



**Great Marlow School**

*Excellence • Compassion • Integrity*



**Welcome to our Year 11 Information Evening**

# Our Aims



To give you information about Year 11 and the expectations that we have.



To direct you, as parents and carers, to where you'll find help and support.



To inform you of the support on offer within school for students and the best way to communicate with us.





# Year 11 Vision

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

# Year 11 - Vision and Values

*Aim: To ensure all students know their goals and are reaching them with a plan A, B or C for post-16 life.*



- Year 11s are **compassionate, respectful** and **resilient** members of the school community.



- All students feel confident in taking **responsibility** for their academic, emotional and social development.



- Good communication between all three stakeholders is important - PARENTS/CARERS, STUDENTS and SCHOOL.
- Sixth-form area after school.

*Our vision: to offer the highest quality learning environment possible so that our students are inspired to be compassionate, successful and resilient contributors to a better society.*

# My Personal Best



The **'My Personal Best'** programme is integral to the school's teaching and learning philosophy.

The 7Rs are a guiding set of positive values and attitudes.





# Year 11 Curriculum

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

# GCSEs – The Grading System

## GCSE students work towards Grades 9-1 which allows for:

- greater identification of exceptional performance at the top end
- differentiation across passed grades
- identification by employers of students who have opted for more challenging GCSEs

OLD GRADES	NEW GRADES	
A * A	9 8 7	HIGH ACHIEVEMENT
B C	6 5 4	STRONG PASS STANDARD PASS
D E F G	3 2 1	
U	U	UNGRADED

# Year 11 - Curriculum Information

Core PE for all students in their form groups.

PELSA (Physical Education Life-skills Award) is a nationally recognised qualification from the Youth Sports Trust and is officially recognised by the Leadership Skills Foundation, who are regulated by Ofqual.

Our students, providing they show evidence of the 24 main employability/life skill words across the year, will receive the accredited award at the end of Year 11.

## **RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education)**

- One lesson per week (with form tutor and one other teacher)
- Covers important topics such as; mental wellbeing and health, sex and relationships, managing money, careers and other life skills
- **There is NO GCSE for this course**

