Highfields School
BE THE BEST YOU CAN

**Welcome to Secrets to GCSE Success
Wednesday 11 October 2023**

TPS: Why are Y10 and 11 like a marathon?

WE ARE HIGHFIELDS

Why are we here this evening?

By the end of this evening you will have

- A better understanding of the months ahead (especially if you are a first time Y10/11 parent)

- An understanding of the challenges your child is facing

- A realistic idea of what a strong programme of exam preparation / revision / re-learning will look like for your child

- An opportunity to have a chat with other families
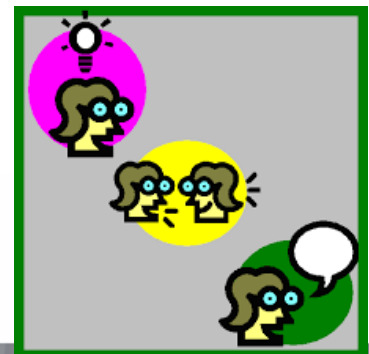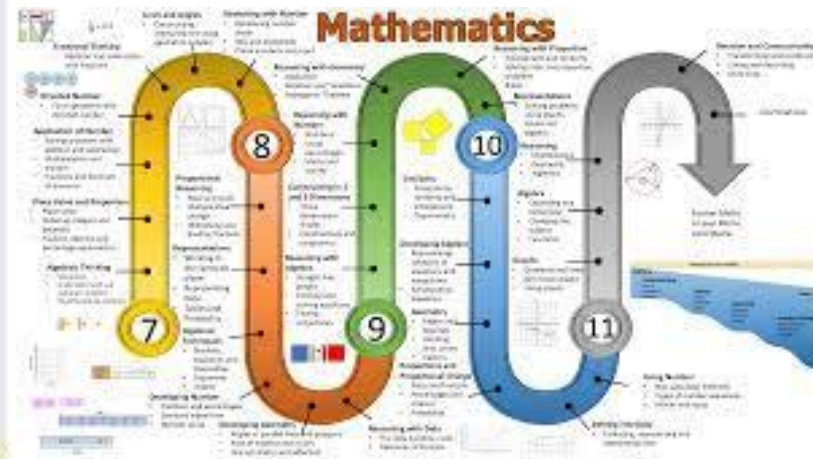
Secret 1: Know the challenge ahead
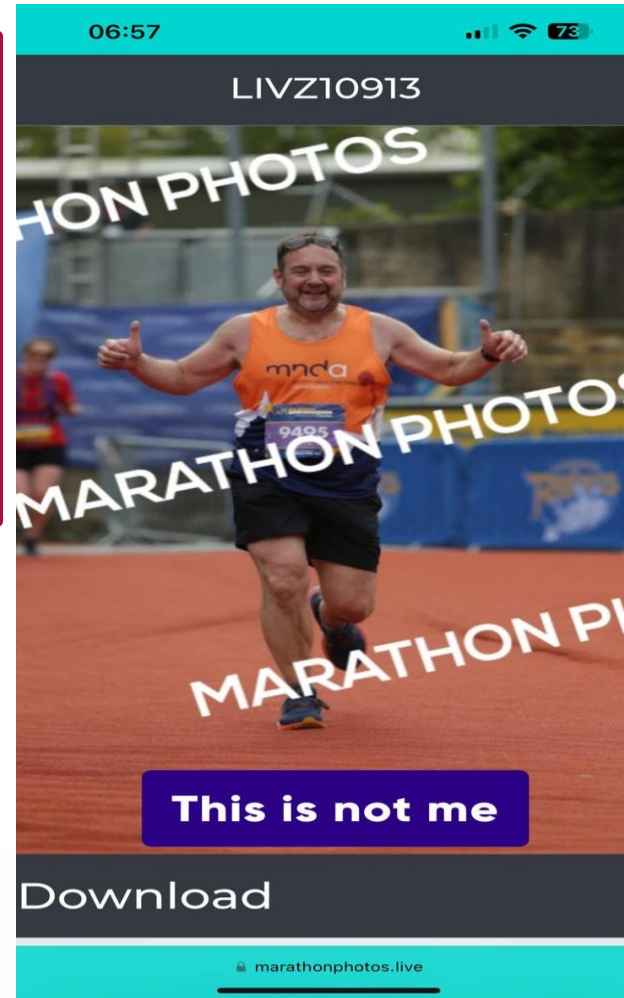
Secret 1: Know the challenge ahead

What do you know?

