



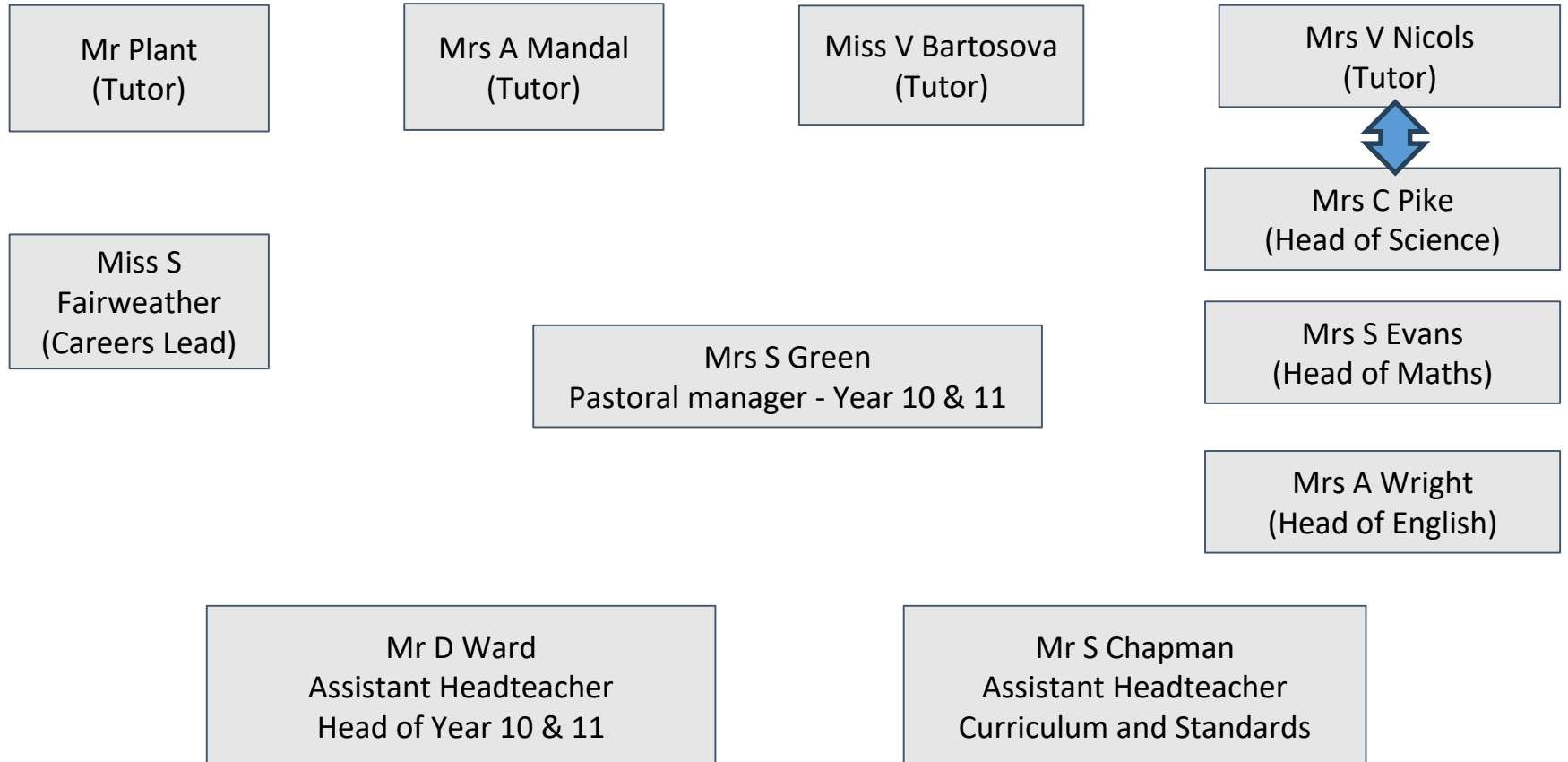
SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL

HUNSTANTON

Year 10 Step up to GCSE

Work hard, be kind and smile

The Year 10 Team



The Year Ahead

Wednesday 6 January 2027 - Year 10 Reports to Parents

Week commencing Monday 15 March 2027 – Year 10 PPE period – optional subjects in classrooms

