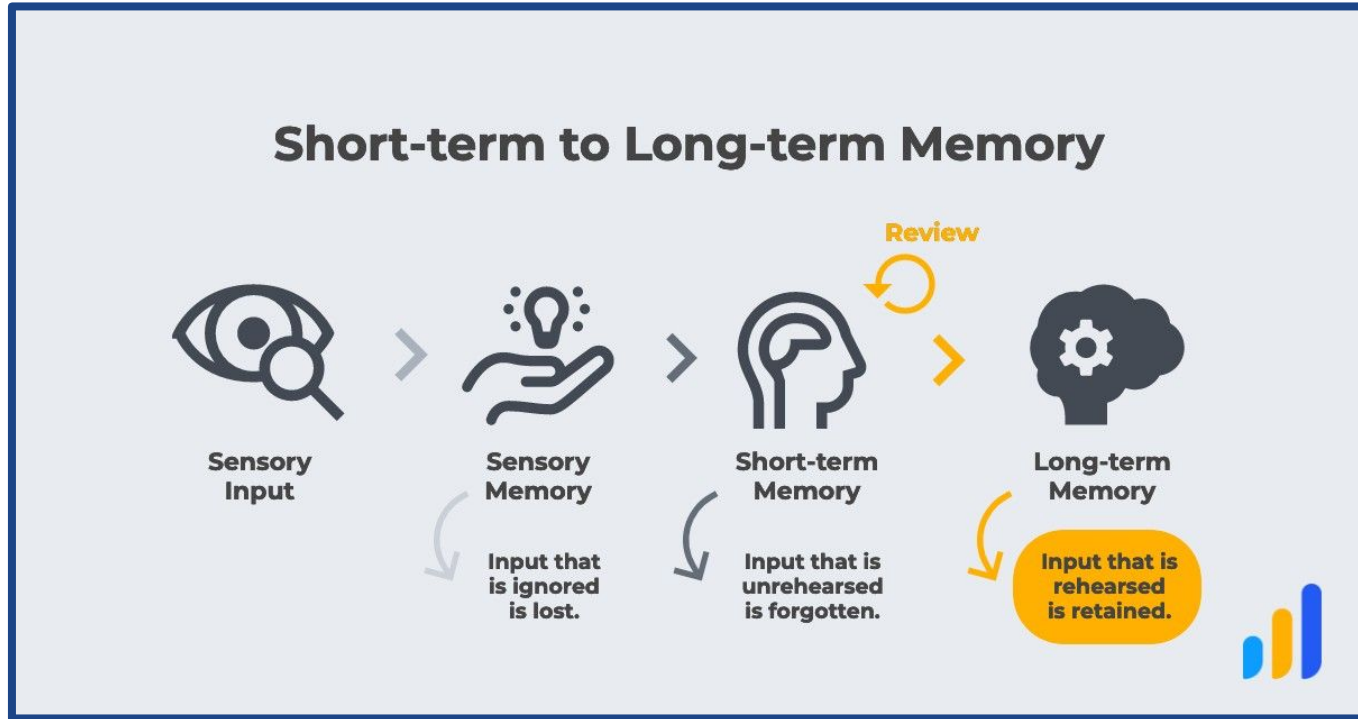


Awareness



WHISPERROOM INC.

The 4 Rs - reinforce, repeat, rehearse and recall:



Exam Wellbeing



Molly Rackham
Wellbeing Lead

**R
O
U
T
I
N
E**

A row of seven light-colored wooden blocks, each with a black letter, spelling out the word "ROUTINE". The blocks are arranged horizontally on a light blue surface. In the background, many more similar wooden blocks are scattered and out of focus.



START
HERE...

