



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

Welcome to Key Stage 4

Sept 2023

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE



Aims of this evening

- Key people
- Moving to Key Stage 4
- How we will support your child
- How you can support your child
- Important dates



Key people

- Form Tutors and teaching staff Year 10
- Mr Tyers – Associate Head of Year 10
- Miss Brett - Head of Year 10
- Mr Ridgeway – Assistant Principal KS4
- Miss Houlton - Careers Leader
- Mrs Patel – Careers Adviser
- Year 10- Parents/Carers
- Year 10- students





Moving to Key Stage 4

KS4



KS3

- Expectations are still very high
- Demands and challenges are even greater
- GCSE subjects will require greater depth of study and new skills
- Every lesson, every homework, every piece of work – all will make a difference
- It's not all about results, but...
- Results will determine next steps, and that affects all future plans
- 100% **effort** will give the best results



Post 16 requirements

- All students must achieve a minimum of a grade 4 in English and Maths
- Students failing to achieve grade 4 in English or Maths will need to continue studying these subjects as part of their post-16 studies.

Pupils who fail GCSE English and maths 'may be blocked' from student loans

Ministers hope move will stop growth of 'poor quality low-cost courses'

Thomas Kingsley • Wednesday 23 February 2022 15:34 • [37](#) Comments





Some facts about the GCSEs

- Majority have terminal exams
- A few have NEAs such as DT, Art etc.
- Tiers in Maths, Science, MFL
- Science is worth 2 GCSEs and so receives two grades, from 1,1 to 9,9. The grades can be different, e.g. 5,6
- Some subjects are BTECs (vocational courses), e.g. music, performing arts, media studies
- These are graded differently – Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass



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In-school support for your child





Academic curriculum

- High quality teaching
- Purposeful homework to enhance learning
- Encourages participation
- Establish the right habits now
- Encourage students to review new learning and revise from the start. Little and often!
- Develop resilience
- Targeted interventions for students that require extra support.
Additional revision sessions, online tutoring



Ongoing assessment and exam preparation

- Regular feedback for students and parents on targets and predicted grades, as well as effort, homework and attitudes to learning
- Two formal assessment weeks during Year 10
- Mocks exams at the end of Year 10 to prepare for the final exams



Pastoral Curriculum

Learning	Health	Careers
Develop students revision and learning skills	Equip students with tools to help maintain their wellbeing	Prepare students for life beyond Soar Valley



Careers

- Use of online careers guidance
- Dedicated tutor periods during KS4
- Writing a CV and Personal Statement
- Post 16 options – different pathways beyond SVC
- Visits arranged to look at post 16 provision
- Interview practice
- Visits arranged to speak with experts in potential careers
- One to one interviews with our Careers Advisor
- WOW week



Careers Education @ Soar Valley College Miss Houlton

School website

1. Select Curriculum
2. Careers education
 - Post 16 routes, Ex- Alumni
 - Apprenticeships
 - Careers programme etc.

The screenshot shows the Soar Valley College website. The header includes the college logo and name, and a navigation menu with links for HOME, OUR SCHOOL, CURRICULUM, and PARTNERSHIP. A dropdown menu is open under CURRICULUM, listing options such as KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM, KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM, KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS, EXTRA CURRICULAR, SUBJECT ASSESSMENT, CAREERS EDUCATION, and RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY. A large yellow arrow points from the 'CAREERS EDUCATION' menu item to a section titled 'Our Careers Programme'. This section contains a vertical list of links: Careers Strategy, Labour Market Information, Useful Resources, Careers Guidance, Destinations, and Alumni. At the bottom of the page, there is a banner for 'MYPATH Careers in Leicester and Leicestershire'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE' and a background image of students playing cricket. Below the banner are three smaller images: a student working in a lab, a student playing cricket, and a student working in a lab.