Week commencing Monday 22 March 2027 – Year 10 PPE period – core subjects (Maths, English and Science) in the hall

Friday 14 May 2027 - Year 10 Progress Reports Parents

Thursday 20 May 2027 – Year 10 Subject evening

Week commencing Monday 21 June 2027 – Year 10 mock MFL orals

Monday 28 June 2027 - Year 10 Intervention Evening (selected students)

Tuesday 29 June 2027 – Sixth Form and College taster days

Week commencing Monday 12 July 2027 – Year 10 Work experience

Student Timetables

Maths

English

Science

Core PE

PSHE delivered in Form time

Four optional subjects

Maths, MFL and Science are tiered subjects. Some students will take the higher tier and some will take the foundation tier

Grades available on the Higher paper are 4 to 9

Decisions on whether students complete Combined Science (two grades) or Triple Science (three grades) are made in Year 11

Grades available on the Foundation paper are 1 to 5

Grading

Most subjects are are 9 to 1 grading system with 9 being the highest.

We deliver three vocational subjects:-

Vocational Grades		
Hosp & Cat	H&SC, iMedia	Comparisons
L2D*	L2D*	9
		8.5
L2D	L2D	8
		7.5
		7
L2M	L2M	6
		5.5
L2P	L2P	5
		4.5
		4
L1D*	L1D	3
L1D	L1M	2
L1M	L1P	1.5
L1P		1

Our website

The curriculum page has links to learning journeys, the curriculum plan and the exam specification.

Step Up to GCSE

As a GCSE student at Smithdon High School, your Key Stage 4 curriculum will begin in Year 10 and build on the prior foundations of a Knowledge Rich Curriculum begun in Key Stage 3.

Year 10 will end with a series of examinations to check where you are in relation to your academic potential. This is the first of three series of examinations that take place to inform and guide you leading up to your final GCSE exams. The feedback from each of these will allow your subject teachers to personalise your Year 11 curriculum. This means we will be able to use tutor time better to meet the needs of each and every one of you in preparation for your final GCSE examinations.

Included below are a range of resources that will support your revision during Years 10 and 11.

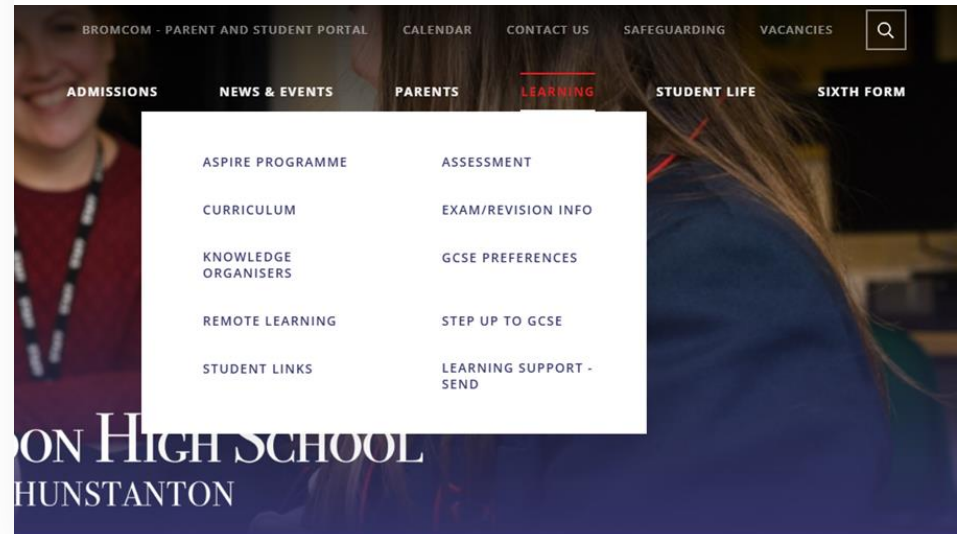
Timeline for years 10 and 11	+
Subject Information	+
50 Facts Booklet	+
The Learning Scientist	+
Year 11 Booster Sessions	+

This section will be particularly useful to parents of GCSE students.