# Getting the Grade!

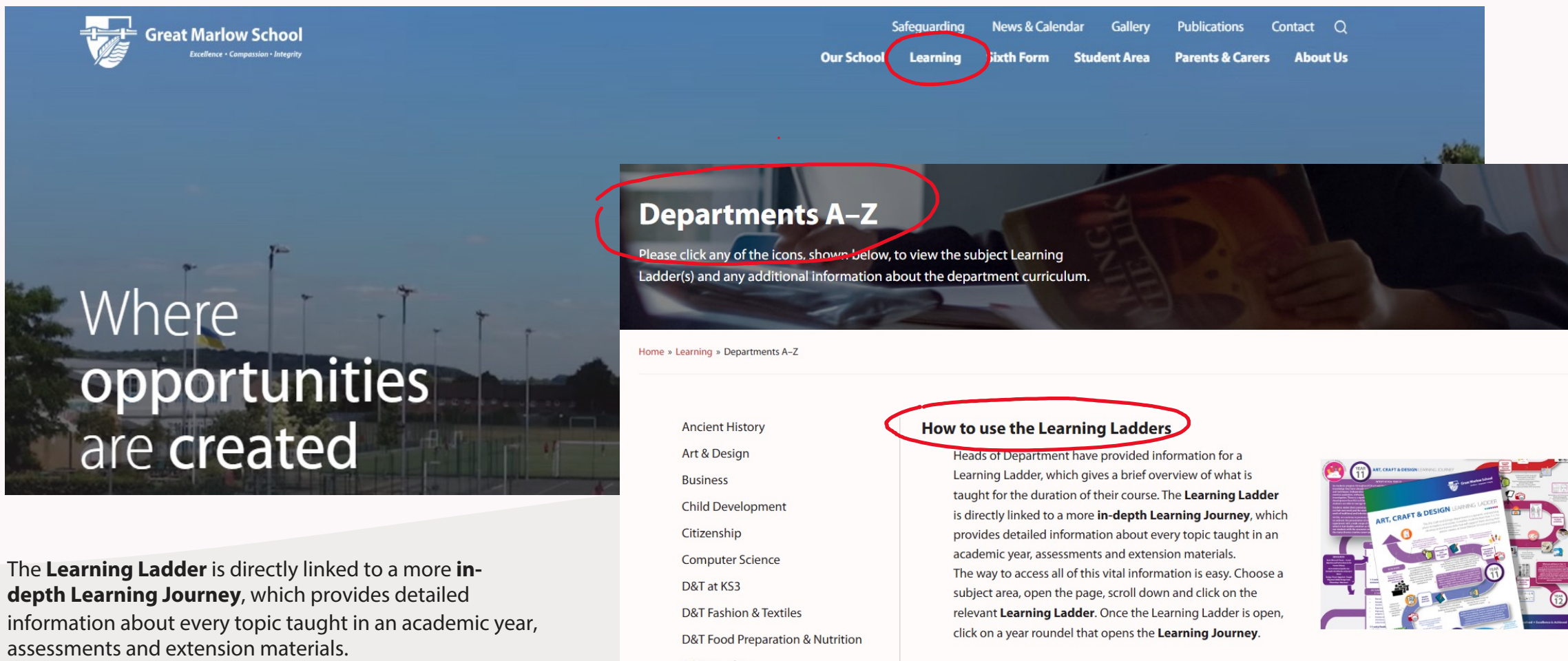
## How to help your child

- Keep a perspective on future options – a plan and a back-up plan.
- Communicate with the school.
- Organise a space at home for working and revising.
- Encourage students to relax, exercise and pursue hobbies.

For information about the different GCSE exam boards and courses there is an information booklet available on the website to access.

