



WHITLEY BAY HIGH SCHOOL

Year 11
InFormation booklet

Information For
Parents/Carers

2026/27



SCHOOL
MENTAL
HEALTH
AWARD





Follow us on **Instagram**
@whitleybayhigh

SUPPORTING SUCCESS

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 students have made an excellent start to the new academic year, building on the hugely successful Assessment Week and Work Experience Week at the end of Year 10. Our theme for the year is 'Unlock Your Potential', with students using everything they have learned so far to become the best version of themselves and achieve their goals.

Year 11 is not only about achieving exam success, but also about developing the skills and attributes needed for the next stage of their journey. Students will be supported throughout the year by a dedicated team of staff, with Post-16 information, advice and guidance forming a key part of our tutorial programme to help them make informed decisions about their future.

We are also incredibly proud of our students' achievements outside the classroom and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in Year 11. This booklet provides key information about what your child will be learning in English, Mathematics and Science, and the knowledge and skills needed for success. We look forward to working in partnership with you to help every student unlock their potential.

Naomi Anderson



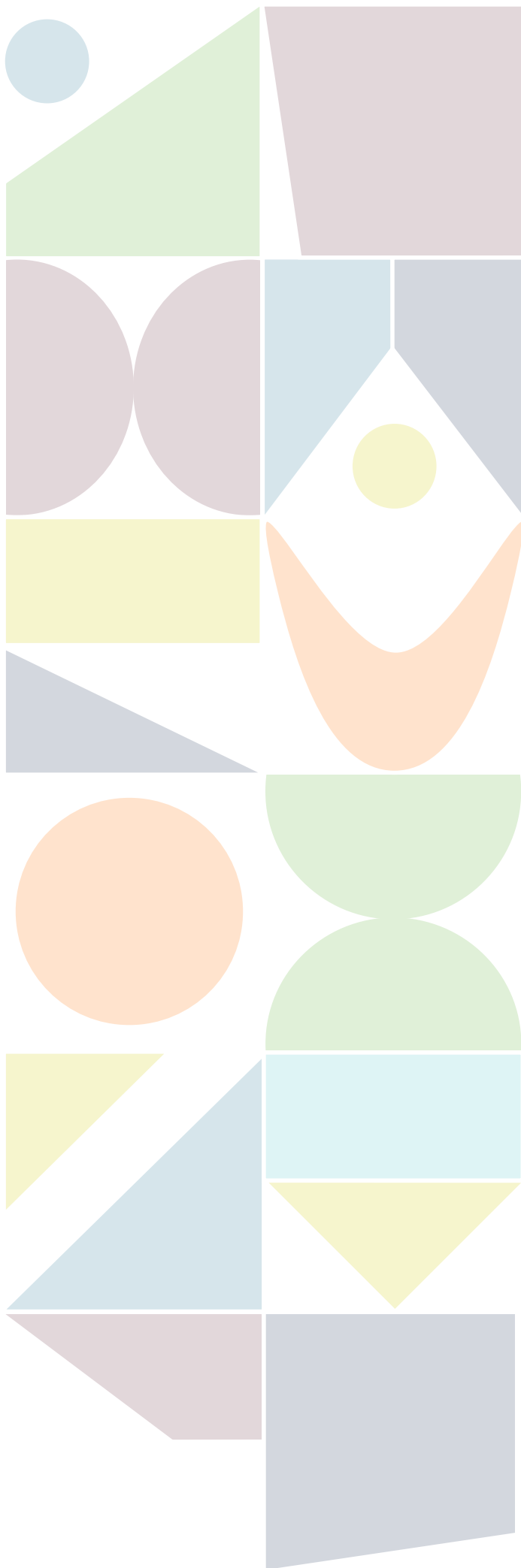
Head of Year 11
Naomi Anderson
naomi.anderson@whitleybayhighschool.org



Assistant Head of Year 11
Alex Dawson
alex.dawson@whitleybayhighschool.org



Assistant Head of Year 11
Heledd Rimmer
Heledd.rimmer@whitleybayhighschool.org



Follow us on **Instagram**
@whitleybayhigh

Key Dates

- Tuesday 29th September - Year 11 Parents' Information Evening, 6-7pm
- Wednesday 7th October - Year 11 Raising Achievement Assembly
- Tuesday 20th October - Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Exams
- Thursday 22nd October - Joining Sixth Form Evening (Remote)
- Wednesday 4th November - Yr 11 Fine Art Parents' evening
- Wednesday 18th November - Year 11 Progress Checks Home
- Monday 30th November - Year 11 MFL Trial Speaking Exams all week
- Tuesday 8th December - Sixth Form Courses Evening
- Thursday 10th December - Art Trial Exams Begin
- Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th December - Textiles Trial Exams
- Friday 8th January - St James' Park Raising Achievement Event
- Week beginning Monday 11th January - Yr 11 Revision Launch Week
- Wednesday 13th January - Year 11 Raising Achievement Assembly
- Week beginning Monday 25th January - Practical Food Exams Start
- Monday 8th - Wednesday 10th February - Year 11 Destinations Day
- Thursday 11th February - Year 11 Trial Exams Start
- Monday 22nd March - Trial Exam Results and Targets
- Tuesday 23rd March - Parents Evening (X band)
- Wednesday 24th March - Year 11 Raising Achievement Assembly
- Wednesday 24th March - Parents Evening (Y band)
- Tuesday 13th April - Year 11 GCSE Fine Art Exams all week
- Wednesday 14th April - Year 11 Careers Assembly
- Monday 19th April - Year 11 Textile Exams all week
- Monday 26th April - MFL Speaking Assessments all week
- Monday 26th April - Year 11 GCSE Photography Exams all week
- Monday 10th May - Alternative Timetable Begins
- Thursday 19th August 2027 - GCSE Results Day

