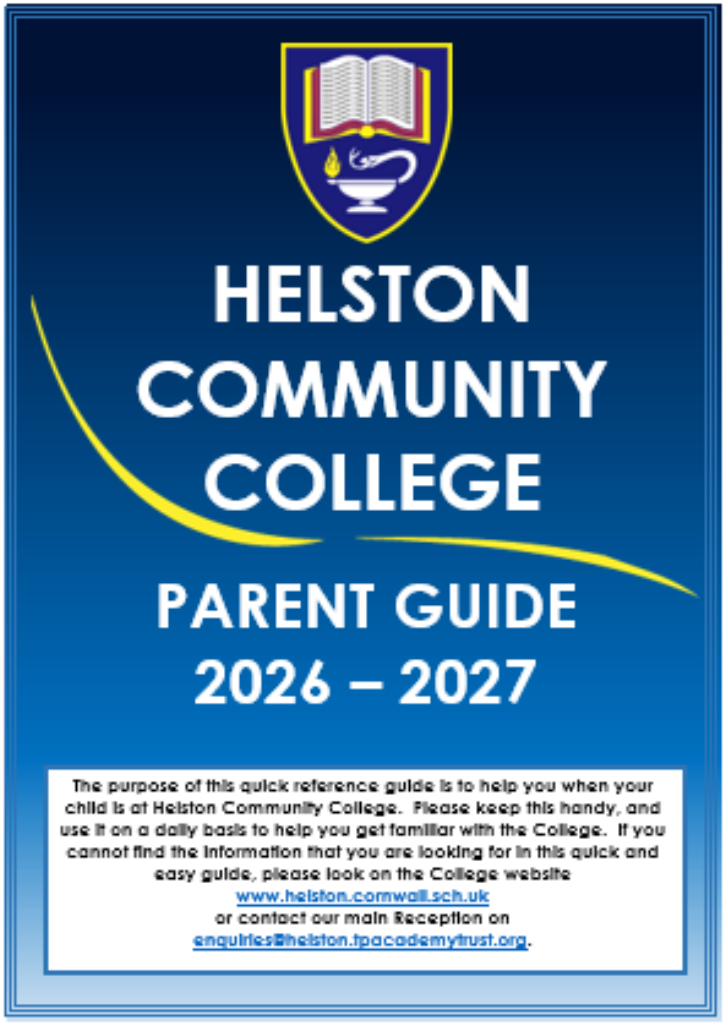
Year 8 Parent Information Evening

<u>Introductions</u>
Mr Lingard – Headteacher
Ms Hawkey – Head of Year 8

<u>The purpose of the evening....</u>

To provide key dates and information relating to Year 8 and beyond

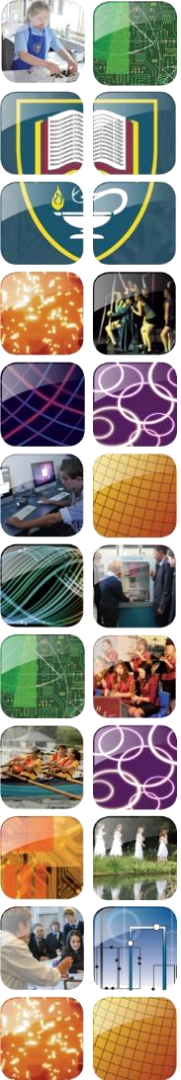


- On the website
- Will be emailed to you
- Available as a hard copy on request – please let us know if you need one

RAISING THE BAR

Year 8 – time to step up. No longer the youngest in the school!

