

Year 11

Parents' Information Evening

2026-2027

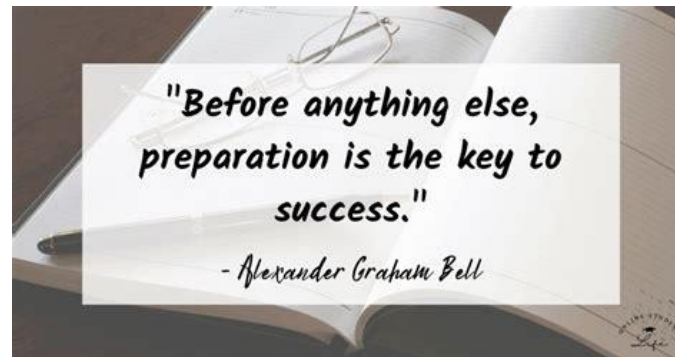
GCSE Exam ready



16th September 2026

So far.....

- Thank you all for your continued support and for your kind emails. They are greatly appreciated and truly mean a lot.
- As a year group, we have come a long way, and the students have made significant progress and shown tremendous growth over the years.
- We are now entering our final year together, and I would like to reassure you that I am always here to support your child and help them achieve their full potential. Together, we can ensure they make the most of every opportunity and are well prepared for their next steps.



Welcome and outline/aims of evening

Aims:

- Provide information about the curriculum, assessment and the year ahead
- Ensuring your child is GCSE ready.
- Ensuring you are aware of your options post 16.

1. Intro and Welcome
2. Safeguarding
3. Curriculum
4. GCSE ready... Wellbeing
5. Attendance and punctuality
6. Post – 16 & Careers
7. Key dates
8. School website



Key staff



Ms Marriott
Headteacher



Ms Futo
Deputy Head KS4



Ms Warren
Assistant Head
and Safeguarding
Lead



Mr Shackson
Assistant
Head



Ms Wallis
Assistant Head,
SENCo,
Yr 11 SLT link



Ms Wood
Year 11 Head
of Year



11W
Ms Rahman



11S
Ms Healy



11F
Ms Martinez
Denning



11G
Mr Watson



11C
Ms Rashid



11C
Ms Garvey-
Huges



11H
Ms Cato

Year 11

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Post – 16 and Careers



16TH September 2026



What are my Post-16 Options?

- What different options are there when I leave WSfG?
- How do I start to choose a course?
- How do I find out about open evenings and deadlines?
- When should I apply?
- Where can I get more information, help and guidance?
- What will WSfG do to support me?

The Legal Stuff

It is a requirement that all young people continue in **education or work-related training** until they are 18 years old.



What's the difference between 6th Forms and Colleges?

Sixth Form:

Typically part of a secondary school. Primarily focus on A-Levels but many also offer BTecs or International Baccalaureates. In terms of environment, sixth forms tend to be more school-like and are usually more structured. Students are 16-18 years old.

Colleges:

A separate institution. Offer a wide range of qualifications, including vocational courses. Colleges cater to students 16 and above.



The five main routes:



Each pathway will suit a different type of learner, have different entry requirements / application processes and potentially shape your child's career in different ways.





What are they?

- Level 3 courses
- Focus on **academic learning** in the classroom. You may do **work experience** but not for all subjects.
- Instead of one subject, you will study at least 3 at once.
- Allow you to progress to **employment, university** or an **apprenticeship** depending on your grades.
- Entry requirements vary but on average, you need **5+ GCSE grade 6 and above, with a grade 6 in subjects you wish to study as well a strong English and Maths grade.**



T-LEVELS

What are they?

- **Alternative** to A levels. Equivalent to 3 A levels (level 3 courses).
- Focus on **classroom learning** with a **45 day industry placement**.
- Designed for **specific industries** based on your chosen subject.
- Allow you to progress to **employment, university** or an **apprenticeship** depending on your grades.
- Similar entry requirements to A-levels.



BTEC What are they?

- Business and Technology Education Council – they are specialist **work-related courses**.
- All levels available.
- Designed for young people **interested in a particular sector** but unsure exactly what job.
- Mix **classroom learning** with practical and **work-based experience**.
- Designed for **specific industries** based on your chosen subject.
- Allow you to progress to **employment, university** or an **apprenticeship** depending on the level.
- Entry requirements are dependent on which level BTEC you study. **In general, level 2 BTEC entry requirements are an average grade of a 3, level 3 BTEC entry requirements are an average grade of a 4.**



V Levels

What are they?