Independent study

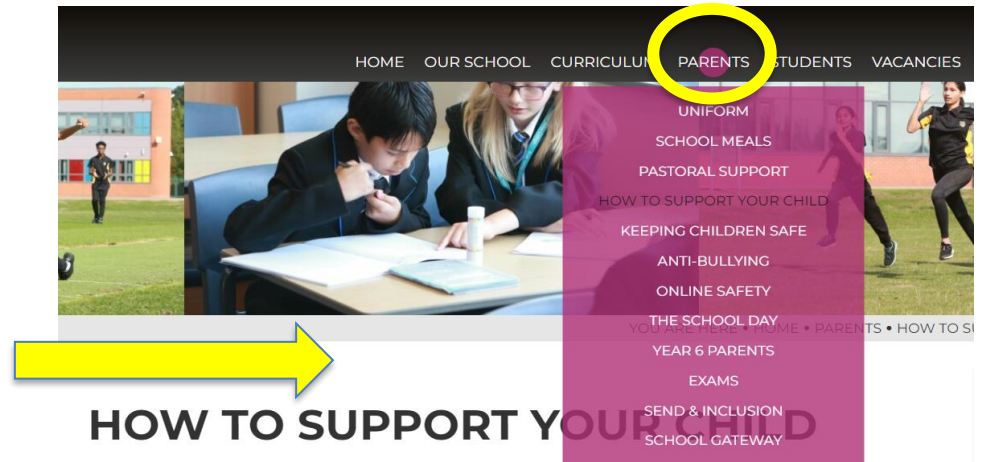
- The library is open from 8am to 4pm each day, including in break and lunch times
- Quiet study time from 3pm to 4pm
- Homework Club is available in F56 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from W/B 18th September





Online support and resources

1. Select 'Parents'
2. How to support your child
 - Presentations and resources from the evening
 - How to use online resources such as GCSEpod, SAM learning etc.



[Year 11 revision/ organisation timetable to help with planning for the forthcoming mocks and beyond.](#)

[Useful revision sites for all subjects](#)

[How to Support your child with Maths Revision](#)

[How to Support your child with English Revision](#)

[How to Support your child with Science Revision](#)



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New for Key Stage 4...



GCSEpod

- All Year 10 students have been given access to the online learning platform
- Higher GCSEpod users (5 a day) achieved **at least** one grade higher in those subjects
- Demonstrations of GCSEpod in the Library





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GCSEpod in the library

Student led session on:

- Logging on
- Building playlists
- Monitoring your child's usage
- Linking to revision techniques





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askOLA

How to login

1. Log into askOLA.io
2. Select the subject you need help with
3. Chat with the subject specialists*
4. Available 7 days a week from 9am-9pm

How to revise with

askola™





Whole School Apps

- Show My Homework (Satchel one)
- GCSE pod
- AskOLA
- SAM learning

HOME OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM PARENTS **STUDENTS** VACANCIES

MENTAL WELLBEING
EXTRA CURRICULAR
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE
STUDENT LEADERSHIP
SHOW MY HOMEWORK
SAM LEARNING
ANTI-BULLYING
ONLINE SAFETY

SAM Learning

gcsepod
education on demand

We use SAM Learning as online support because it has been proven to improve student performance. A 10 year series of impact studies, completed by the Family Fisher Trust (FFT), found the impact on student outcomes (especially) at GCSE level when 10 task hours were completed over an academic year was equivalent to 1 grade higher for at least 2 GCSE subjects.

stage 4 students as an additional online resource to further support their revision and

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

own how to log onto GCSEpod. GCSEpod allows students to organise 'pods' of convenient playlists. Please see the video below for further information.



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How you can support your child





Attendance

- Excellent attendance is crucial in supporting your child with their learning goals and achieving their highest grades.
- **90%** attendance over a school year = **4** whole weeks of lessons **MISSED!**
- Research suggests that **17 missed school days** a year = **1** GCSE grade **DROP** in achievement.

The greater the attendance the greater the attainment.



