



Highcliffe School  
11-18 Academy



His nature is such that he has to be drawn out by kindness and encouragement but if he be treated well, and love be shown him, he will accomplish things that make the whole world wonder.

Michelangelo, describing himself as a young art student in 1490AD

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Year 8 Information Evening 2024-25

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1. Welcome
2. Meet the Team
3. Key Dates
4. Attendance, Commendations and Tutor Time
5. Core Subjects Update
6. Unit Summaries
7. Mini Options Process
8. GCSE Ready
9. Year 9 Graduation
10. Academic Support



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## Year 8 Information Evening

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### The Team

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# Meet The Team

Miss Fellingham

*Year 8 & 9 Head of Achievement*

Ms Haynes

*Deputy Head of Achievement*

Mr Davies

*Assistant Headteacher; Attitudes,  
Behaviour and Community*



# Key Dates

Year 8 Parents Evening Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Mini Options process starts May



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Year 8 Information Evening  
Attendance, Commendations and  
Tutor time

# Attendance


There is a clear correlation between attendance and gaining better grades. Each lesson in KS3 is important as it is building knowledge that will help with end of unit tests

If a student misses a lesson they need to do the following:

Catch up on the work missed

Attempt the homestudy that has been set on the system

## ATTENDANCE = ACHIEVEMENT

Attendance	Progress from Key Stage 2	Average GCSE grades over 8 subjects (Grades 9-1)
97% - 100%	On average each grade $\frac{2}{3}$ better than expected	Grade 6 +
93% - 97%		Grade 5
90% - 93%		Grade 4
85% - 90%		Grade 3
Less than 85%	On average over 1 grade lower than expected	Grade 2

# Tutor Time Programme

Morning tutor sessions follow a programme of activities designed to develop students understanding of respectful, responsible, respectful and purposeful behaviours (RRP) as well as complimenting topics covered in lessons and supporting development in English and Maths.

There is a weekly routine of activities in the morning complimented by a whole year group assembly on Fridays.

Day	Activity
Monday	Organisation check (equipment and uniform)
Tuesday	Drop everything and numerate (DEAN)
Wednesday	RRP Activity
Thursday	Literacy (Concept catch up/ Retrieval)
Friday	Assembly



# Commendations

- Breakthrough in Learning
- Actively Engaging in Learning
- Demonstrating Initiative in Learning
- Helping Others Learn
- Demonstrating Consideration for Others

Letters of Commendation (5 commendations)

Average commendations = 22.7

Commendation challenges throughout the year – year group notified of these in assemblies, parents notified of these via the Parent Bulletin.



# Tutor Time Challenges

Challenge
Recycled Fashion Show
Music fortnight
Boardgames and Craft fortnight
Creative writing fortnight
Bake off fortnight
Spelling Bee and Mental Maths fortnight



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Year 8 Information Evening English,  
Maths and Science – Teaching Sets

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# ENGLISH

All sets are mixed ability in English. The numbers 1,2 or 3 do not reflect prior attainment. Students are taught the same curriculum with lesson materials designed to support and challenge students of all ability ranges.  
For further information, please contact the Subject Leader for English.

# MATHS

KS3:

- Students are all in mixed prior attainment groups.
- The number associated with the set does not relate to prior ability (for example Ma1/x has the same prior attainment profile as Ma3/x).
- We use continuous assessment and termly assessments to monitor students progress.
- Homestudy is very important in maths as practice helps student retain the skills they have learnt in class, we use a number of different online platforms for maths homestudy.

For more information please get in touch with the Head of Maths.



# Science Year 8

## Key Information:

- Students are taught in mixed ability groups.
- Lessons are taught in science labs so that students gain experience in using key equipment safely.
- Students cover a variety of topics throughout the year from biology, chemistry and physics.
- Students are provided with a 'PLC' at the start of each topic summarising what they will learn.

# Science Year 8

## **Assessment:**

- **End of term assessment at the end of the autumn, spring and summer. This includes longer answer responses.**
- **Multiple choice test in each topic throughout the year**

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## Year 8 Information Evening

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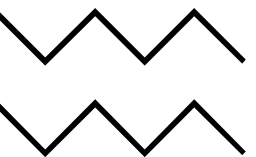
## Unit Summaries and Retrieval Practice

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# **UNIT SUMMARIES**





# Unit Summaries



WHAT WILL  
WE LEARN?



WHY THIS?  
WHY NOW?



KEY  
VOCABULARY



WIDER STUDY



ASSESSMENT







# Unit Summaries



WHAT WILL WE LEARN?



Key Content



Big Questions



What do you need to know?





# Unit Summaries



WHY THIS? WHY NOW?

What is the point of learning this topic?

Does it relate to anything studied before?

Does it relate to anything you will go on to study?

Why do you need to study this?





# Unit Summaries



**KEY  
VOCABULARY**

What are the key words you need for this unit?

Are you using them in your work?

Do you know what they mean?

Can you spell them correctly?