- Level 3 courses
- Vocational **classroom** subject alternative to A-Levels
- Equivalent to an A-level and can be mixed with them
- New and first 3 subjects will be introduced in September 2027
- Accounting & Finance; Digital Systems & Data; Early Years Education
- More subjects to follow 2028-2030
- Allow you to progress to **employment, university** or an **apprenticeship**





Apprenticeships

What are they?

- Level 2 to University level courses
- **Combine** practical training in a job with study.
- Give the opportunity to **earn** while you **learn**.
- Focus on **80% on the job training 20% off the job training.**
- Offer an **alternative** to University.
- Entry requirements vary depending on the level.





What are they?

- Level 1 courses
- A course combined with **Work Experience**.
- Gets you **ready for work** or an **apprenticeship**.
- Lasts for **6 weeks to 6 months**.



How do I start to choose my course?

1. What you want to do post-18? (University?)
2. What are you passionate about? What about subjects you enjoy? What are you good at?
3. Look at the search tool on [unifrog](#) to explore subjects.
4. What are your predicted / target grades?
5. What do my parents/carers think?
6. What did the careers advisor say?
7. Use the Unifrog course finder.
8. Visit colleges/sixth forms/providers - get as much information as you can.



Other information on applying...

1. You can apply to as many providers as you like
2. Ensure you have an **ASPIRATIONAL, SAFE** and **BACK-UP** option when applying to colleges/sixth forms
3. Colleges / sixth forms have varying application deadlines – some in October and some much later in the year!
4. Reference requests go through Ms Dowling – the colleges will apply directly to us
collegereferences@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk
5. You will find application forms on individual websites
6. There is guidance on writing a personal statement on [unifrog](#) – all students should already have one!



Achieve required results

Successful interviews

Submit applications on-time

Visit shortlisted Institutions

Find out!

FEB/MAR

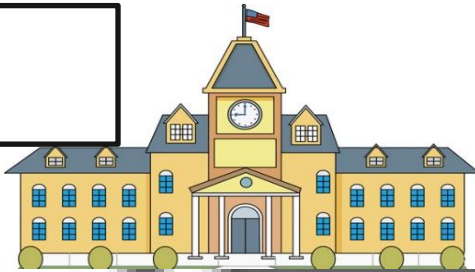
Results
Aug 2027

Vary with each institution

Oct-Feb

Oct-Jan

Sept-Oct



What WSfG do to support

1. Information assembly on post-16 choices (end of Y10)
2. Personal statement writing workshop
3. Form time to explore subjects and look at writing applications
4. Access to unifrog for students and parents/carers
5. PPT and information sent to parents/carers and on website
6. The College Roadshow – **Tuesday 13th October 5.30-7.00pm** - parents/carers and students (WSF 5.30-6.15, GCH 6.15-7)
7. Access to a Careers Advisor
8. List of useful websites (end of PPT)
9. When applying please use this email:
collegereference@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk





1. Search the careers library
2. Search the subjects library
- 3. Create a post-school shortlist – search for subjects and colleges/providers**
- 4. Start working on your personal statement**

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/home>



Useful websites

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2016/12/AA-Yr2-Poster-7-1.pdf>

https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/2022-06/CEC%20Post%2016%20Booklet_Endeavour_FINAL.pdf

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

<https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/> - website aimed at parents/carers

<https://careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/choices-at-16> - covers many parent/carer queries

<https://careers.startprofile.com/page/home-page> - You can create yourself a START profile for up-to-date labour market information.

<https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/page/>

<https://www.gov.uk/> There is further information on the gov.uk website, for example, search apprenticeships within gov.uk.



Year 11 Curriculum

- **All departments have developed learning journeys** – an overview for each topic to help students and parents/carers understand the main learning points in a topic
- **Key assessments** will be detailed on learning journeys to help students and parents/carers know important pieces of work that will everyone understand the progress that has been made
- Students get will get **home learning** set by departments and this will support revision



Curriculum and assessment – How can I help my child?

- **Look at your child's learning journeys** with them (these are available on the school website) and talk through this alongside their work in their books and on Teams
- Make sure they use and make reference to any guidance they are given by their teachers when completing assessments
- **Use the feedback** in their books to help them make improvements or use this when completing later assessments. Will be on purple paper and purple pen
- **Inform the teacher/school of any concerns** or queries early on so these can be dealt with quickly.