Get sleep



Turn off devices earlier



Turn off devices earlier

Create a good bedtime routine



Turn off devices earlier

Create a good bedtime routine

Set a bedtime & wake up time

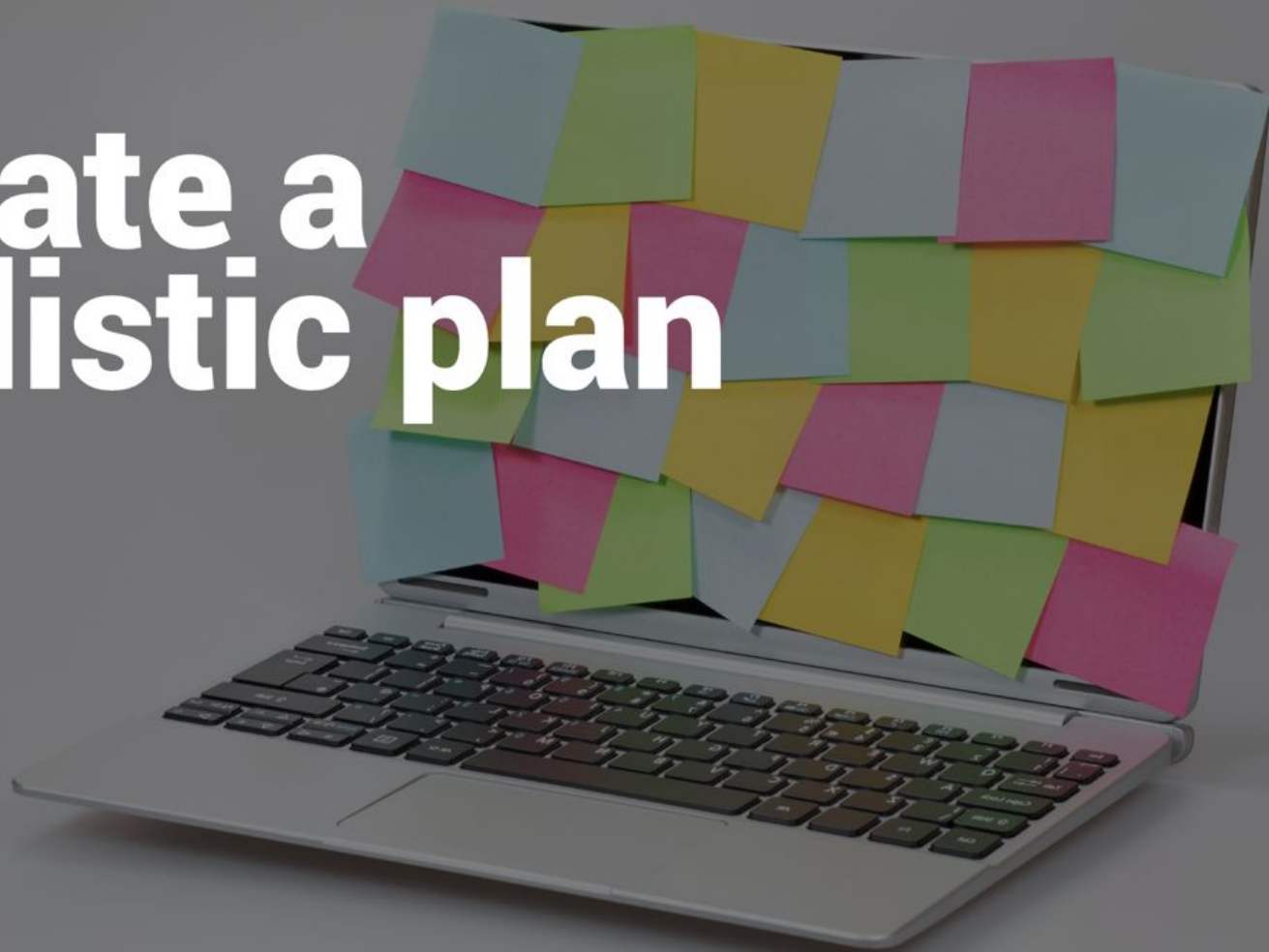


A vintage-style alarm clock with a black frame and white face is positioned on the left side of the image. The clock face has black numerals and hands, showing a time around 10:10. In the background, a person is sleeping in a bed with white linens, partially visible and out of focus. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting a bedroom at night.

**“When sleep is abundant, minds flourish.
When it is deficient, they don’t.”**

Matt Walker, Sleep scientist

Create a realistic plan



Mental Health

- TO DO LIST:
1. SELF CARE
 2. SELF CARE
 3. SELF CARE

Ask & listen

- TO DO LIST:
1. SELF CARE
 2. SELF CARE
 3. SELF CARE

A top-down view of a workspace. On the left is a light-colored ceramic mug filled with dark coffee. To its right is a spiral-bound notebook with a brown cover. The notebook's pages are open, showing a 'TO DO LIST' with three items, each written as '1. SELF CARE', '2. SELF CARE', and '3. SELF CARE'. A silver pen lies on the right side of the notebook. The entire scene is set against a dark blue, textured background.