**GMS Homepage –  
Publications– GCSE Options  
Booklet**

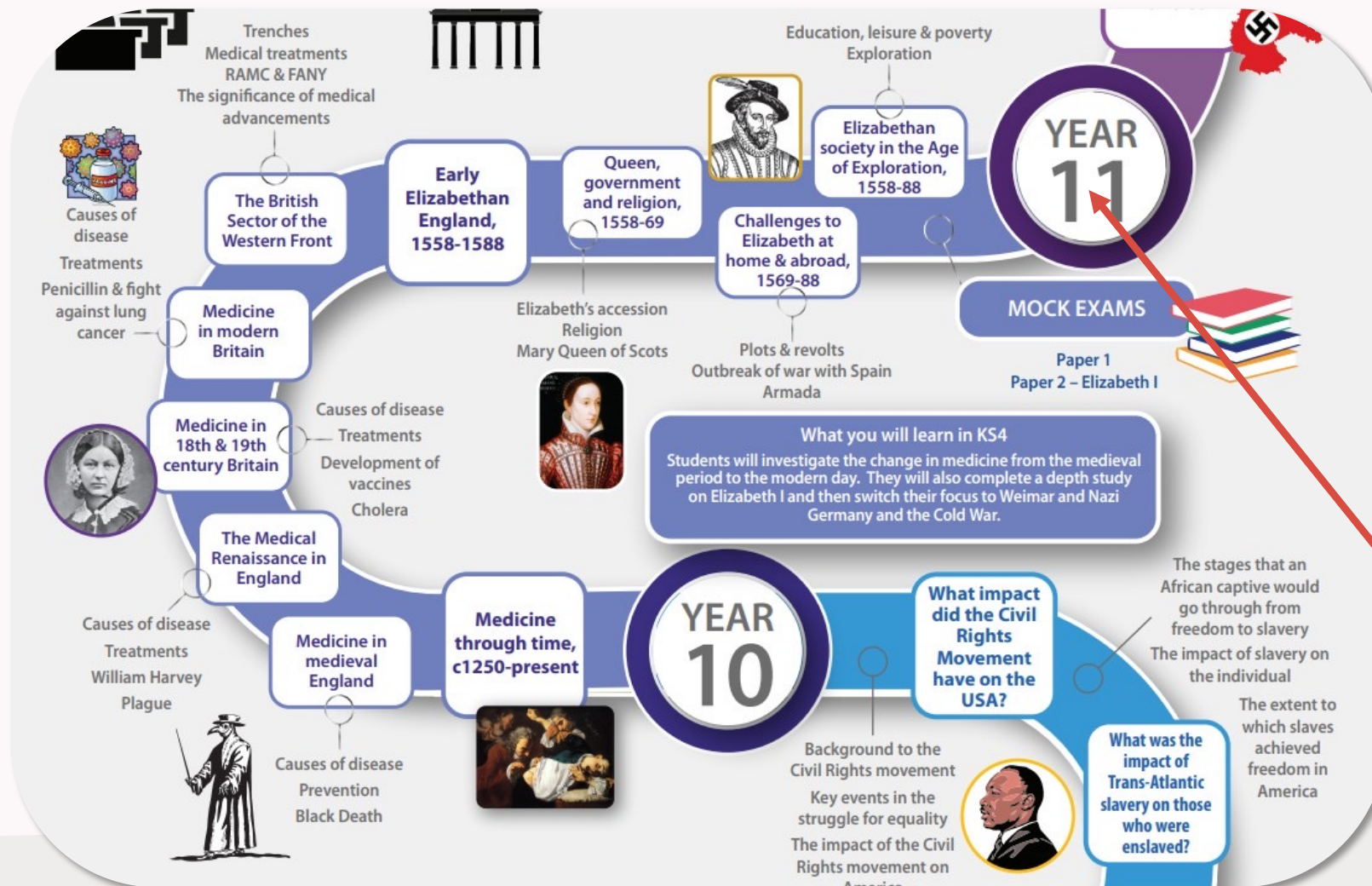
# Curriculum – Learning Ladders



The screenshot shows the Great Marlow School website. The navigation menu includes 'Our School', 'Learning', 'Sixth Form', 'Student Area', 'Parents & Carers', and 'About Us'. The 'Learning' menu item is circled in red. Below the navigation, a banner reads 'Where opportunities are created'. A section titled 'Departments A-Z' (circled in red) contains a list of subjects: Ancient History, Art & Design, Business, Child Development, Citizenship, Computer Science, D&T at KS3, D&T Fashion & Textiles, D&T Food Preparation & Nutrition, and D&T Graphics. A sub-section titled 'How to use the Learning Ladders' (circled in red) explains that Heads of Department provide information for Learning Ladders, which are linked to more in-depth Learning Journeys. To the right, there is an image of a 'Learning Ladder' for Art, Craft & Design, showing a year-round progression from Year 11 to Year 12.

The **Learning Ladder** is directly linked to a more **in-depth Learning Journey**, which provides detailed information about every topic taught in an academic year, assessments and extension materials.

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**Click on any year roundels to access the in-depth Learning Journey**

# Core Subjects Information

ENGLISH	MATHS	SCIENCE
<p>Mrs Burke is Acting Head of <b>English</b> (CBK) <a href="mailto:cburke@gms.bucks.sch.uk">cburke@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a></p>	<p>Mrs Guy is Head of <b>Maths</b> (MGU) <a href="mailto:mguy@gms.bucks.sch.uk">mguy@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a></p>	<p>Mrs Webster is Head of <b>Science</b> (JWE) <a href="mailto:jwebster@gms.bucks.sch.uk">jwebster@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a></p>
<p>1 top set in each House and 2 mixed/middle sets.</p> <p>No bottom set - this is the same as Year 10.</p> <p>The sets will be reviewed after every main assessment point so students will be able to move up or down during Year 11 should their assessment data support it.</p>	<p>Set 1 for Grades 9-7(higher paper). Set 1 students will be given the opportunity to do the Extended Maths certificate which is a bridge between GCSE and A-level.</p> <p>Set 2 for grades 6-5 (higher paper) Set 3 for grades 5-4</p> <p>Set 4 is for aspiring Grade 4. Students may be offered Functional skills alongside this.</p> <p>Sets are NOT FIXED, students can move up or down if there is data to support this.</p>	<p>Top set in each House, others are all mixed ability.</p> <p>All classes will have higher tier and foundation tier students. All classes are taught the same content, the top set in each House is also taught the additional separate science content, in case they are selected for the Separate Sciences exams in Y11.</p> <p>This selection does not happen until after Y11 mocks.</p>