MOCK Exam Timetable

HALF TERM: Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2024					
Week B: WC 28 October					
ALL DAY	PE Practical Exam	Day 1: Wednesday 30th November Day 2: Friday 1st November			
Written Exams					
Week A: WC 4 November					
A	Monday 4th November	Tuesday 5th November	Wednesday 6th November	Thursday 7th November	Friday 8th November
AM	English Language 1hr 45mins	Biology Combined: 1hr 15mins Triple: 1hr 45mins	English Literature 2hrs 30min	Religious Studies 1hr 45mins	French Reading Higher: 1hr Foundation: 45mins French Listening Higher: 45mins Foundation: 35mins
PM	Geography 1hr 30mins	History 1hr 25mins	PE Paper 1 1hr 15mins Latin P1: Roman Civilisation 1hr	Maths Paper 1 (non-calc) 1hr 30mins	Drama 1hr 30mins
Week B: WC 11 November					
B	Monday 11th November	Tuesday 12th November	Wednesday 13th November	Thursday 14th November	Friday 15th November
ALL DAY	Music Performance Exams Day 1			Music Performance Exams Day 2	Music Performance Exams Day 3
AM	Business Studies 1hr 45mins	Chemistry Combined: 1hr 15mins Triple: 1hr 45mins	Physics Combined: 1hr 15mins Triple: 1hr 45mins	French Writing Higher: 1hr 20mins Foundation: 1hr 15mins Spanish Writing Higher: 1hr 20mins Foundation: 1hr 15mins	PE Paper 2 1hr 15mins Latin P2: Latin Language 1hr 30mins Design & Technology 2hrs
PM	Spanish Reading Higher: 1hr Foundation: 45mins Spanish Listening Higher: 45mins Foundation: 35mins	Maths Paper 2 (calc) 1hr 30mins	Music 1hr 30mins	Food Studies 1hr 45mins	Computer Science 1hr 30mins
Week A: WC 18 November					
A	Monday 18th November	Tuesday 19th November	Wednesday 20th November	Thursday 21st November	Friday 22nd November
ALL DAY		Art Exam: Group 1 Food Exam: Group 1 Textiles Exam: Group 1	Art Exam: Group 1 Food Exam: Group 2 Textiles Exam: Group 2	Art Exam: Group 2 Textiles Exam: Group 1	Art Exam: Group 2 Textiles Exam: Group 2
AM	Drama Controlled Assesment 1hr 30mins Community Language Assessments (TBC)				
PM	Community Language Assessments (TBC)				

- The Year 11 Mock Exams start on Monday 2th November and will run for two/ three weeks.
- Every student will have an individual exam timetable.
- The exam timetable is designed to reflect the experience of the real GCSE exams.
- Students and parents/carers will be able to see this on Edulink



Year 11 Study Guide

- All year 11s will have access to a Year 11 Study Guide.
- This contains all the key information they will need for every subject for the Mock Exams.
- They can use this in school or at home to help them to revise.

For most subjects this includes:

- Exam board Specifications
- Past Papers
- Mark Schemes
- Revision activities
- Model Answers
- Revision tips
- Websites

[How do I revise Yr 11 support document - 2024.docx](#)



How can you help at home?



Revision Planning



Motivation



Revision Timetable



Positively You



Motivation

Pathways - Talk with your child about where they want to go next and what is motivating them to do well

Recognition - Praise, incentives/rewards for consistency, continuous effort and focus

Time bound Know that their '*normal*' life will return in a few short weeks



Revision Techniques

How do I revise?

- A common concern many students have is not knowing how to revise.
- Not all topics can or should be revised in the same way.
- Using a variety of proven techniques can be very beneficial.
- By using the Year 11 Study Guide student can choose the most effective types of revision.

Revision Techniques

ALL REVISION MUST HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE: EXPLAINING THESE TECHNIQUES AND WHY THEY WORK MAKE THEM MORE EFFECTIVE.

- 1. RETRIEVAL:** Brain dump: write down everything you know about a topic

- 2. SPOT GAPS:** share your brain dump in groups (with teacher support and oracy protocols) to spot the gaps in knowledge and devise questions to help future learning

- 3. READ relevant content asking yourself questions as you read:**
 - a) Text book
 - b) Revision guide
 - c) Their own notes
 - d) **Knowledge organiser** - this is preferred method - see examples

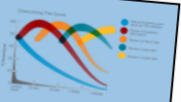
And **REDUCE** the content (which requires effort) using **DUAL CODING** (words AND pictures) into:

 - a) A mind map
 - b) Flash cards
 - c) Concept maps

DO NOT just read through notes. **DO NOT** just highlight key words in the text. **ACTIVELY REDUCE THE CONTENT**



SUMmarise It
Shorter than the text
Use your own words
Main ideas only
- 4. MAKE IT STICKY:** Enhance memory using:
 - a) Mnemonics
 - a) Acronyms
 - b) Memory palaces
- 5. RETRIEVAL:** Quiz yourself using multiple choice quizzes AND specific exam questions and then **CHECK** carefully what you got right and wrong


QUIZ TIME!
- 6. USE A CHECKLIST TO RED, AMBER, GREEN EACH TOPIC** at the beginning and the end


Revision Ground Rules:

A balance of consistency and accountability

- Putting the hours in (*2-3 hours revision everyday, including revision in school*)
- In school revision (ICT rooms will be open at lunch on certain day and after school)
- Attend Intervention/Revision sessions in school
- A quiet space to learn is crucial
- Take mindful/personal breaks

AVOID DISTRACTIONS!!!



GCSE English Literature and Language

Year 11 Mocks

2 mocks for English:

Literature (2 topics):
'Romeo and Juliet,'
Unseen Poetry

Language (1 full paper):
Language Paper 2 (Non-
Fiction Reading,
Transactional Writing)

How should my daughter be revising at home?

- **Timelines:** make a timeline to explore the sequence of events in each literature text.
- **5-point plans:** create a 5-point plan for each major character or theme in a text.
- **Key quotations quiz:** memorize 5-7 quotes for each major character or theme in a text.
- **Quotation Analysis:** annotate key quotations to explore methods & effects.
- **Pattern Finding:** explore how characters or themes develop or change, or patterns in the text.
- **Overall meaning:** practise writing summaries to sum up the writer's overall meaning or message in the text.



KS4 Science Tips

- **Everything you need is in your exercise books: learning journeys (green), formative assessments (lilac) and close the gap activities (lilac). Make full use of these to guide your revision.**
- Focus time on ensuring you can recall content.
- Use educake including homework's set to test recall.
- Spend time practicing exam questions that you can download from the AQA website along with the mark schemes. This is the best way to revise by applying your knowledge to a variety of possible questions/scenarios.
- Focus on the command words for questions: describe, explain, suggest etc and ensure you are clear how to respond to these. There will be lots of examples in your exercise books.
- **You do not need to learn your physics formula**, however; you do need to be able to pick the correct ones, possibly rearrange and know correct units.



Science tiers of entry

- **Students are expected to attain a grade 5-5 or higher to be entered for the higher tier for their summer GCSE exams.** Those below this in their November mock exams will be entered for the foundation tier.
- There will be a follow up conversation about this with parents/carers and students from a member of the Science faculty for those moving from higher to foundation tier.
- The tier of entry will be confirmed for all Y11 students prior to their final GCSE exam entry.



Key Information for Maths

- Sparx homework should be completed every week to 100%. This will ensure regular practice of both new and previously taught content.
- Students can use the independent learning section for revision. They have been shown how to do this, as well as other resources.
- Students **must** have working scientific calculators. The sooner they get one, the more time they have to get used to it before the exams.
- Casio fx-83GTCW is best.
- Decisions about tiers (higher or foundation) will be based on November mocks.



Attendance and Punctuality

It is vital that students have excellent Attendance.

- Below 95% attendance will mean the school will be closely monitoring.
 - Below 90% may lead to prosecution.
- Holidays are NOT permitted during term time and lead to fines.



Every Minute Counts



LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

(figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 Minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 Minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 Minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 Minutes late each day	19 days lost!



0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Concerned
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Very Concerned Persistent Absence
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Serious Concern Persistent Absence and Possible Court Action
5 days absence over the whole year	97% - 100%	Good chance of success and progress
20 days absence over the whole year	90%	Less chance of success. Harder to make progress
20+ days absence over the whole year	Under 90%	Detrimental to success and progress

What to expect from the school?

At WSFG, we:

- Foster a lifelong love of learning
- Look after ourselves and treat others with kindness and respect
- Embrace our diverse community and value our environment
- Empower everyone to make courageous choices
- Celebrate each unique gift.



Key dates

Key Dates for Year 11 in 2026/2027 :

- **Tuesday 13th October – College Road Show 5.30-7pm**
- **Monday 2nd November - Mock GCSE exams start**
- **Thursday 7nd Jan – In Person Parents Evening 4.30-7.00pm**
- **Monday 10th May: GCSE written exams begin**