What is a GCSE?
Why are GCSEs sat by 16 years olds?
How are they assessed?
What makes them challenging?

Secret 1: Know the challenge ahead

Crucial points:

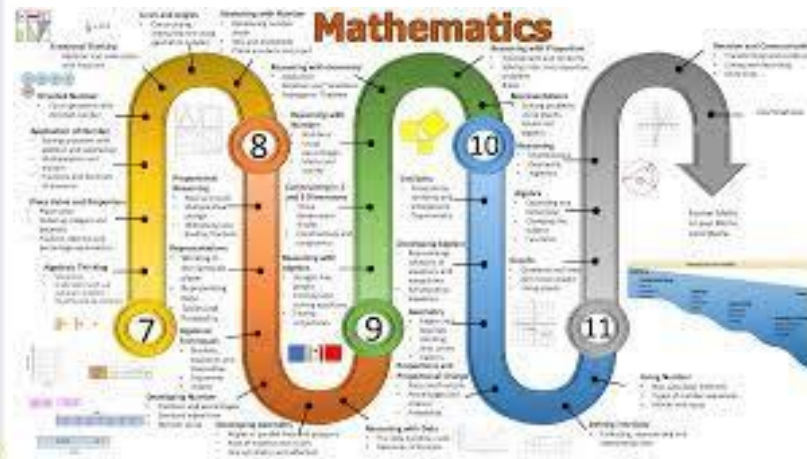GCSEs are tough. They take a lot of preparing for.

Graded 9-1 (9= 'A**'   4 = C   1 = G)

Recall of a lot of content

Application of knowledge.

The key to unlocking future opportunities.

Full range of GCSEs chosen – commit to them all, not good enough to say 'just need English and Maths'
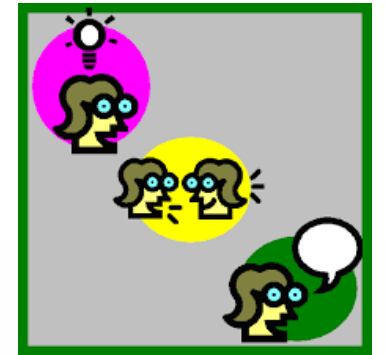
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Secret 2:
Know your *Potential*

Why is it important to think about *potential*?
How do we choose 'benchmarks?'
How might our children understand their *potential*?

Secret 2:
Know your *Potential*

Year 10 Autumn Profile – November 2023

Subject	Benchmark Grade	Current Working At Grade	Most Likely Final Grade	Approach to Learning	Concerns
Biology	7	5	6	2 – strong	
Chemistry	6	5	6	2 – strong	
English Language	6	5	6	2 – strong	
English Literature	7	5	6	2 – strong	
Food & Nutrition	7	4	5	2 – strong	
French	6	4	6	2 – strong	
Geography	7	3	5	3 – not yet strong enough	Engagement
Mathematics	5	4	6	1 – very strong	
PE (Core)	-	-	-	2 – strong	
Physics	6	5	6	1 – very strong	

Potential

Crucial Points:
Aim for a 'PB'!
Benchmark grades give <u>an idea</u> of what good performance might look like – not limiting and missing them by a bit is not a disgrace.
Settling for well below is not good enough - not Ok to say all I need is 4 for college if potential is 6,7,8,9
Act on feedback

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What does a GCSE student with an outstanding approach to learning do?
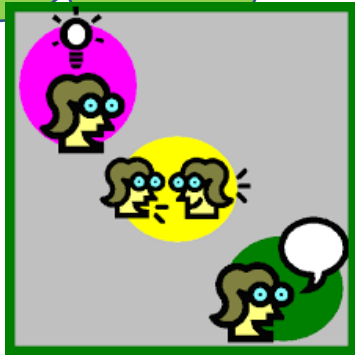
- Asks insightful questions
- Volunteers answers regularly throughout the lesson
- Attempts every question/task or activity no matter how challenging
- Acts upon feedback and asks for feedback regularly on how to improve
- Leads and contributes to group discussions and helping others who may be struggling
- Carries out wider reading and studying
- Immaculate presentation of their books

Secret 3. Know your training schedule and stick to it

Crucial points:

What are the regular training habits?