Ask & listen

**Encourage healthy
coping strategies**

A top-down view of a workspace. On the left is a light-colored ceramic mug filled with dark coffee. To its right is a spiral-bound notebook with a brown cover. The notebook's pages are open, showing handwritten text in dark ink. The text includes a 'TO DO LIST:' followed by three items, each starting with '1. SELF CARE'. A dark pen lies on the right side of the notebook. The entire scene is set against a dark blue, textured background.

Ask & listen

**Encourage healthy
coping strategies**

Fresh air & daylight



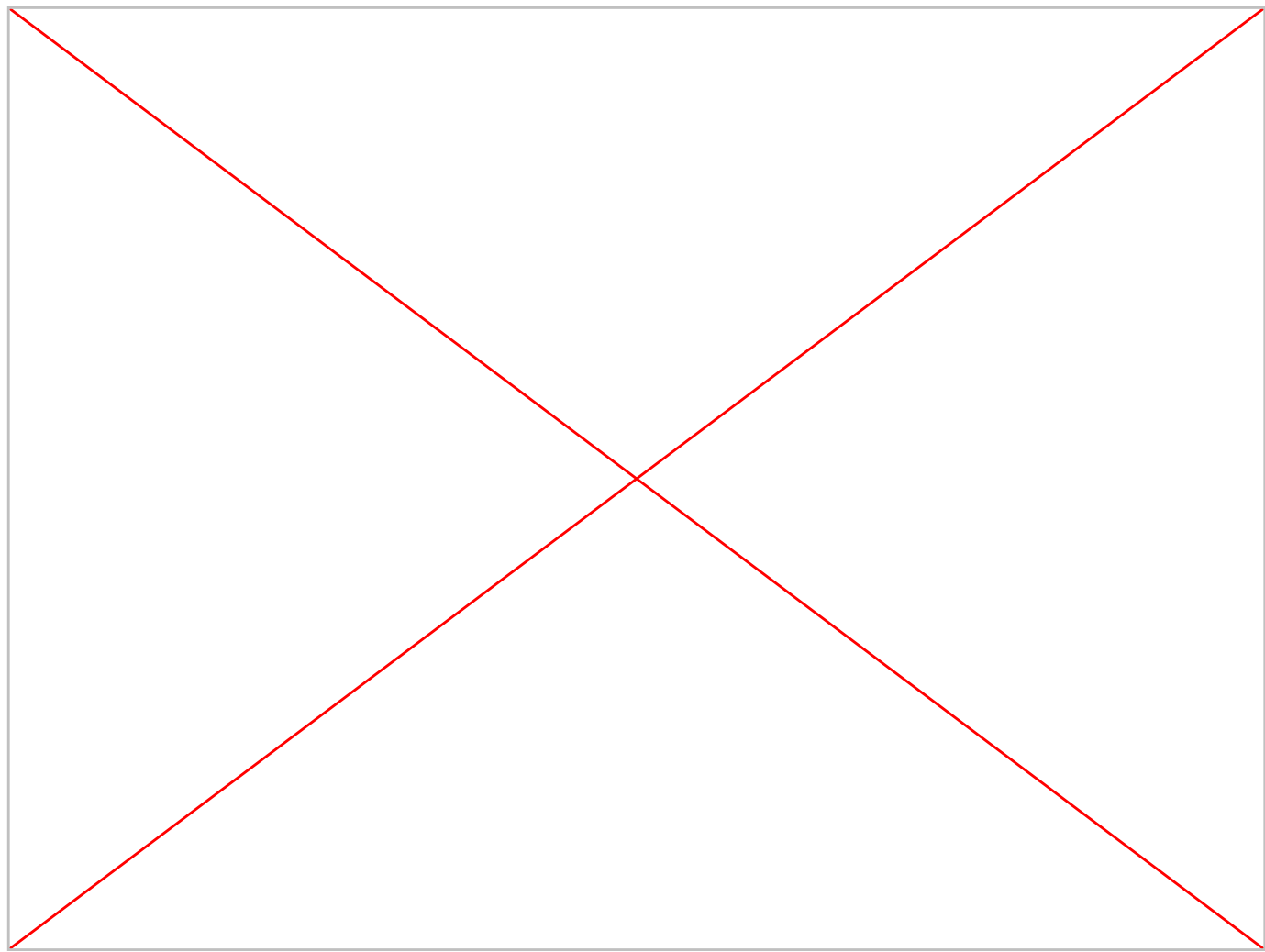
Manage EXPECTATIONS



Phase-hitchin.org
@phasehitchin



Molly Rackham
Wellbeing Lead



Thank you

Year 11 Information Evening