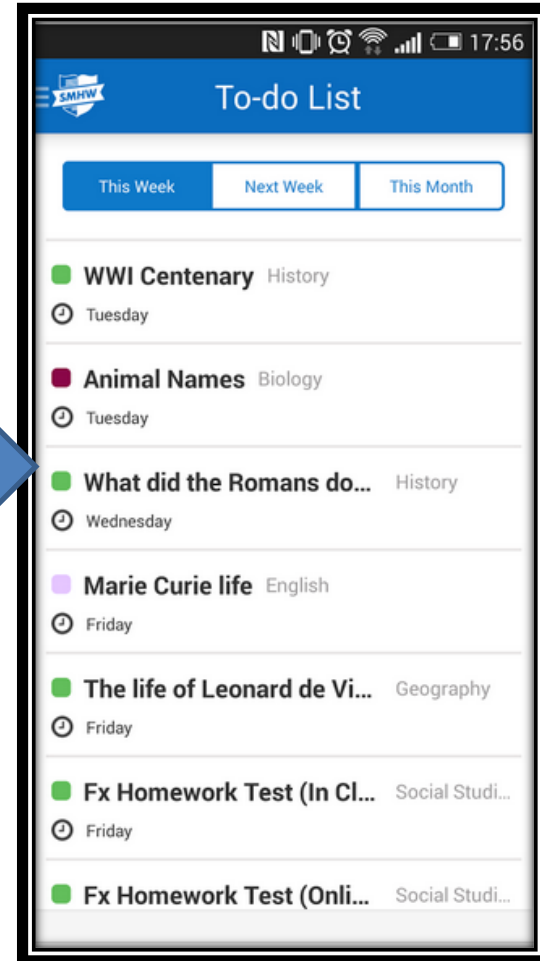
Punctuality

- Equally important is PUNCTUALITY – to registrations and to all lessons
- Being late for a total of 15 minutes a day is the same as missing **2 whole school weeks of lost learning!**
- Support your child in getting to school on time by ensuring they:
 - Get enough sleep
 - Organise their bags the night before
 - Get up with plenty of time in the mornings
 - Discuss any lates with them



Satchel One (Show My Homework)

Log in and see all outstanding homework and when it is due :





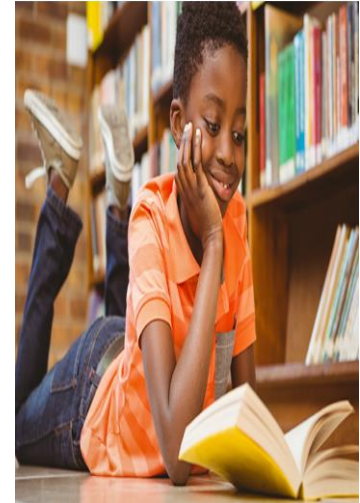
The best conditions

- Diet, hydration, exercise, sleep
- Interest in school work, talk through Progress Checks, ask about homework, etc.
- Encourage a positive mind-set
- Encourage your child to ask if unsure
- Encourage them to make the most of opportunities available
- Encourage ongoing revision, from DAY ONE!
- Have key dates visible, and refer to them regularly



Reading is crucial

- 10 to 16 year-olds who read for pleasure do better at school.
- Parents are the most important reading role models for their children.
- Across the country, boys read at a lower level than girls. This affects their ability to pass English GCSE and lowers their success in other subjects.
- Where boys read for just 15 minutes a day, the impact on all of their learning has been shown to be **transformational**.





Year 10 key dates

Key dates	Event
September 12 th 2023	Year 10 KS4 Transition Evening
November 16 th 2023	Progress Check 1
February 9 th 2024	Progress Check 2
March 21 st 2024	Parents' Evening
April 22 nd 2024	Year 10 Mock Exams start
June 7 th 2024	Progress Check 3
July 8 th 2024	WOW week



For Parents

Helping your child log in to GCSEPod



Logging in for the first time

If your child has never logged into GCSEPod before then they will need to activate their account.

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com
2. Click 'LOG IN'.
3. Click 'New to GCSEPod - Get Started!'



Forgotten their password?

If your child has logged in before the username and password to sign in

If your child cannot remember click on the 'Forgotten my login page.'

Need help?

Forgotten my login

This will provide password hint or reset their details.



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Useful revision sites for all subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSEpod https://www.gcsepod.com/ • Samlearning.com • BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
Extra subject specific websites	
Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://artuk.org-tate.org.uk/art/art-term • BBC Bitesize arts and culture google.com
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/login • https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/myrevisionnotesdownloads
Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://teach-ict.com/2016/GCSE-Computing/OCR-J277/OCR-J277.html • https://quizlet.com/Mr_Fearn
Design Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://technologystudent.com/ • https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbcjkix • National theatre https://www.ntathome.com/
English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.eduqas.co.uk/articles/exam-preparation-top-apps-and-websites/
English Literature	

Transition tips for Key Stage 4

Make sure your child is aiming for **100% attendance** between now and their final exams.

Encourage your child to read for pleasure. It's a great way to wind down before bed and is proven to reduce stress and improve academic performance.

Make a copy of the **key dates** & their school timetable on the fridge so you are able to keep informed of upcoming events and to help your child get organised.

Make sure your child is punctual every day by helping them to get into positive habits such as organising their school the night before, getting enough sleep.



ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

- We have high **aspirations** and high **expectations** for your child and will provide them with lots of support
- We want your child to have high **aspirations** and high **expectations** of themselves
- We thank you for showing your support at the start of the GCSE journey by viewing this short presentation

Good luck to the class of 2025!



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