Step Up to GCSE

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In This Section

ASPIRE PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT

CURRICULUM

50 Questions Booklet



50 Questions
GCSE
2025 to 2027

- All students have a copy
- These are to be brought to every lesson.
- Parents can help students learn the facts.
- Students can tick them off as they know them.



Staff Intranet | Presentation | Stop up to G... | Seneca - Learn | Seneca - Learn

app.senecallearning.com/classroom/course/c39e7f70-d100-11e7-9e85-bbf8509a9044/section/f09d8e0f-df28-43cc-a45b-40ec53df2d0c/section-overview?mode=default

Smithdon BookMarks | Bullying Log Sept 2...

Back to teacher platform

SENECA

0 XP | Get premium

Overview

Exam Prep **Now**

Assignments

Ask Amelia

1 Atomic Structure

1.1 Atoms & Elements

1.1.1 Elements & Compounds

1.1.2 Chemical Formula

1.1.3 Chemical Reactions

1.1.4 Chemical Equations

1.1.5 Mixtures

1.1.6 Separating Mixtures

1.1.7 Separating Mixtures 2

1.1.8 Model of the Atom

1.1.9 Sub-Atomic Particles

1.1.10 Atom Size

Measurable energy change

No atoms are created or destroyed

Test yourself with 4 exam questions on Chemical Reactions

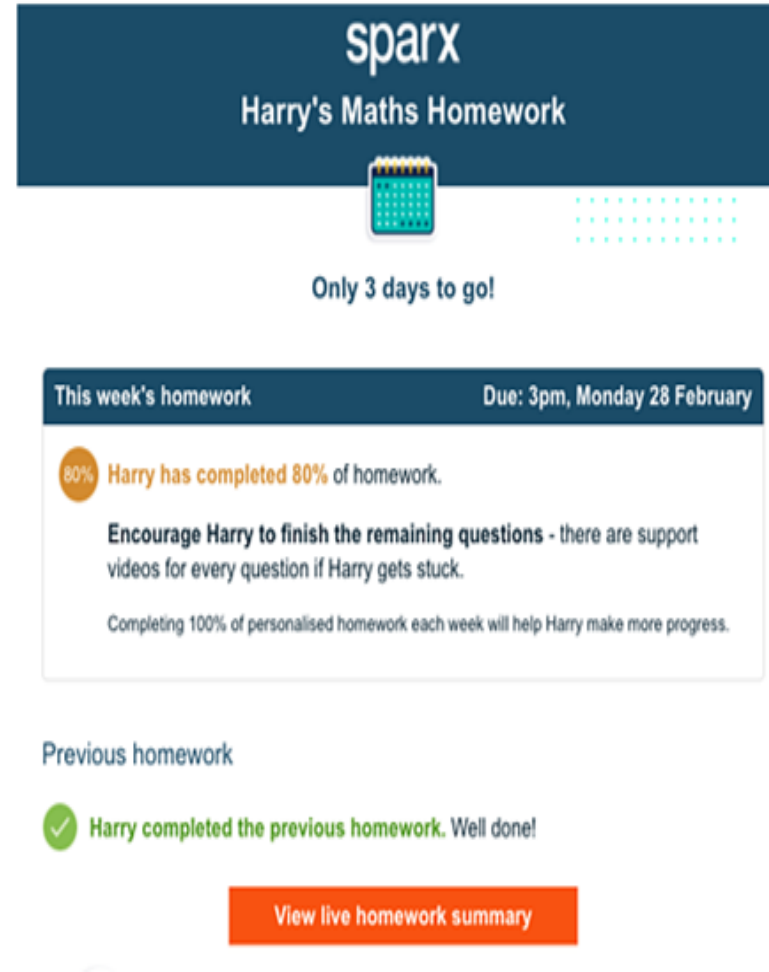
Amelia

Hey there 🤖 I'm Amelia, your AI tutoring assistant. How can I help you understand Chemical Reactions?

Study ▶

Sparx Maths

- Automatic weekly (online) home-work
- Year 10 students homework is set on SPARX .
- Weekly emails will be sent to parents from SPARX, to inform you how your child is progressing in their weekly home-work.
- Live summary of home-works on the parent portal.
- Email (three days beforehand at 4:30pm) automatically sent to parents, from SPARX, to notify them when their child's homework is due.