GRADE EQUIVALENTS

How it affects Year 11 Students:

GCSE subjects are graded 9-1. This table shows the grade equivalents for other qualifications.

GCSE Grade	Approximate Cambridge National and BTEC equivalent grade Cambridge National - Child Development, Health & Social Care, Sport Studies BTEC – Digital Information Technology (Tech Award)
9	Level 2 Distinction *
8	
7	
6	
5	
4	Level 2 Merit
	Level 2 Pass
3	Level 1 Distinction
2	
1	

Across all subjects, all students will sit the same paper where all grades are accessible. The only exceptions to this are MFL, Maths and Science where students will either sit a Foundation tier (Grades 5 - 1 will be awarded) or a Higher tier (Grades 9 - 3 will be awarded).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE/LITERATURE

English Language

You need to be able to appreciate how writers do the following in their work. You also need to be able to do it in your own writing:

Paper 1 - Skills to Master	Paper 2 - Skills to Master
Reading and writing fiction texts - Create settings - Create characters - Use dialogue - Reveal and develop a plot - Shift between action and detailed description - Use time to structure your texts - Consider how to develop the overall structure of a text - Use language for effect (individual word choices, simile, metaphor, personification etc.) - Use voice and point of view to tell your stories - Use punctuation for effect - Use a range of sentence types for effect - Use paragraphing for effect - Plan and draft, drawing on all of your previous writing ideas and structures - Edit and proof-read writing	Reading and writing non-fiction texts - Use various forms effectively – speech writing, articles, essays, letters - Create an engaging voice - Write to persuade - Write to argue - Use a range of methods effectively including rhetorical devices, statistics, anecdote, repetition, word play, anaphora, emotive language etc. - Structure the text for effect - Use punctuation for effect - Use a range of sentence types for effect - Use paragraphing for effect - Plan and draft, drawing on all of your previous writing ideas and structures - Edit and proof-read writing

English Literature

Make sure that you know the following in as much detail as you can:

Paper 1 - Texts to Revise	Paper 2 - Texts to Revise
- Macbeth - Jekyll and Hyde - Plot – what happens and in what order - Themes - Patterns in Language and Imagery - Key symbolism - How the texts are structured - Connections between the poems - The writer's intentions and their effects - The contexts in which the texts were written - You will need to memorise key quotations	- Poetry anthology - Power and Conflict - An Inspector Calls - Unseen poetry - Plot – what happens and in what order - Themes - Patterns in Language and Imagery - Key symbolism - How the texts are structured - The writer's intentions and their effects - The contexts in which the texts were written - You will need to memorise key quotations - How to approach an unseen poem - How to make comparisons

Once you know your texts in as much detail as possible, you should write essays in response to exam style questions and hand them to your teacher for feedback.

Useful Websites:



[BBC Bitesize](#)



[AQA](#)



[Digital Theatre](#) (login: dtplus.wbhs password: wbhs123)



[WBHS English Channel](#) - Youtube

MATHS

Students will sit either AQA Foundation (Grades 1-5) or Higher (Grades 4-9) tier papers. There will be three equally weighted 1 hour 30 minutes exams (Paper 1 non-calculator) in May/June of Year 11, consisting of a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems.

HIGHER Topics to revise (taught in Year 10)	Foundation Topics to revise (taught in Year 10)
- Rounding & Bounds - Sequences - Collecting & Representing Data - Basic Number - Angles, Scale Diagrams & Bearings - Basic Algebra - Fractions, Decimals & Percentages - Linear Graphs - Perimeter & Area - Real Life Graphs - Properties of Polygons - Ratio & Proportion - Indices - Equations - Probability - Standard Form - Surds - Metric Conversion & Compound Measure - Statistical Measure - Congruence & Similarity - Volume - Quadratics - Rearranging Formula & Identities - Functions	- Basic Number - Rounding & Bounds - Collecting & Representing Data - Angles, Scale Diagrams & Bearings - Basic Algebra - Linear Graphs - Sequences - Fractions, Decimals & Percentages - Perimeter & Area - Ratio & Proportion - Properties of Polygons - Equations - Indices - Standard Form - Probability - Metric Conversion & Compound Measure - Real Life Graphs - Statistical Measure - Tree & Venn Diagrams - Volume - Similarity
New topics studied in Year 11	New topics studied in Year 11
- Numerical Methods - Tree & Venn Diagrams - Equation of a Circle - Further Equations & Graphs - Simultaneous Equations - Sketching Graphs - Transforming Graphs - Growth & Decay - Pythagoras - Trigonometry - Direct & Inverse Proportion - Inequalities - Vectors - Algebraic Fractions - Circle Theorems - Transformations - Rate of Change & Area under a Curve - Constructions & Loci	- Rearranging Formula & Identities - Quadratics - Money & Time Problems - Linear Equations - Inequalities - Sketching Graphs - Pythagoras - Direct & Inverse Proportion - Trigonometry - Growth & Decay - Vectors - Congruence - Constructions & Loci - Transformations