ASPIRATION · AMBITION · ACHIEVEMENT



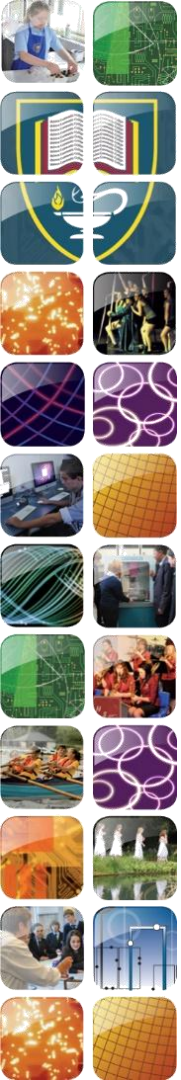
Assessment 1 – **Starts 1st February**

Progress Report 1 – **5th March**

Parent Teacher Consultation Evening – **11th March**

Assessment 2 – **Starts 7th June**

Progress Report 2 – **9th July**



Teaching groups

STEM
Maths, Science, Computer Science – set by prior attainment

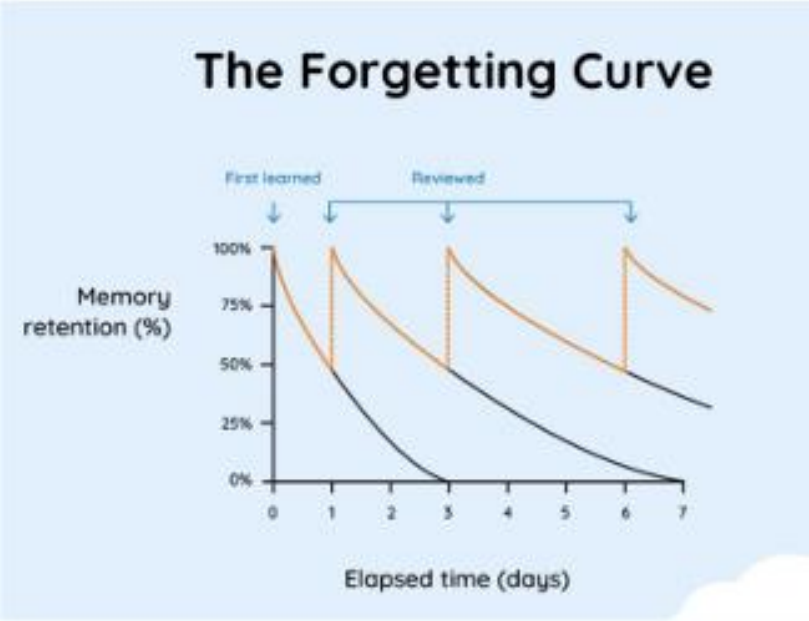
PE
Grouped by gender and aptitude

Technology
Smaller class sizes – mixed ability

Everything else
Mixed ability

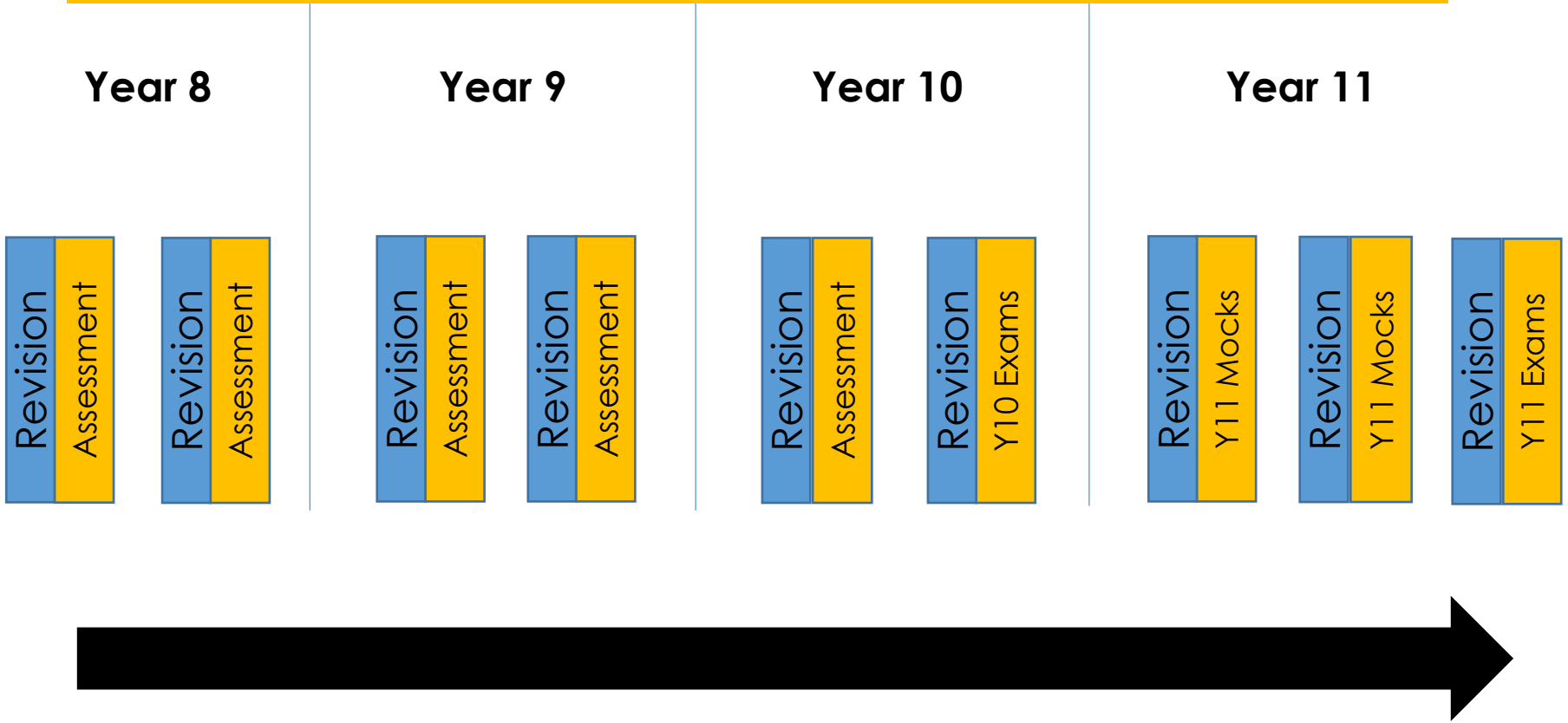
Benefits

- Prepares for tiered entries at GCSE in Maths and Science
- Fewer split classes



Leaving revision to the end is not effective.

Revising for each set of assessments and mock exams, then for the final exams is much more effective. We want all Year 8s to take their assessments seriously and revise for them.



Why revise?

A selection of revision strategies

Subject information

This will be emailed home before the assessments to help students to revise at home.

Science: 26th Nov (9Sc.k, 9Sc.l, 9Sc.m, 9Sc.n), 27th Nov (9Sc.p, 9Sc.q, 9Sc.r, 9Sc.s)

Physics – P1 Energy	Assessment covers the topics of:	
	Energy stores and transfers Sankey diagrams Energy and work Gravitational energy Kinetic energy Conservation of energy Conduction and Convection Radiation Non-renewable resources Renewable resources Energy and Power	9Sc.k, l, m and n groups – Tue 26th November 9Sc.p, q, r and s groups – Wed 27th November

- Knowledge organiser, checklists and a revision map have been allocated to you via class charts.
- A set of exam questions has also been allocated for you to complete as part of your revision.
- A Showbie Science revision room for you to join with additional revision resources

Code: JD4G3 You must set up Showbie using you new @helston.tpacademytrust.org email.

Good resources for revision

- Revision guide, workbooks, revision card packs can be ordered from the school shop.
- Cognito videos with linked worksheets for each small topic/key concept Cognito - YouTube
- Seneca learning Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 (senecalearning.com)

Content	Details of resources available from Seneca learning.	
P1 - Energy	Seneca Learning Combined Science: Physics Course: Energy Folder	

Content	Resources available from Cognito
Lesson by lesson topic material Energy exam questions	Physics Lessons | GCSE Physics AQA Higher Combined | Cognito (cognitoedu.org)

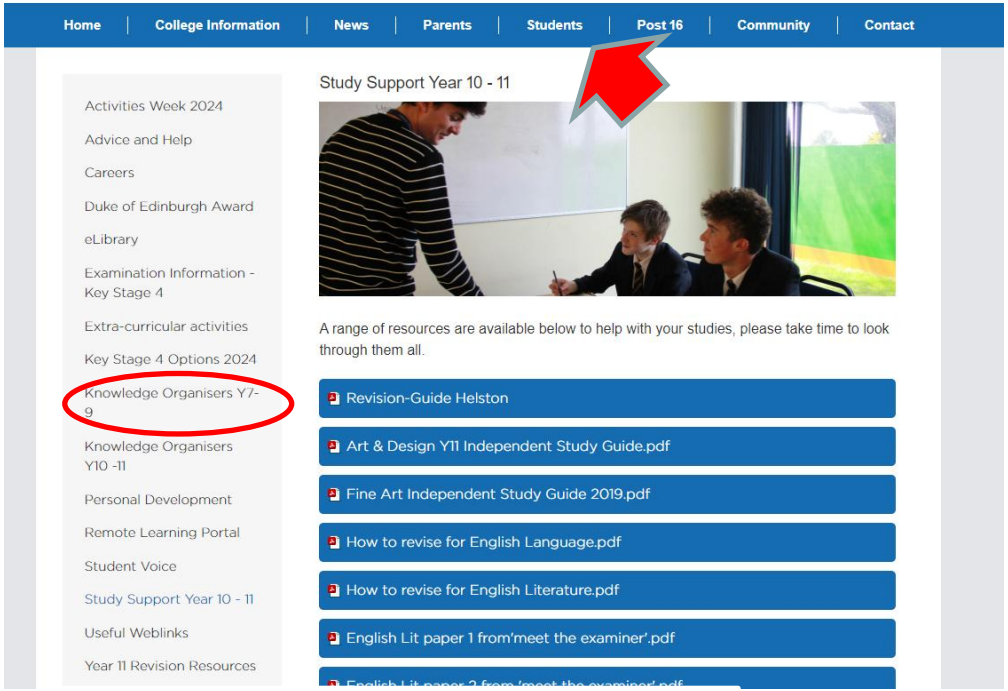
Assessment dates

Topics to revise

Here's an example for science

Links to revision on each topic

Students can also find ‘knowledge organisers’ to help with revision on the website…



Here's an example for science

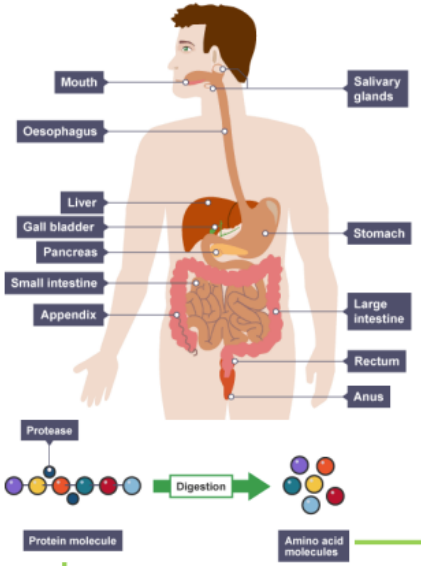
Helston Science Department

Digestion and Nutrition

LO: To be able to describe the components of a healthy diet and describe and explain the process of digestion and the uses of enzymes

Food groups: A balanced diet will contain the correct proportions of all these for the persons needs, e.g. An athlete will need a lot of carbohydrate and protein.