The screenshot displays the Sparx Maths parent portal interface. At the top, a dark blue header contains the 'sparx' logo and the text 'Harry's Maths Homework'. Below this is a calendar icon and a countdown timer stating 'Only 3 days to go!'. The main content area is titled 'This week's homework' with a due date of 'Due: 3pm, Monday 28 February'. It shows that Harry has completed 80% of his homework. A message encourages Harry to finish the remaining questions, mentioning support videos. A note states that completing 100% of personalized homework each week will help Harry make more progress. Below this, a section for 'Previous homework' shows a green checkmark and the message 'Harry completed the previous homework. Well done!'. At the bottom right, there is an orange button labeled 'View live homework summary'.

sparx
Harry's Maths Homework

Only 3 days to go!

This week's homework Due: 3pm, Monday 28 February

80% Harry has completed 80% of homework.

Encourage Harry to finish the remaining questions - there are support videos for every question if Harry gets stuck.

Completing 100% of personalised homework each week will help Harry make more progress.

Previous homework

✓ Harry completed the previous homework. Well done!

View live homework summary

https://f.hubspotusercontent30.net/hubfs/5530880/KB%20Resources%20Summer%202021/Parent%20video_v2.mp4

Sparx Reader

GCSE English Literature Set Texts

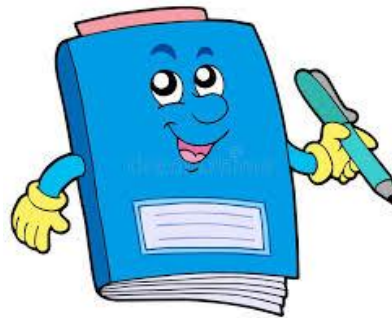
Reading set texts (*A Christmas Carol* and *Macbeth*) independently to complement and reinforce class reading. (*An Inspector Calls* is not currently available.)

Homework is set and monitored by the English Department.

How is this different from reading in lessons and why are we setting this?

Reading checks in the form of comprehension questions appear at natural breaks; the text disappears when questions are shown to encourage careful reading rather than scanning for answers.

Teachers can monitor student accuracy and support understanding of the text.



Sparx Reader

Current homework

Due: Thursday 16th October

Not started

hasn't started this homework due in **4 days**.

Please encourage Harry to start it.

Currently reading



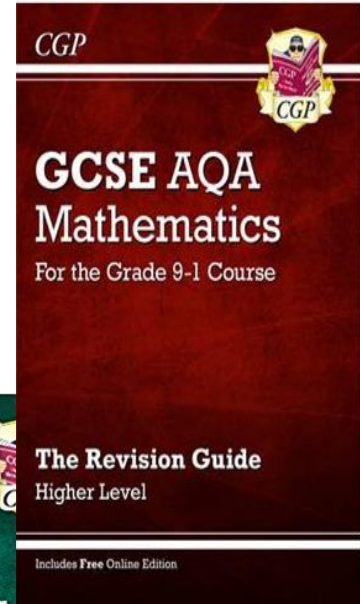
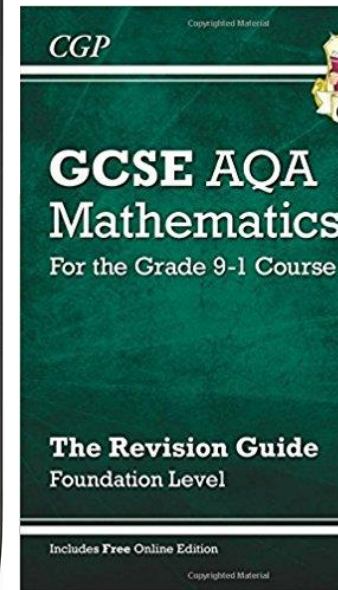
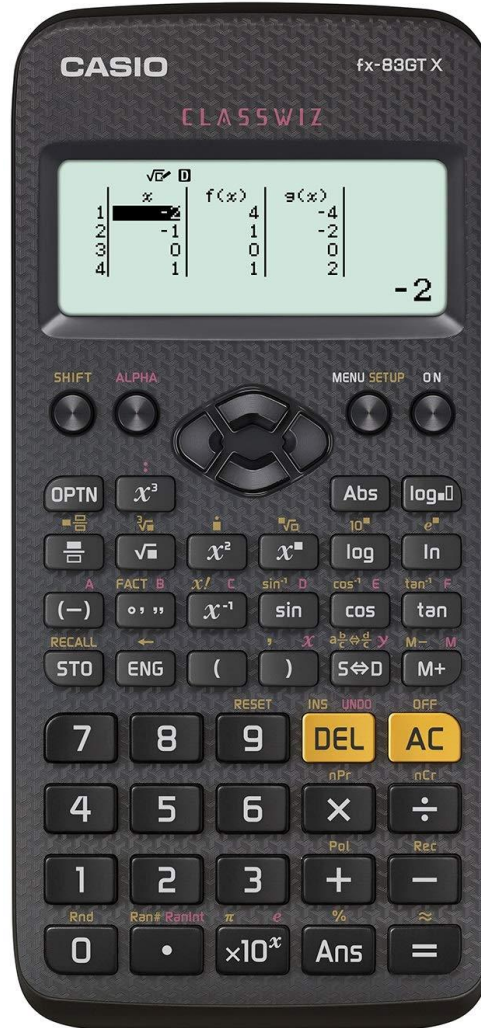
A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens and Laura Kerslake