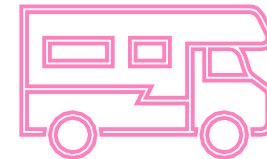
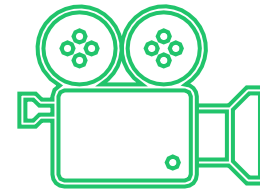
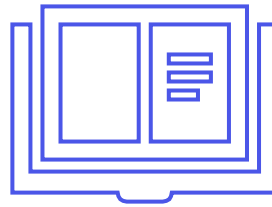




# Unit Summaries



WIDER STUDY



# ○ Unit Summaries



ASSESSMENT

How will you be assessed?

When will you be assessed?

What will you be assessed on?

How should you prepare?





# Retrieval Practice

The act of recalling learned information from memory (with little or no support) and every time that information is retrieved, or an answer is generated, it changes the original memory to make it **STRONGER!**



Pulling the information from your **long-term memory** back into your **working memory**.





# HIGHCLIFFE LESSON EVERY LESSON

We value the power of education to change lives.

## RESPECTFUL



**Greet at the Door:** Where possible, your teacher will be at the classroom door to welcome you as you enter. *You will greet your teacher, enter the classroom, take your seat and be ready to learn.*



**Strong Routines:** Every lesson will have a starter activity so that the register can be taken promptly and, at the end of the lesson, teachers will check your understanding. *You will take the quickest route to your lesson and arrive promptly with the correct equipment.*

## RESPONSIBLE



**Retrieval Practice:** Retrieval Practice helps your learning to 'stick'; you will complete retrieval practice activities regularly. *You need to continue to use retrieval practice at home and independently, not just when directed.*



**Questioning:** Your teacher will want to ask you questions to check your understanding regularly. *You should be prepared to answer questions to the best of your ability, applying your key vocabulary.*

## PURPOSEFUL



**Sustained Intense Concentration:** Every lesson will have moments where you are expected to really focus, read or engage with discussion. *You need to be prepared to focus all your attention, and not become distracted or ever distract others from their learning.*



**Best Work:** Feedback will be given to help you to develop your learning. *You will be expected to act upon this feedback, and may be asked to re-do work which is not an example of your best efforts.*

Delivering the same  
quality of education  
every single lesson.



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## Year 8 Information Evening

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## Mini Options Process

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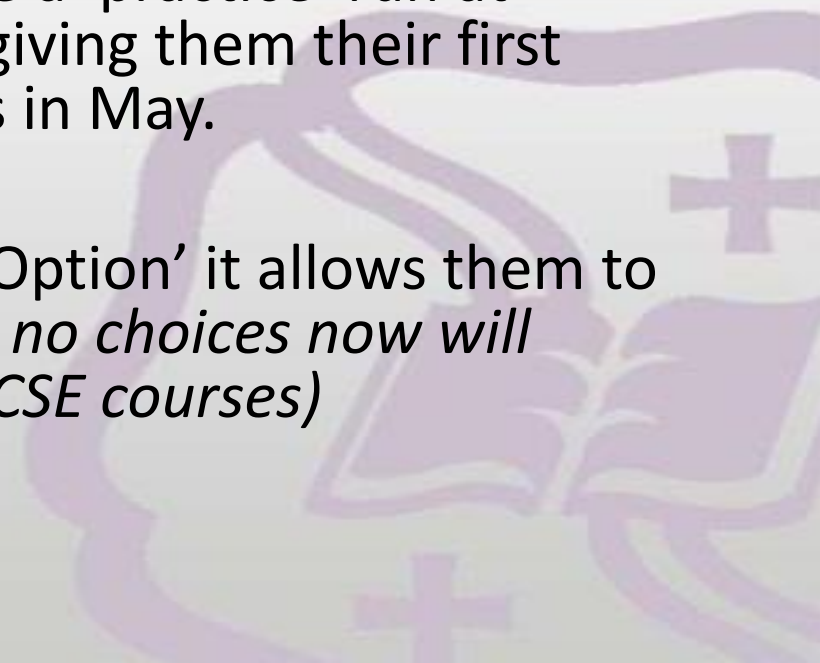
# Mini Options Process

We are a two year GCSE School.

Some elements of some of the courses we offer have a heavy percentage on the practical elements in examinations at the end of Year 11.

With this in mind we offer students the opportunity to have a 'practice' run at picking one of these subjects to study in Year 9. Therefore giving them their first experience of 'choosing' something. This normally happens in May.

By asking students to state their preference for their 'Mini Option' it allows them to start to specialise as they move to Year 9. *(Please note that no choices now will restrict choices during year 9 when students opt for their GCSE courses)*



# Mini Options Process

In May, students will have the opportunity to pick one of the following to study in more detail in Year 9:

- Music
- Drama
- PE Theory
- Dual Language (Spanish or French)

What ever they pick they would not study any of the others from the list above in Year 9.

For example;

If they choose music they would not study Drama, PE Theory or a second language in Year 9, however they would be able to pick these up as a GCSE in Year 10.

\*All students still have to take part in their core PE lessons throughout Years 7-11



# Mini Option Music

We have designed this course to give students a true insight in to the three main areas that they would be studying across Year 10 and 11 if they decide to study GCSE Music (**performing, composing and listening and analysing**).