Food group	Examples	Function
Protein	Fish, meat, dairy	For growth and repair.
Fat	Butter, oils, nuts	To provide energy. Fat provides a long term store of energy. It also provides insulation.
Carbohydrate	Bread, pasta, sugar	To provide energy.
Fibre	Vegetables, Bran	To help food move through the gut.
Minerals	Dairy (calcium)	Required in trace amounts to remain healthy, ie calcium for strong teeth.
Vitamins	Oranges (vitamin C), Carrots (Vitamin A).	Required in trace amounts to remain healthy, eg. Vitamin D for strong bones.
Water	Water, fruit juice, milk	Needed to form the cytoplasm of the cells and other fluids.



Digestive system:

Mouth:
Mechanical (teeth) and chemical (amylase) digestion.

Stomach:
Mechanical (churning to mix food) and chemical (protease) digestion.

Intestine:
Stomach acid is neutralised with bile and lipase acts here. Small molecules are then absorbed into the blood.

Food tests:

Starch test: Add iodine, if starch is present the colour will change to blue/ black.
Sugar/glucose: Add benedict's solution and warm in a water bath. The colour will change to green/ orange/ red depending on the amount present.
Protein: Add biuret reagent ($NaOH + CUSO_4$), the colour will change to purple if protein is present.
Fat: Wipe substance on filter paper, if paper becomes translucent fat is present. Or add ethanol and water , a white emulsion present will indicate there is fat.

Enzymes:

Enzymes are not living things. They are special proteins that can break large molecules into small ones. Each enzyme is specific to a type of nutrient.

- **Amylase** and other **carbohydrase** enzymes break down **starch** into **sugar**
- **Protease** enzymes break down **proteins** into **amino acids**
- **Lipase** enzymes break down **lipids** (fats and oils) into **fatty acids** and **glycerol**

Revision Apps - on iPads

BBC Bitesize

(quizzes, flashcards, podcasts, practice questions)

Quizlet

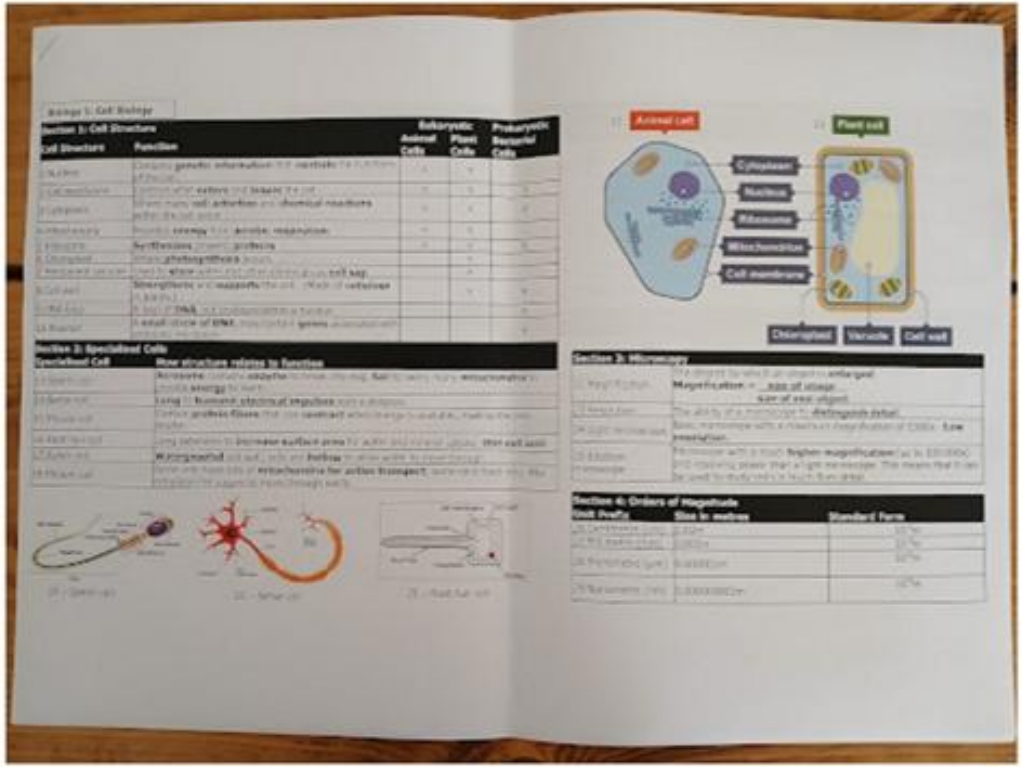
(flashcards, practice questions)

Brainscape

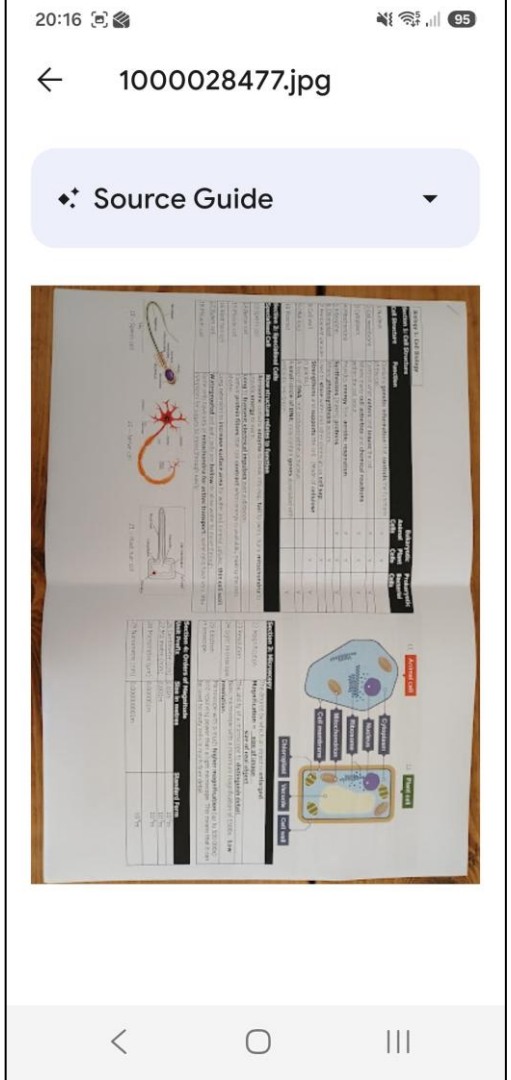
(flashcards)

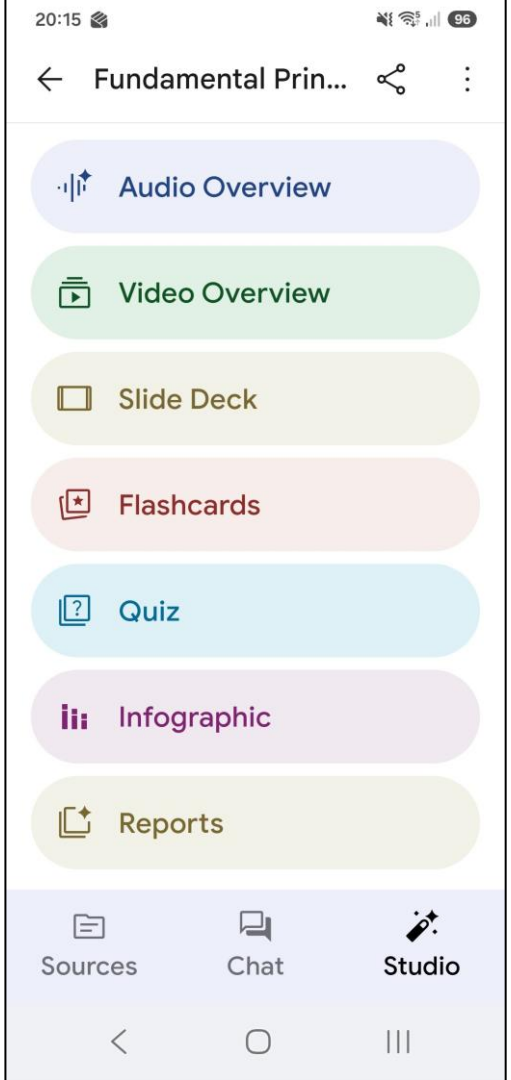
NotebookLM

Here's a great app to help with revision. It will create resources for you using only the content you give it…