Where are the opportunities to practice – 'the half marathons and 10ks'?
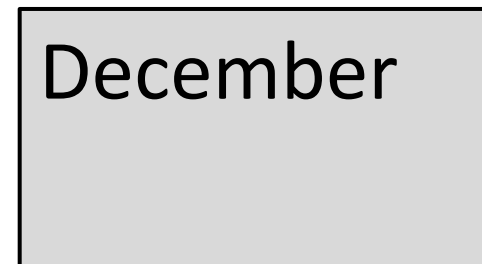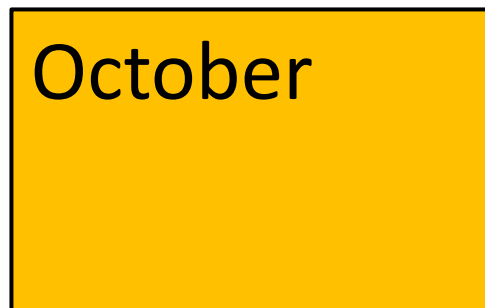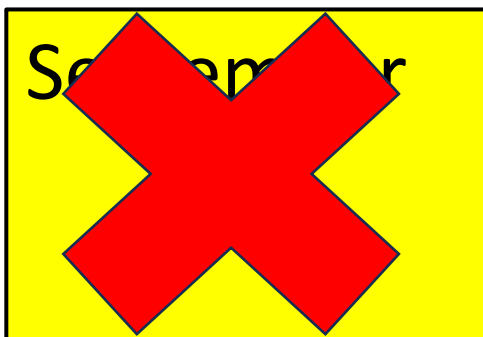
Look at the year ahead – how many weeks?

Training every day 8.45-3.20 with fully qualified expert coaches + evenings and weekends.

Be there and take full advantage – on time, prepared, wanting to 'train' / learn. Show commitment in each and every session. Mock exams are VITAL practice runs

September

October

November

MOCKS   1

December

January

February

March

MOCKS 2

April

May

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Y10 / 11 Secrets to GCSE Success 2023:

Autumn Term

	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	Holiday (28 Oct – 5 Nov)	A	B	A	B	A
	04-Sep (4 Sep = CPD)	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep	02-Oct	09-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct (27 Oct = CPD)		06-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov	04-Dec (4 Dec =
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5
Y7												DC1	DS Out	
Y8										DC1	DS Out			
Y9											DC1	DS Out		
Y10											DC1	DS Out		
Y11							DC1	DS Out					Mock Exams	
Y12										DC1	DS Out			PC
Y13							DC1	DS Out				PC		Mock

GCSE Autumn Exams

We are here - week 5 of a 30 week year

6 school weeks + Half term between them

Your 1st set of mocks are here - a chance to shine

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Autumn Term

	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B		A	B	A
	04-Sep (4 Sep = CPD)	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep	02-Oct	09-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct (27 Oct = CPD)	Holiday (28 Oct – 5 Nov)	06-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3
Y7												DC1
Y8										DC1	DS Out	
Y9											DC1	DS Out
Y10											DC1	DS Out
Y11								DC1	DS Out			

GCSE Autumn Exams

Spring Term

	B	A	B	A	B	A		B	A	B
	Holiday (23 Dec – 8 Jan)	08-Jan	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan	05-Feb	12-Feb	Holiday (17 Feb – 25 Feb)	26-Feb	04-Mar	11-Mar
		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3
Y7							DC2		DS Out		
Y8				DC2	DS Out		PC				
Y9			PC			DC2	DS Out				
Y10						DC2	DS Out			PC	
Y11		DC2	DS Out	PC					Mock Exams		