View all of reading information →

[Learn more about Sparx Reader](#)

In addition to Sparx Reader, students can also expect writing homework to support their study of **GCSE English Language**.

Useful Resources for Independent Study



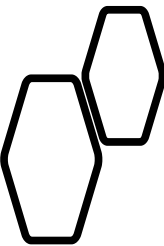
shutterstock.com · 1766546489

GCSE Revision Guides and Casio Scientific Calculators are available to purchase through the online School Shop.

Revision Technique: Condensing notes

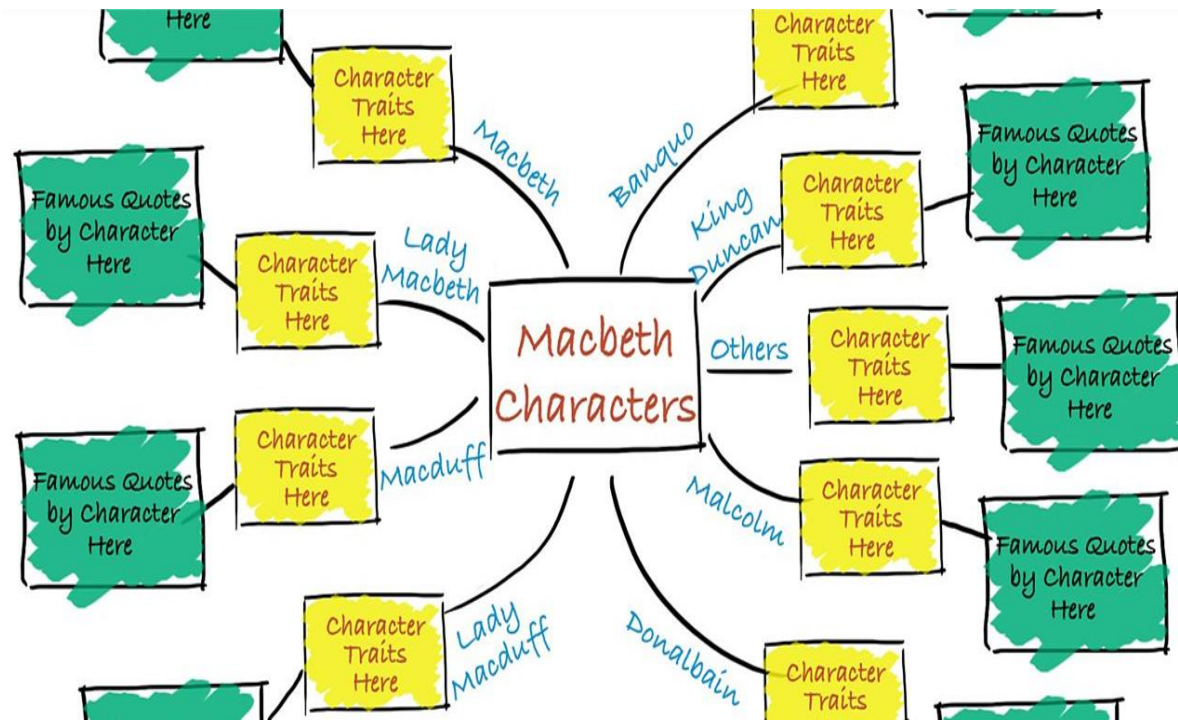
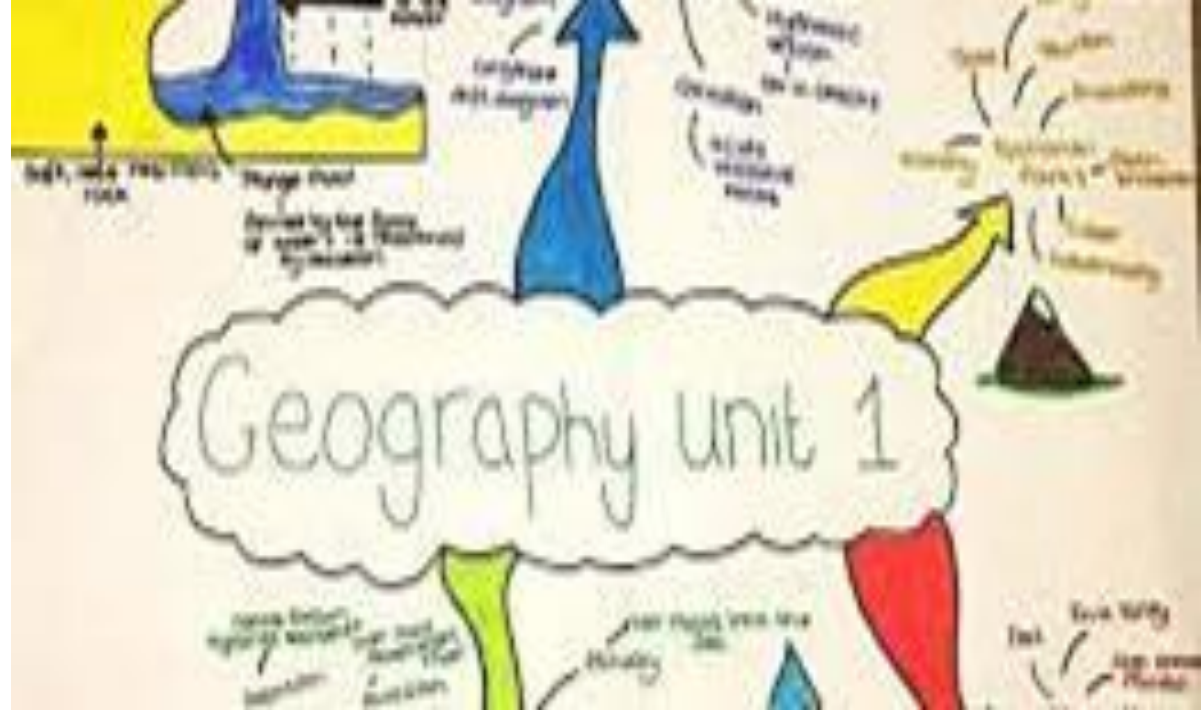
- Gather quality notes
- Summarise and note key points trying to get everything on one page for a topic.
- Present your notes in an appropriate way for the subject.
- Test yourself.