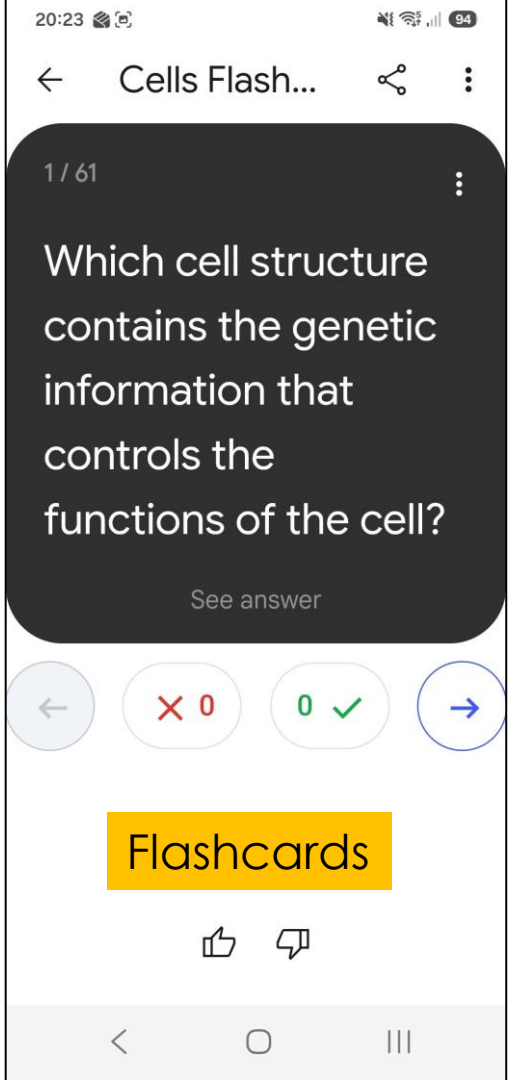


Take a picture of the content you want to revise and upload it to the app…



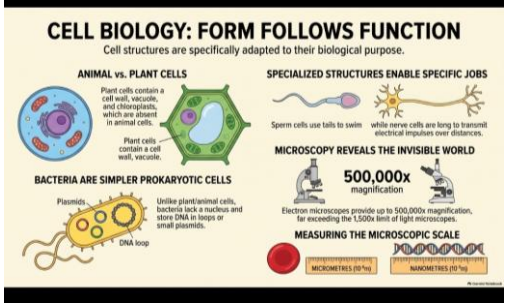


You can then choose what revision resource you want it to make for you.



Flashcards

Podcast



Infographic

Videos

If you just wanted to create some revision resources for the section on food groups, rather than the whole topic, you could just upload a picture of that bit

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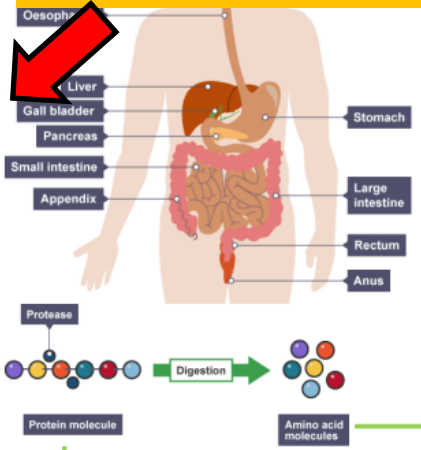

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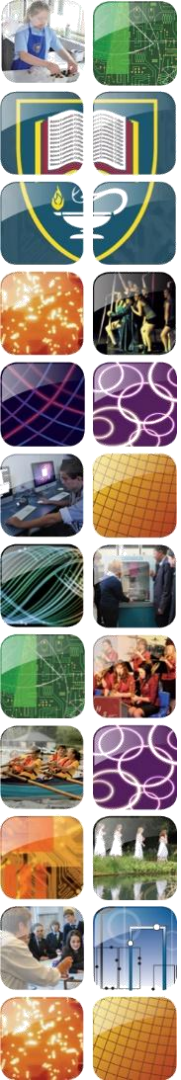


[redacted] Year 9 Summer Short Report (2026)

Helston Community College

Year group	Form
Year 9 (2025/2026)	[redacted] (2025/2026)

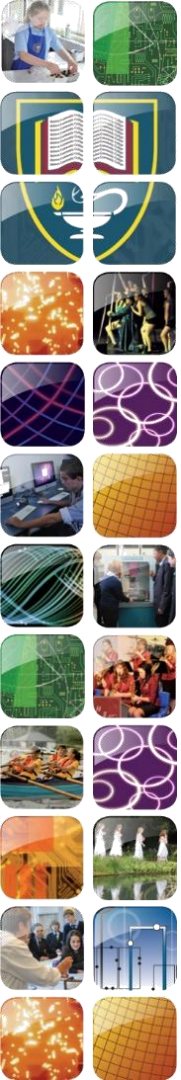
Attendance*	Lates	Unauthorised Absences	Report date
94.7%	1	0	03 Jul 2026

Course	Current mark	Attitude to learning
Art: (average score = 53%, best score = 95%)	87%	Excellent
Computer Science: (average score = 72%, best score = 84%)	82%	Excellent
Physical Education: (average score = 56%, best score = 100%)	78%	Good
English: (average score = 56%, best score = 84%)	74%	Excellent
Geography: (average score = 54%, best score = 92%)	72%	Excellent
History: (average score = 53%, best score = 98%)	54%	Good
Mathematics: (average score = 53%, best score = 96%)	87%	Excellent
Music: (average score = 59%, best score = 100%)	85%	Good
Religious Education: (average score = 49%, best score = 97%)	74%	Excellent
Science: (average score = 60%, best score = 95%)	94%	Excellent
Spanish: (average score = 61%, best score = 99%)	81%	Excellent

* Attendance is for 01 Sep 2025 - 03 Jul 2026

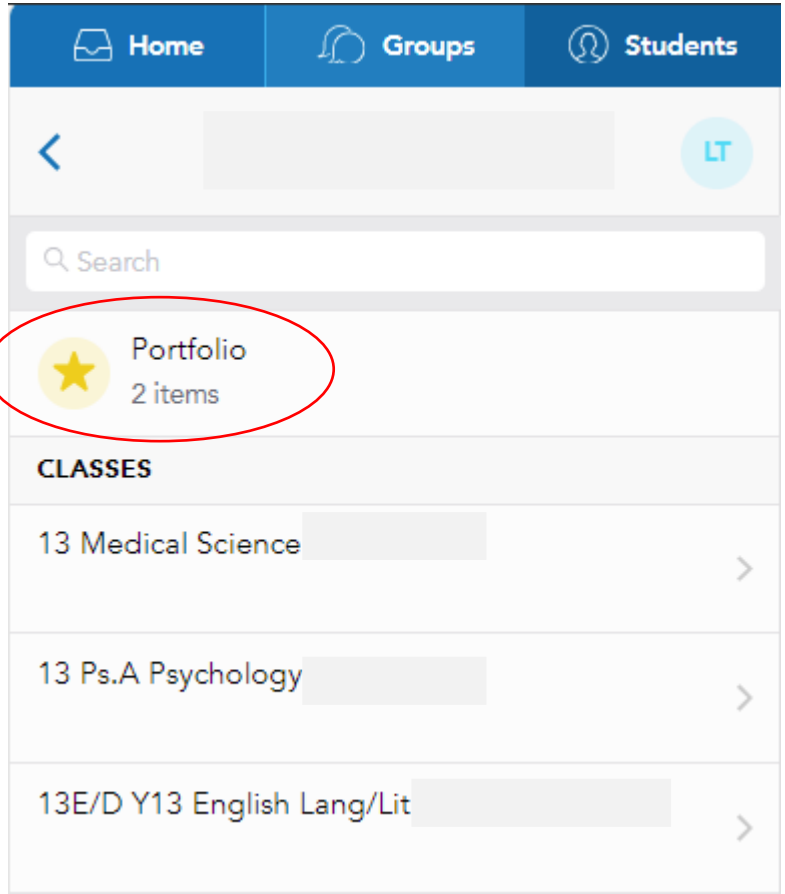
Powered by Arbor

Here's an example of a Progress Report. Please praise good ATL scores (see next slide) and high attendance (95%+)