Y10 First data capture – first major feedback point

February / March Second Data Capture + Parents Consultation Evening (online)

		A	B	A	B	A	B			A	B	A	
										External Exams 9 May - 26 June			
	Holiday 30 March – 14 April)	15-Apr	22-Apr	29-Apr	6-May (6 May = BH)	13-May	20-May	Holiday (25 May - 2 June)		03-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	
		1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	
Y7											EOY Exams		
Y8										EOY Exams			DC
Y9													EO
Y10			Mock Exams								DC3	DS Out	
Y11					External Exams					External Exams			

April – 2 weeks after Easter – Mock Exams:
Performance time – show us and yourself what you can do –
'Crucial Race Practice …..'

Reported here –
Half way through our 2 year training programme

Secret 4: Know the habits of successful independent training
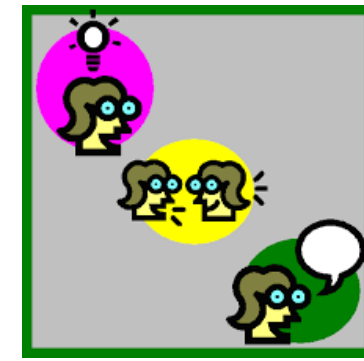
5 Crucial habits
- Get started
- Eat the big frog first
- Plan it out
- Retrieval
- Repetition

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How to be happy, healthy and successful in your exams / marathon

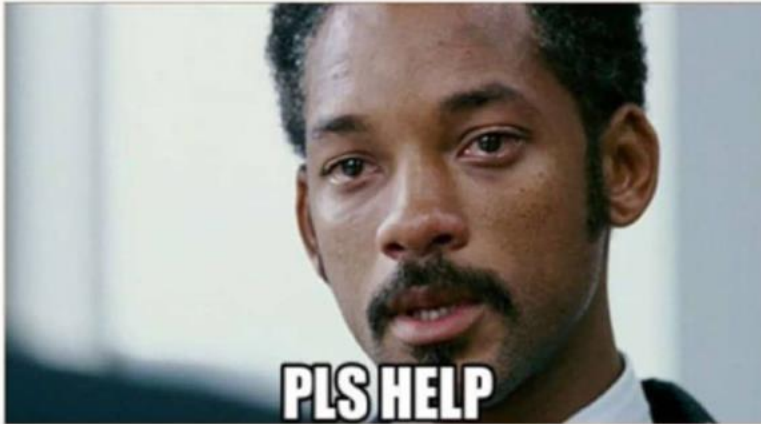Me: I'll revise when I get home
Me: Actually I'll just do a bit before bed
Me: Okay I'll deffo do some in the morning
Me: I guess I could just do some on the way to school
Me: Okay I should have time to do some at lunch
Me: If I revise outside the exam I should be fine
Me in the exam:

PLS HELP

1. Get started

2. 'Eat the big frog first'