**Some information for the core subjects will have changed from Year 9**

# Religious Studies



- Students will participate in 3 two-hour 'drop down' sessions
- The sessions will generate discussion, debate and problem-solving
- The aim is to support the wider vision and values of the school

## The drop-down sessions meet our statutory obligations by:

- Inspiring students to be compassionate contributors to a better society
- Demonstrating how 'My Personal Best' provides a focus on reflection, resilience and respect

# Homework



## Planners

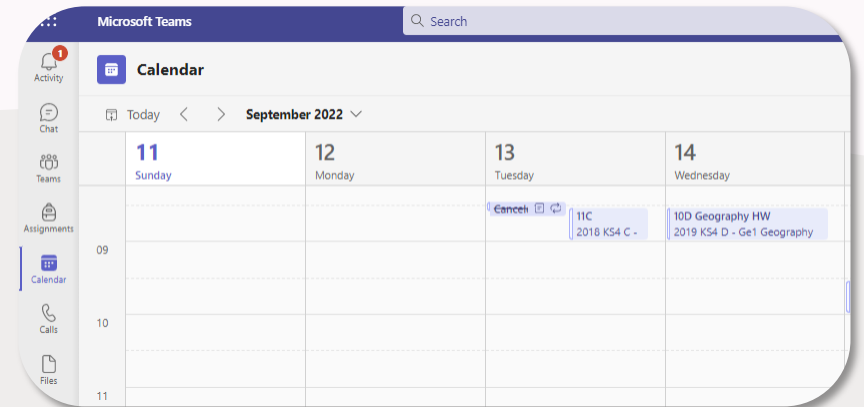
Students should record ALL homework and deadlines in their planners when it's set in a lesson.

## Microsoft Teams

Staff to post homework assignment details on MS Teams – calendar

## Parents/Carers

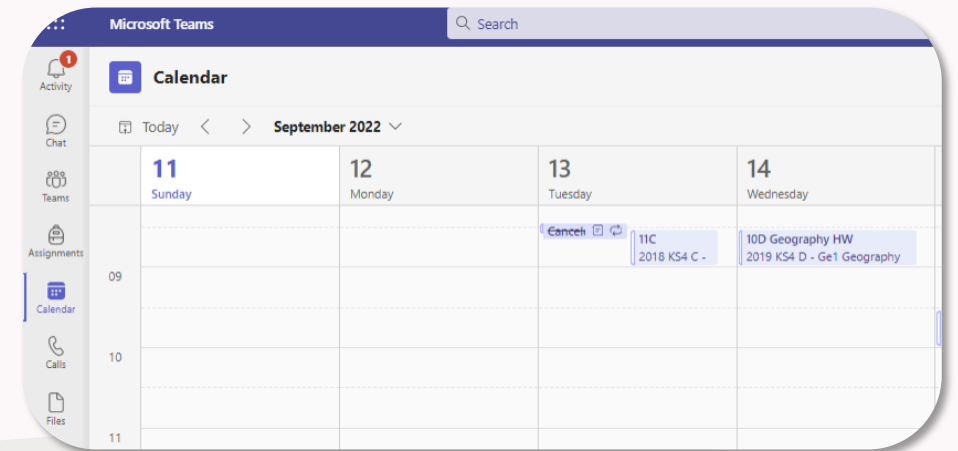
Please encourage the completion of homework to the best of the student's ability



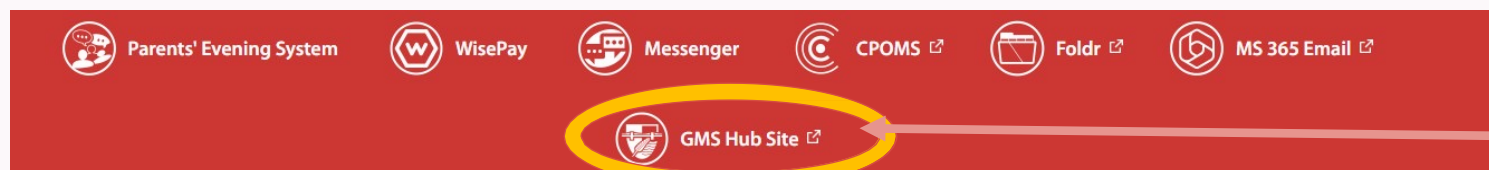
# Microsoft Teams



- is used for setting homework via assignments
- has a calendar function, which enables homework to be added to a student's Microsoft calendar; it gives a useful overview of when homework is due
- allows access to classwork resources, exam questions, tests and much more