Attitude to Learning (ATL)

1. **Excellent**
    - Always prepared and ready to learn.
    - Actively listens, asks insightful questions and embraces challenges.
    - Works independently with a determination to succeed.
    - Responds positively and proactively to feedback.
    - Produces high-quality classwork and homework, often exceeding expectations.
2. **Good**
    - Well-prepared, focused, and engaged in learning, most of the time.
    - Can make thoughtful contributions to discussions and asks questions when encouraged.
    - Mostly works independently with occasional support.
    - Acts on feedback appropriately and demonstrates resilience.
    - Consistently completes classwork and homework to a good standard.
3. **Inconsistent**
    - Inconsistent effort and focus on learning.
    - Sometimes asks questions and engages in discussions with support.
    - Works independently at times but often relies on teacher guidance.
    - Sometimes acts on feedback provided.
    - Classwork and homework are of variable quality and effort.
4. **Poor**
    - Rarely prepared and participation in lessons tends to be limited.
    - Does not ask questions or show curiosity about the subject.
    - Can give up on tasks easily and may disrupt their own and others' learning.
    - Makes limited effort to improve their work or to act on feedback.
    - Work is often missing, incomplete, or not to the standard expected.

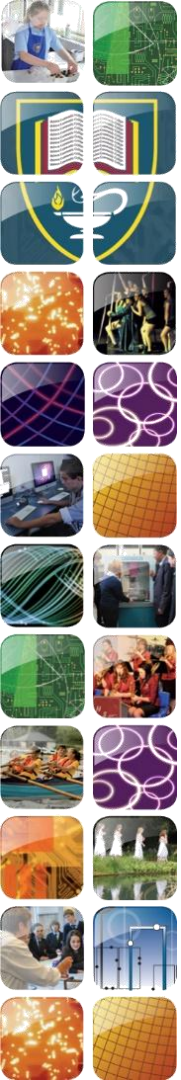


After their assessments, students will upload their marks and feedback to their portfolio on Showbie, so you can see it.

We cannot stress enough the importance of being in every day

Every day counts

> 95%	90% and 95%	< 90%
Percentage of students achieving five grades at 9-5 (inc. English and Maths) **78%**	Percentage of students achieving five grades at 9-5 (inc. English and Maths) **30%**	Percentage of students achieving five grades at 9-5 (inc. English and Maths) **3%**
Average GCSE grade **6**	Average GCSE grade **4**	Average GCSE grade **3**



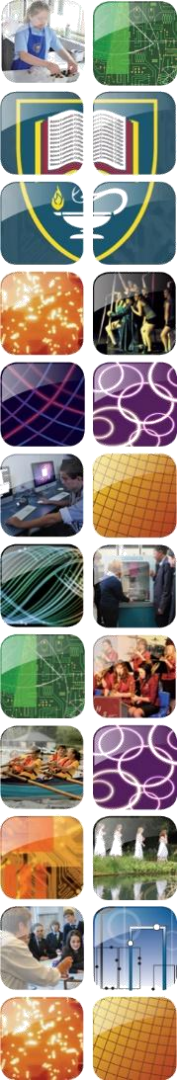
Attend Today. Achieve Tomorrow.

- **Persistent Absence (PA)** – less than 90%

(19 days or 38 sessions missed in a year)

- **Tier 1** – letter home
- **Tier 2** – meeting arranged (Pupil Support Plan)
- **Tier 3** – Education Welfare Officer)

We follow a tiered approach when there are concerns about absence. This is all based on support – what can we do together to help improve attendance.



Absence

- Reporting (by 8.30am)
  - Inform us every day
  - Detail will be requested if not provided
  - 01326 575016

- Low level illnesses – please still try to come in in the morning.
- Term time holidays and leave requests – almost always refused

- Authorised Absence is still an absence!

Period 4

Tutor Time

Lunch 1pm

Period 3

Period 2

Break

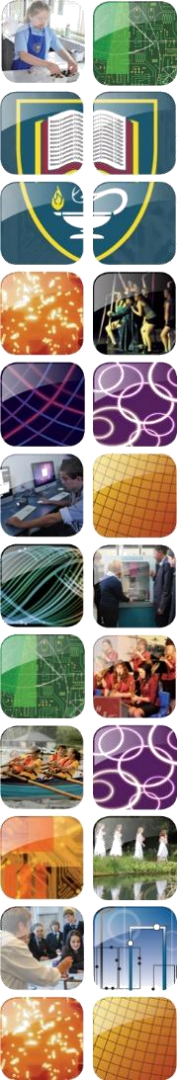
Period 1

Tutor Time

ASPIRATION · AMBITION · ACHIEVEMENT

Lesson time is precious. Students should use the toilet between lessons as much as possible.

Try to book appointments outside of the school day or if not, in the afternoon. The majority of lessons take place before 1pm!



Behaviour

- Warn, Move, Remove still being used
- Remove means spending time working in the Reset Room

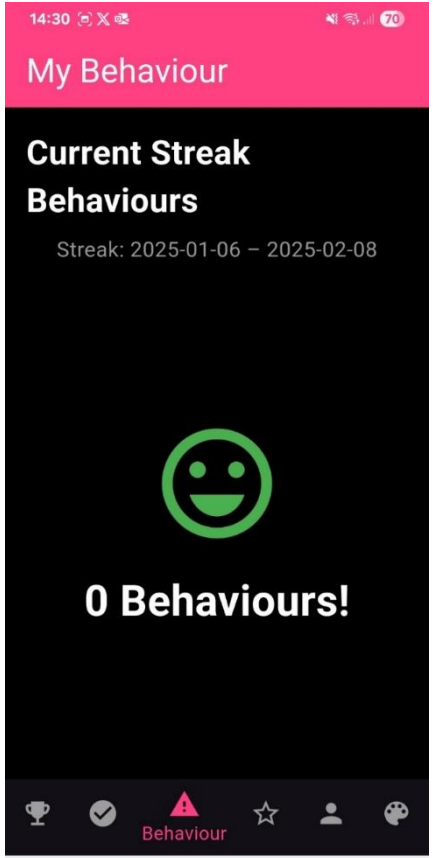
- 2023-24 → **>13** removals a day across the whole school
- 2024-25 → **< 10** removals a day across the whole school
- 2025-26 → **< 10** removals a day across the whole school

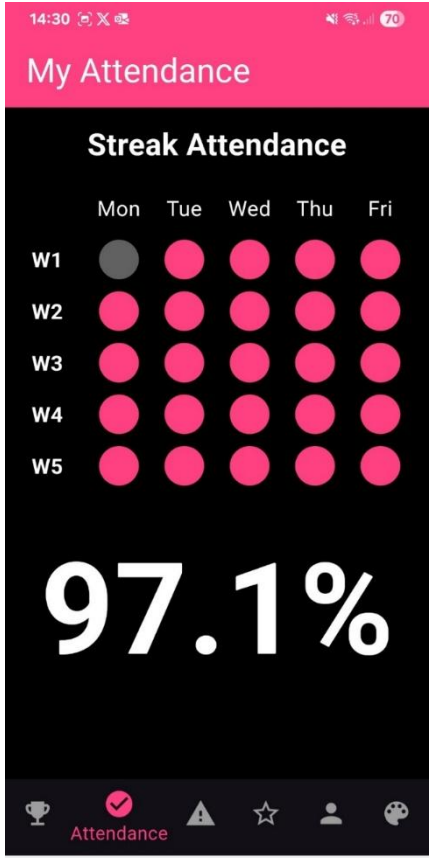
Very few removals from across the whole school each day.