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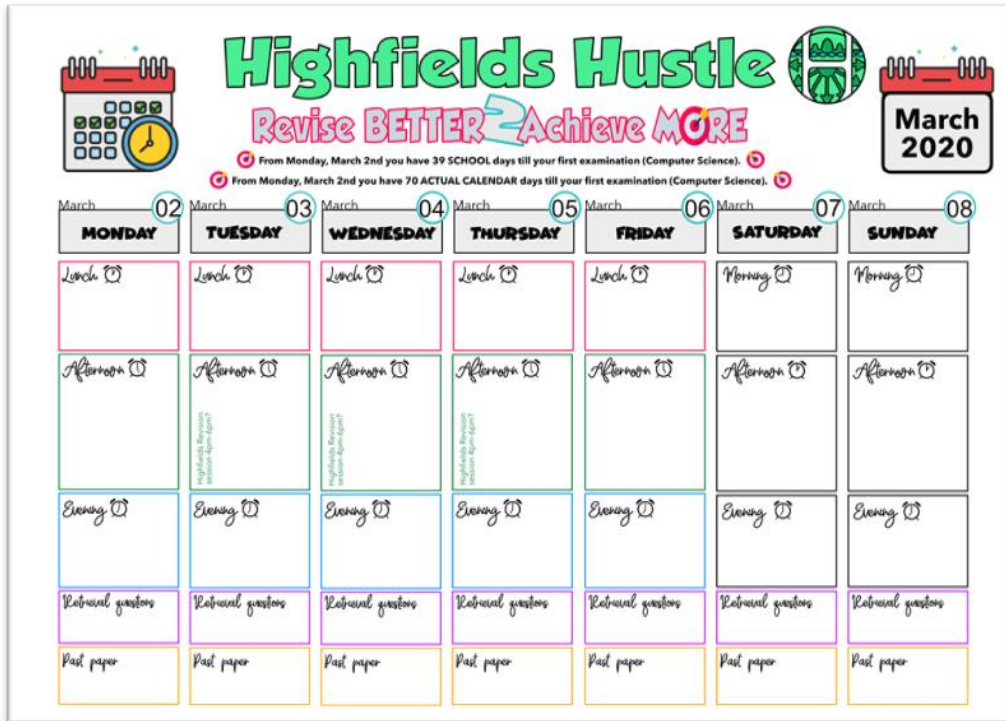
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How to be happy, healthy and successful in your exams / marathon

3. Plan it out – what + when?
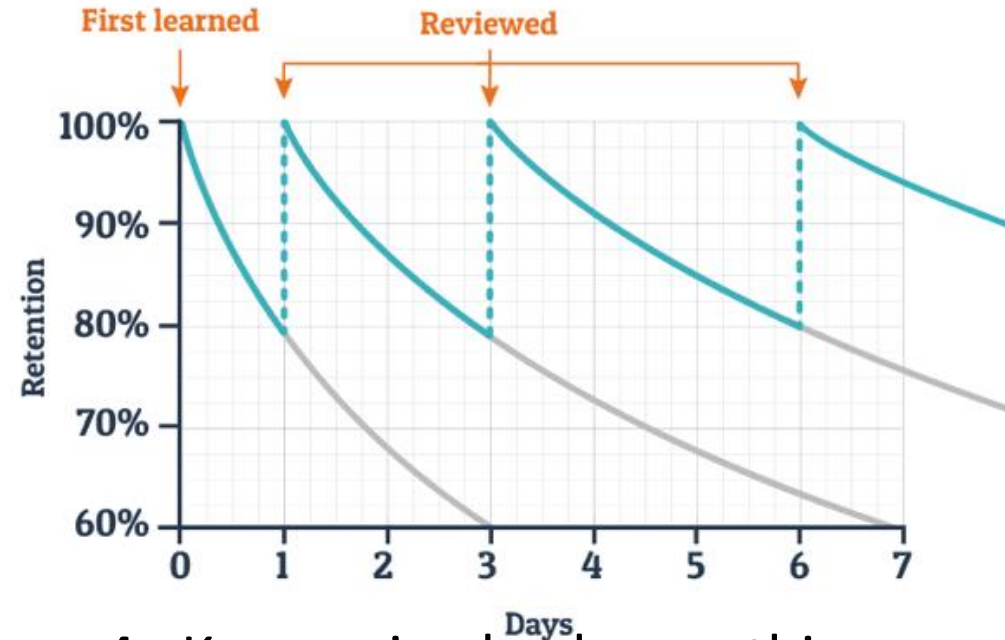
4. Keep going back over things – repeat and repeat again

Revise Better – not longer …

Quizzing and questions

NOT

Just reading or highlighting your favourite bits

Secret 5.
Stay happy, healthy, 'injury free' and in perspective – Know who can help you – Importance of partnership, understanding, balance of activities, sleep

Plenary

How might a student benefit from GCSE success?

What makes the best revision/ relearning?

How can you support your child through their revision?

How do you respond if your child does not appear to be revising?

Good luck…

Your child will always find their way to their destination eventually…GCSE success may just get them there quicker