We will deliver these 3 areas with a focus on Pop Music. The activities in place will demonstrate if students can access the course and is designed to make them “GCSE Ready”.

*Please note that undertaking music will also require students to access at least one tutor, lunchtime or after school enrichment music activity. As well as helping with/ taking part in school productions/ concerts*

# Mini Option Drama

Students selecting this course will be introduced to the three units that would be studied across Years 10 and 11.

These include: **Analysis and evaluation** of a set play as an introduction to the written paper, **Exploring and applying dramatic techniques** and devices within a devised piece of theatre, and exploration, **development and performance** of scripted extracts.

Students will be expected to perform in front of their peers and in performance evenings showcasing their class work.

# Mini Option PE Theory

These lessons will be largely theory based in a classroom, preparing the students for either of the examination courses offered in Year 10.

This course covers the **anatomy and physiology** of the body including **Muscular, Skeletal, Respiratory** and **Circulatory** systems.

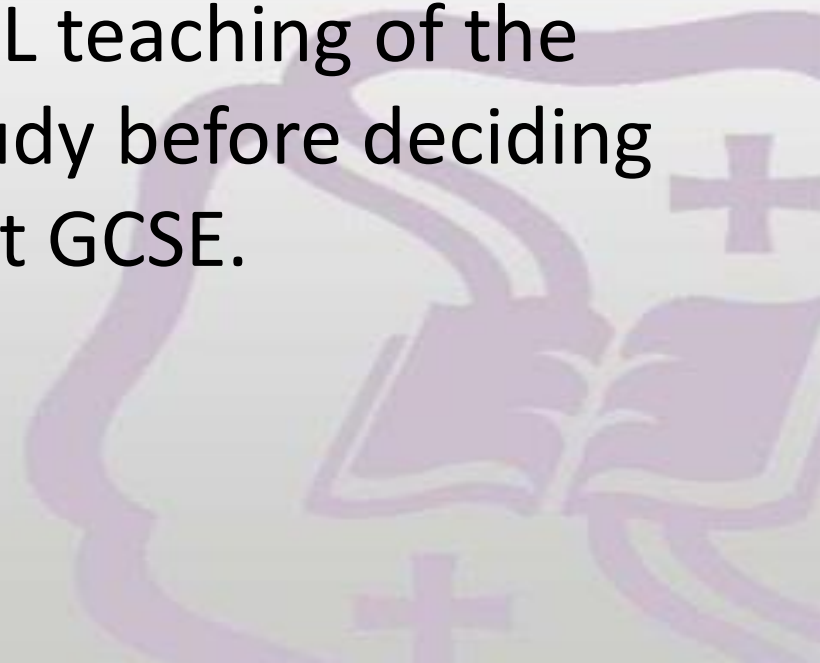
Specifically looking at how the body reacts to **short term** and **long-term exercise**.

Students will also learn about and participate in **fitness testing**. Regular end of unit tests will help the students determine their potential future pathway into Year 10.

# Mini Option Dual Language

This is an opportunity for students with an aptitude in Languages to study a second MFL separate from their existing main language.

Students will receive a separate 4 hours of MFL teaching of the second language giving them more time to study before deciding if they wish to take both French and Spanish at GCSE.




# Mini Options Process

This process is done via their MyHighcliffe on an online form in May.

We ask that you help them with this process and have conversations with them at home.

This process is to prepare them for the GCSE options process that will happen in Year 9.





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## Year 8 Information Evening

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## GCSE Ready

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# What does GCSE Ready mean?

- Organisational skills – managing time
- Academically ready for the challenges of GCSE studies
- Mature and grown up approach to lessons
- Independent learners
- Resilient in the face of challenges
- Responsible for their own learning and independent studies
- Being able to add depth to responses to questions
- Supporting the school community







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## Year 8 Information Evening Graduation



# Why do we Graduate Year 9?

- It marks the successful COMPLETION of Year 9 and your Key Stage 3 studies
- It ensures that you are GCSE READY
- You will GRADUATE from Year 9 into Year 10 on 1 of 5 different proposed levels
- Signifies the end of Key Stage 3 studies and celebrates your movement to Key stage 4 and the start of your GCSE option courses



# Graduation Criteria

1. **97% attendance or higher**
2. **75 commendations or more**
3. **75% of Continuous Assessment at or above your target grade**
4. Highcliffe Challenge Apprentice level completed
5. One piece of independent study/ Mini EPQ



# Graduation Levels

Foundation Pass = 1/5 criteria met

Pass = 2/5 criteria met

Merit = 3/5 criteria met

Distinction = 4/5 criteria met

Distinction \* = 5/5 criteria met



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## Year 8 Information Evening

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## Academic Support

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# Academic Support

- Interventions based on Continuous Assessment levels – in line with expected progress
- Mentoring with HOA and DHoA
- Brilliant Club
- Homestudy club at lunch time and afterschool (Monday – Thursday)
- My help button on MyHighcliffe