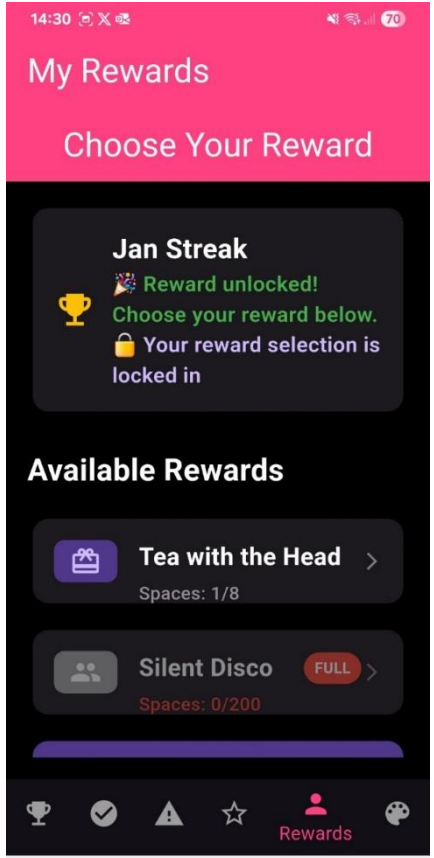
Proud
Engaged
Ready
Kind
Safe

School Streaks
Knowplace LTD

Students can build up their streaks with good attendance and behaviour. If they achieve a certain number of streaks each half-term they can choose a reward!







Writing Bundle - £0.70

Includes: Ballpoint pen black £0.05, Ballpoint pen green £0.05, Erasers small £0.05, HB Pencil £0.05, Pencil Sharpener £0.05, Ruler £0.10, Basic stylus £0.40

Accessory Bundle - £0.60

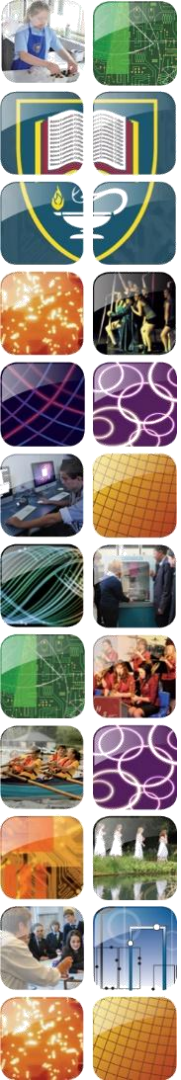
Includes: Glue Sticks £0.35, Highlighter green £0.15, Highlighter yellow £0.15.

Pencil case - £0.45

Complete pencil case - £1.75

Calculator - £6.75

Available from our online shop or for cash via the library.



TOP TIPS FOR HOME

Our top five tips for supporting your child at school are:

1. Ensure your child gets enough sleep. Teenagers need a minimum of 9 hours of sleep so, if they need to get up at 7.00am, they must be asleep (not just in their rooms) by 10.00pm. To help with sleep, it is advised that students remove themselves from screens for 1 hour before bedtime.

Sleep

2. Start the day with a good breakfast. Please don't let your child go to the shop on the way to College to buy sweets, biscuits or energy drinks.

Eat

3. Getting your child to read regularly makes a huge difference to their success. They will have better comprehension, better vocabulary and greater knowledge if they read, even if just little and often. A good routine helps, e.g. stop watching TV/playing on Xbox/being on their phone at 8.30pm, get ready for bed, read for 30 minutes, go to sleep. It doesn't necessarily matter what they read as long as it is something that interests them.

Read

4. Be as supportive as you can be with homework, but do not do it for them. Praise their effort and help them to organise themselves by planning when to do homework and ensuring they have a quiet place to work. Like with bedtime and reading, a good routine really helps. Some students prefer to get homework done as soon as they get home; others like a break first and prefer to do it after tea.

Support

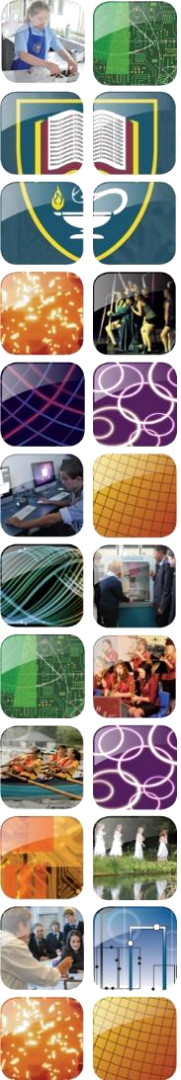
5. Taking an interest in your child's schooling shows them that you care and promotes the message that education is important. However, talking to your son/daughter about school can sometimes be like getting blood out of a stone! Try asking them if they received any feedback from their teachers or to tell you three things that happened during the day. Have their timetables to hand so you know what lessons took place or what teachers they had. By being specific with your questions, conversations can sometimes open up.

Talk

How much homework do students get?

Years 7, 8 & 9

Subject	Home Learning (per week)
Reading	Sparx Reader: 60 minutes (spread throughout the week)
Maths & Science Year 7 Year 8 Year 9	 Sparx: 30 minutes each Sparx: 40 minutes each Sparx: 50 minutes each
MFL	Language Gym: 20 minutes



Sparx Maths

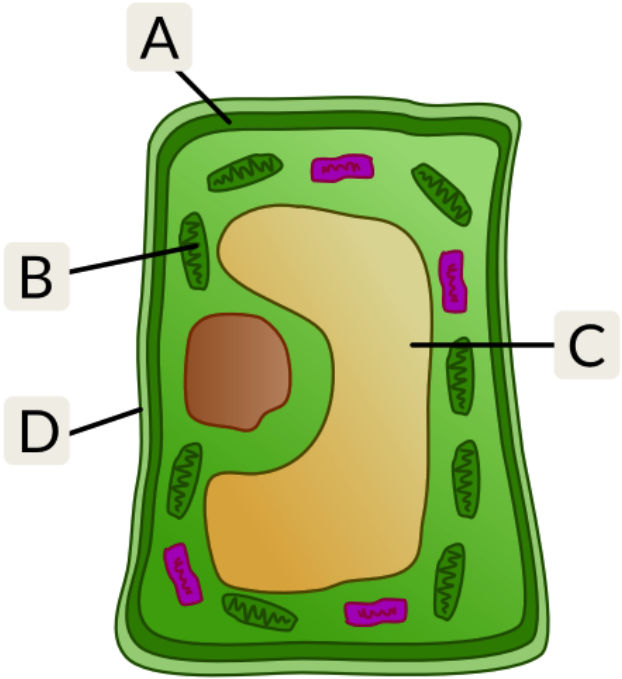
Sparx Science

Used for lots of homework, but also great for revision

Sparx Science

Here's an example for science

Q1 ✓ | Q2 ✓ | Q3 ✓ | Q4 ✓ | Q5 ✓ | Q6 ✓ | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | Q11 | Q12 | Q13



The diagram represents a **plant cell**.
Name each labelled part of the cell.