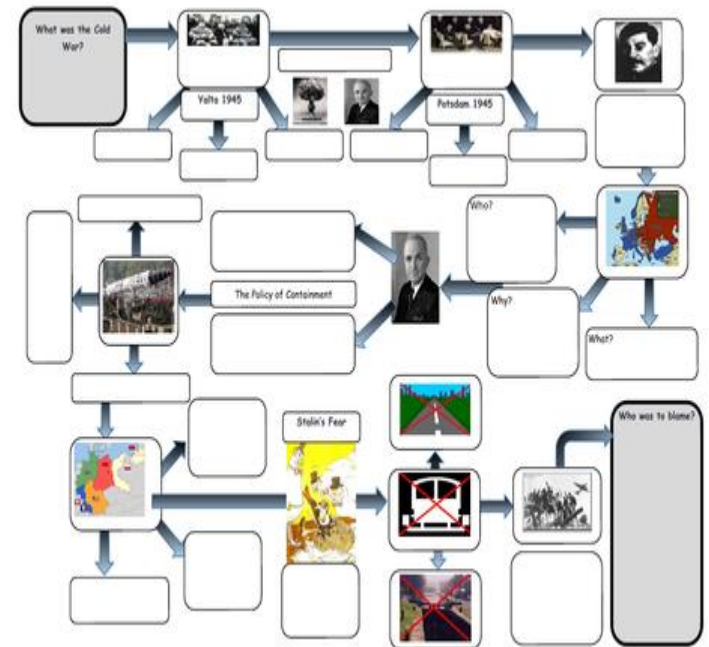
Revision Technique: Mind Maps

- Visual way to organise information
- Great to revise a topic or study
- Good for most subjects



Revision Technique: Revision flowcharts

- Allows you to revise a topic from the start to the end.
- Allows the learning of events, sequences or processes.



Revision Technique: Flashcards

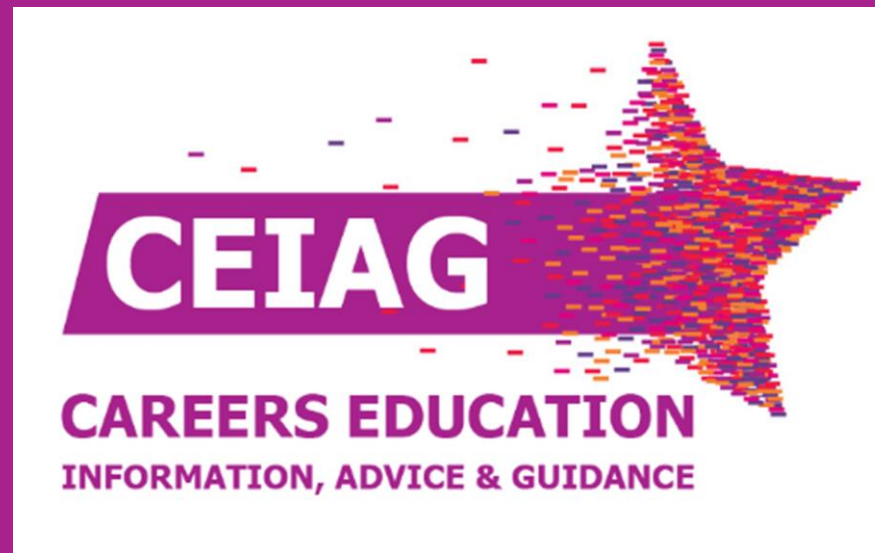
- Flash cards are small cards with questions or prompts on one side and the answer or information on the other side.
- They are a great way to test yourself and find gaps in knowledge.
- There are lots online, they can be bought, but it is a good idea to make your own.
- Once made you can test yourself or get someone else to test you.



Revision Techniques: Revision Clock

- A way of revising which can break a topic down into 12 sub-categories.
- Make notes in each chunk of the clock.
- Revise each slot for 5 minutes, turn the clock over and get someone to ask you to recite back certain sections of the clock e.g. 'what was in section 2-3'.





Work Experience

Monday 12th July –
Friday 16th July 2027

Why?

- A week at work: because sometimes good lessons aren't in the classroom... or on TikTok
- Work experience helps students prepare for life beyond school.
- It develops key skills, confidence, and insight into the world of work.

Who, Where, When?

- Every year 10 student
- Parents/care givers
- Teaching staff
- Careers Lead
- Local and national employers

- Anywhere

- Process begins before Christmas.
- Applications begin post Christmas.

How?

- Begins in school with a launch to the students
- Sessions to write CVs
- Information letters sent home
- Preference placement requests sent home for signing - time devoted to this in school too
- Confirmation of application placements
- Applications made
- In school preparation lessons
- Placement

Benefits

- Career Awareness – Understand what different jobs actually involve.
- Skill Development – Build communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Confidence & Independence – Grow maturity and self-belief.
- Future Applications – Strengthen CVs, college and job applications.
- Networking – Can lead to part-time jobs or apprenticeships.



*Work Hard, Be Kind
and Smile*