Things you can do at home to help:

- Ensure they have the correct equipment for lessons and exams – including a geometry set and a Casio scientific calculator.
- Encourage your child to complete homework and revision tasks set each week.
- Encourage your child to try various revision strategies:
 - utilise unit booklets and note cards given out in lessons
 - review topics on MathsWatch, utilising support videos
 - use corbettmaths.com
 - complete past papers

Useful Websites:



[AQA Maths](#)



[corbettmaths.com](https://www.corbettmaths.com)



[mathswatch](https://www.mathswatch.com)

GCSE SCIENCE

Combined Science - AQA Trilogy 8464

- All exams are taken in Summer of Year 11.
- 6 papers, 2 for each Science. Each exam is 75 minutes and contributes 16.7% of the GCSE.
- Full details of the studied topics and their sequencing can be found on the Curriculum Map section of the Whitley Bay High School website.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
• Biology topics 5-6 • Chemistry topics 7-10 • Physics topics 5-7	• Biology topics 5-6 • Chemistry topics 7-10 • Physics topics 5-7	• Revision • Exam preparation • Revision

Things you can do at home to help:

- Go over past test questions with your child.
- Make a quiet area for them at home where they can complete homework without distraction.
- Use their revision guide to support understanding and help test if their knowledge is secure by asking questions from it.

Useful Websites:



[AQA Combined Science Trilogy](#)



[BBC Bitesize Combined Science](#)

Separate Science - AQA GCSE Biology 8461, Chemistry 8462, Physics 8463

- Each course has 2 exams worth 50% of the marks. Each exam is 105 minutes.
- There is significantly more content on Separate Science but it is taught in the same time as the dual course, so it requires a great deal of independent study.
- Full details of the studied topics and their sequencing can be found on the Curriculum Map section of the Whitley Bay High School website.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
• Biology topics 5-7 • Chemistry topics 7-10 • Physics topics 5-8	• Biology topics 5-7 • Chemistry topics 7-10 • Physics topics 5-8	• Revision • Exam preparation • Revision

Things you can do at home to help:

- Go over past test questions with your child.
- Make a quiet area for them at home where they can complete homework without distraction.
- Use their revision guide to support understanding and help test if their knowledge is secure by asking questions from it.

Useful Websites:



[AQA Science](#)



[BBC Bitesize Biology](#)



[BBC Bitesize Chemistry](#)



[BBC Bitesize Physics](#)

HEALTHY BODY AND HEALTHY MIND

We know Year 11 can be a challenging and stressful time for your child, and although we will do all we can to support them in school, there are some things that we can all do to make sure they are getting things right. A healthy mind and body is as important for success as a revision booklet, and some healthy choices out of school can make a real difference.

Self Help

SLEEP



A good rest each night is important to recover from the busy day and is paramount for overall health and brain function.

SCREEN TIME



Reducing screen time regularly and before bed allows the mind to relax and prepare for sleep.

BREAKFAST AND DIET



In times of stress it is easy to fall into a trap of grabbing comfort food, but it is important to ensure a healthy balanced diet is followed.

EXERCISE



Regular exercise has been proven to reduce stress levels by taking your mind off your worries and pumping feel good endorphins to improve your mood.

KEEPING ORGANISED



Students need to be prepared with the correct equipment each day. When exams approach encourage your child to make a revision timetable.

DOWNTIME



Whether watching a film, reading, listening to music or doing exercise... it is really important that your child has some down time.

WATER



Staying hydrated and taking in enough water helps levels of concentration and combats tiredness.

TALKING



It may sound simple but talking to your child is really important to try and understand how they are feeling.

USEFUL LINKS AND APPS

Click or scan on the links below to take you directly to the websites.

For Parents/Carers:

[Young Minds](#)



[WBHS](#)



[Every Mind Matters](#)



[Padlet](#)



[Anna Freud](#)



[We Heart CBT](#)



For Students:

[Young Minds](#)



[WBHS](#)



[Every Mind Matters](#)



[Padlet](#)



[Anna Freud](#)



[Kooth](#)



[Childline](#)



[Stop. Breathe. Think](#)



Apps



happify™



Follow us on **Instagram**
@whitleybayhigh

Whitley Bay High School
Deneholm
Whitley Bay
NE25 9AS

0191 7317070
www.whitleybayhighschool.org

**Please note: The information in this booklet is up
to date at time of printing (September 2025).**