A: cell membrane

B: cloroplast

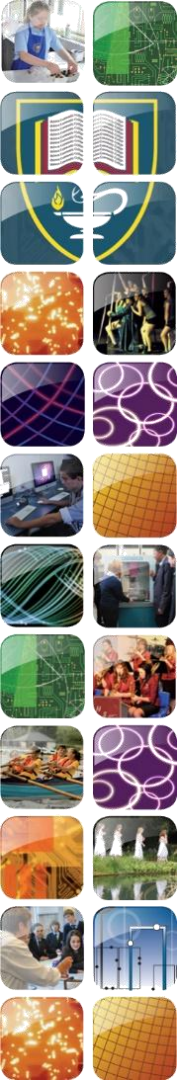
✓ *chloroplast*

C: permanent vacuole

D: cell wall

I don't know

Submit



Additional Reading at Home

Short newspaper articles. You can download apps like the Guardian online for free, and find topics that are of interest to your son/daughter. Encourage them to read even one article per week – starting now would mean that they get into the habit and become more confident readers. Even better if you read the article too and are able to have a chat about it over dinner

Short stories. Much more manageable than a whole novel, it's a great way to read some fiction.

Read the opening page of a novel. The extracts on the exam papers are often openings of stories and even reading just one page of some fiction can really help build confidence if you ask some questions about it.

RAISING THE BAR

Students need to take care with their work in their books

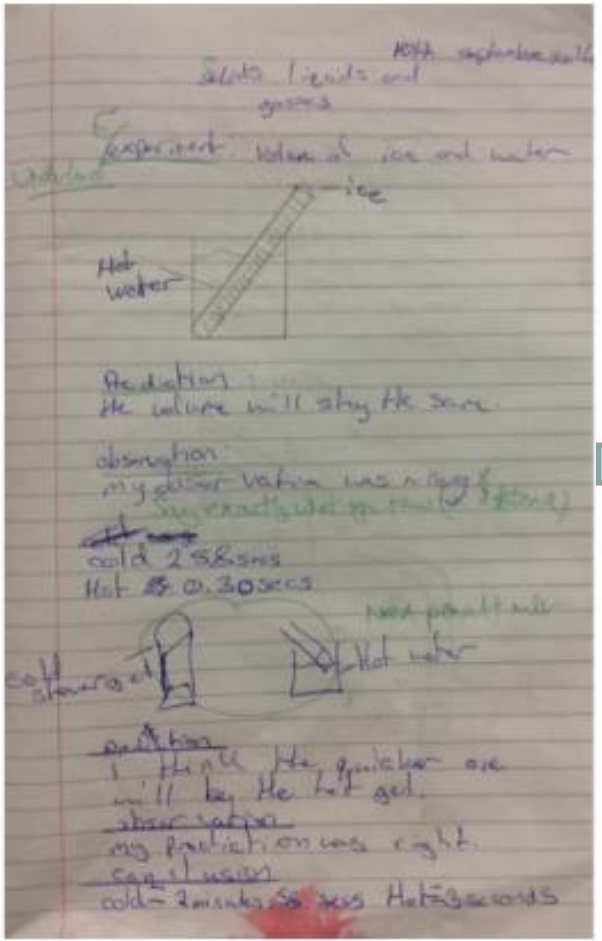
HCC Book Expectations

1. Books should not be written in until your teacher tells you to.
2. Write the title and the date and then underline them using a ruler.
3. For your writing use blue or black ink.
4. For DIT use a green pen.
5. Use a pencil for drawings and diagrams and label them in pen.
6. All work should be the best you can do. 100% first time, every time.
7. If you make a mistake, put one neat line through it.
8. If your work is not as good as you can do, your teacher will ask you to re-do it.
   You should rule it off and put one neat line through it.
9. You will have to re-do any work that has been doodled on.
   You may have to do this as additional homework.
10. Key pieces of work should be uploaded to Showbie.
11. Your teacher will give you your feedback either on Showbie or in your book.
12. After you have done your DIT you need to upload this to Showbie.

But remember, it's okay to make a mistake!

I have read and understood the above.
I will follow these expectations every time I work in my book.

Name: Signature:



10th september 2014

solids, liquids and gases

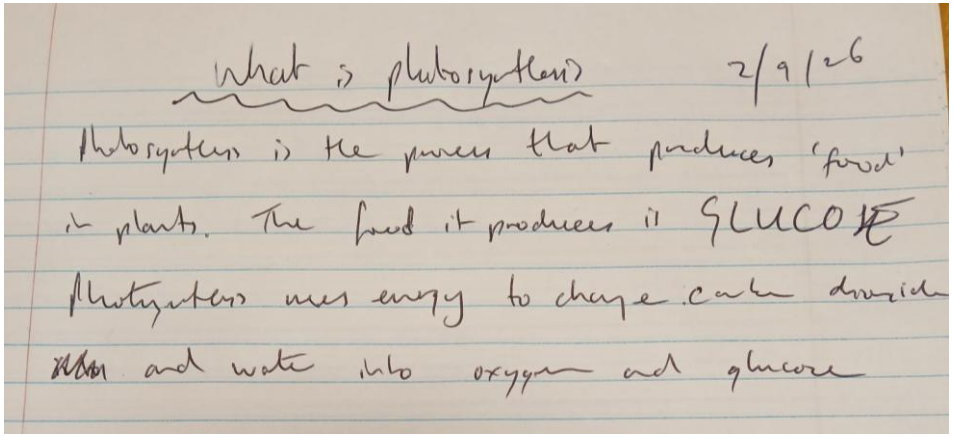
Experiment: Volume of ice and water

Prediction:
I predict that the volume of water will stay the same.

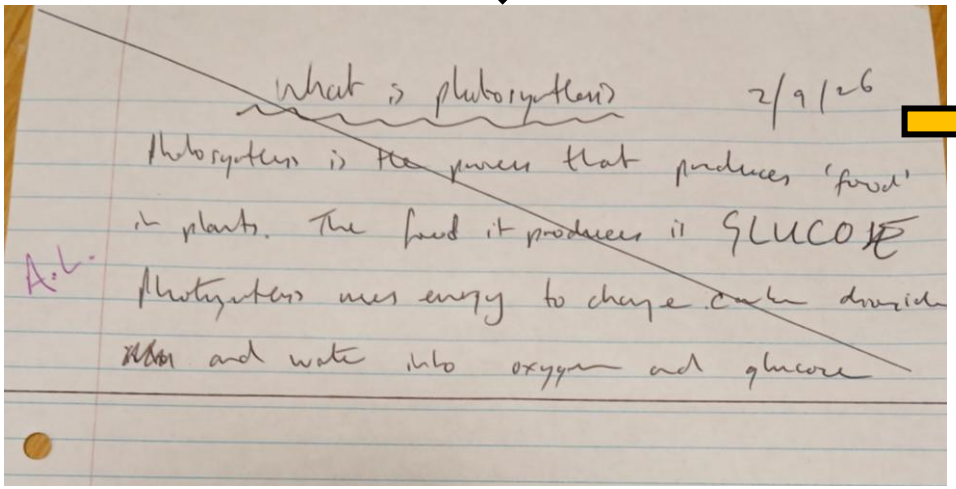
Observation:
My prediction was wrong. Because of the hot water the ice melted and the volume got ~~bigger~~ smaller.

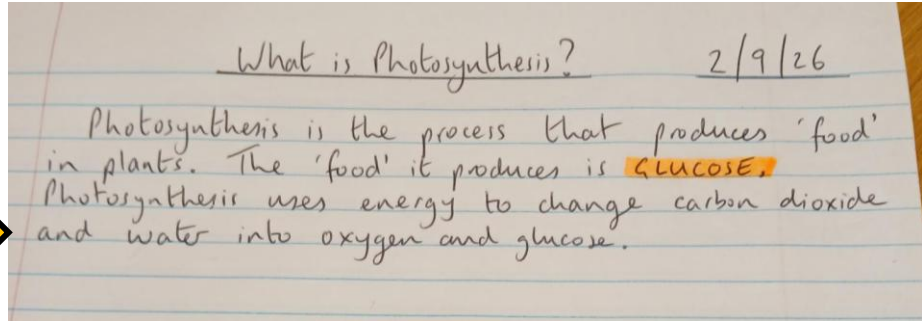
Conclusion:
When the ice froze the molecules spread a little so the ice was bigger than the volume of water. When the ice was exposed to heat the molecules got closer together and this made the volume get lower.

Same student. First attempt was unacceptable. Made to re-do it.



Sloppy, lazy writing – hard to read. If we know a student can do better they will have to re-do it.

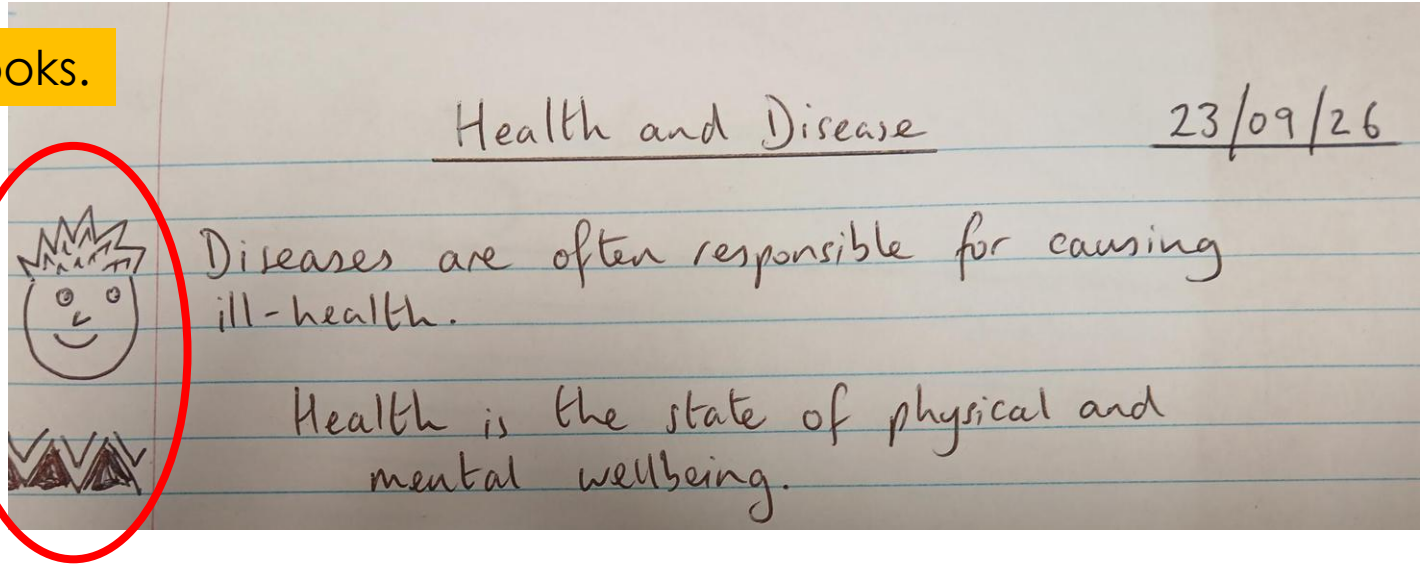




We want students to take pride in their work.

No doodling in books.

X

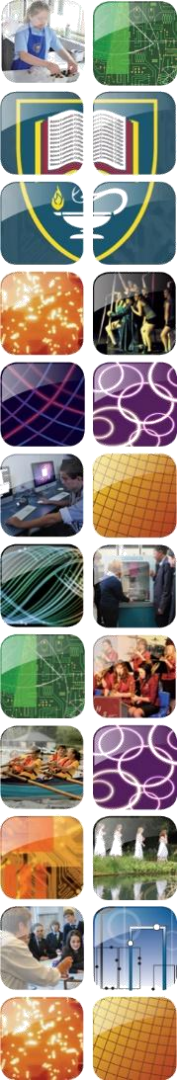


If students need to doodle they can in a note book or on scrap paper.

Writing on iPads

- Stylus or typing only (or writing directly in books)
- No-one using their finger

Ideally, every student needs a stylus. A basic one costs 40p (from the library or our online shop). Students on free school meals get them for free.



Other bits and pieces…

Mobile Phones – new government guidelines. We must enforce our policy.

After school detentions – extended to 90 minutes if missed without good reason.

Chewing gum – banned!

Please label everything!

North Site Canteen
Every Morning from 8am

THE

BREAKFAST CLUB

AN EPIC ADVENTURE EVERY MORNING

Free toast!

Free porridge!

Plus other goodies to buy.

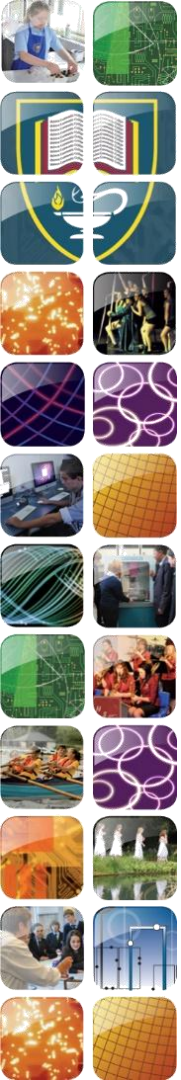
If you need support, please contact a member of the Year 8 pastoral team:

Ms Hawkey

ehawkey@helston.tpacademytrust.org

Ms Cameron

lcameron@helston.tpacademytrust.org



Other bits and pieces…

Please tell us if…

- You think you may qualify for Free School Meals
- You haven't told us you're in one of the military services
- Your child is a carer

- There have been any significant issues/events over the summer

Parents of Service Children

How to get in contact

Email serviceschildren@helston.tpacademytrust.org

When to get in contact

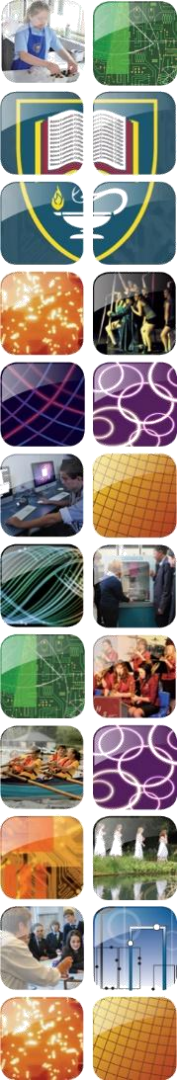
Culdrose are very good at informing us of long deployments, but we understand that there are many other reasons personnel might be serving away for shorter periods which can be just as disruptive for our families due to inconsistency. We want to help! Please inform us of any change in circumstances at home that might have an impact on your child's usual routine or well-being. For example, serving personnel have been deployed on a training exercise, short operation, temporary draft to another base etc.

What we can do

We can organise a pastoral appointment for your child with one of our pastoral team or if necessary, work with outside agencies and charities to ensure your child feels supported at school.

Next steps

Please look out for (and complete!) our annual information-gathering survey so that we can keep informed of students' current home situations and be proactive in providing help where needed.



Keen to get involved in College life?

Join our PTFA!
Join our LMC (governing body)!

If you're interested in getting involved, please let us know.