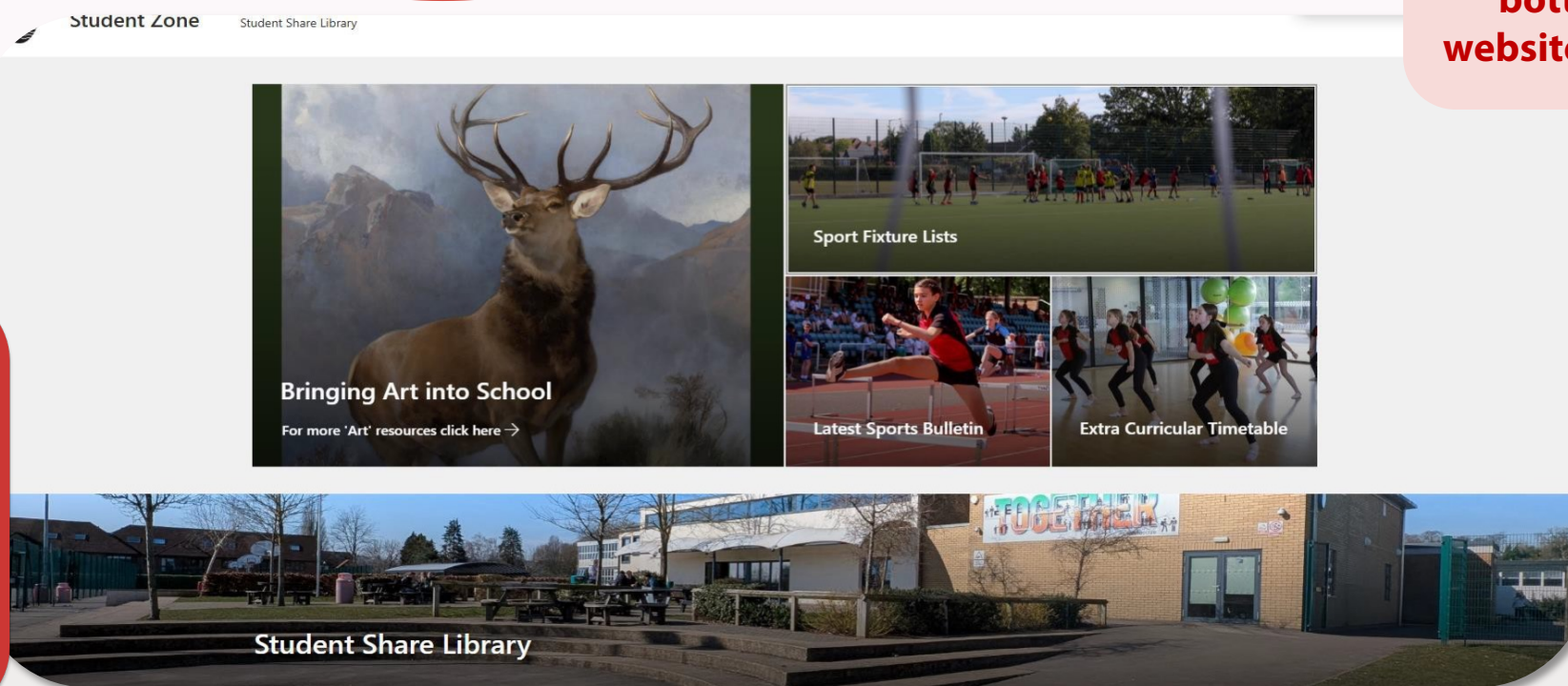
# GMS – Student Hub



To access the student hub site, scroll down to the bottom of our website home page.

Students put in their school email to access individual lesson content.

This is particularly useful for students who have missed lessons





# Support for Students

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# Form Tutors – First Point of Contact

<b>11K1</b>	Mr N Taylor	<a href="mailto:ntaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk">ntaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
<b>11K2</b>	Mr Horler	<a href="mailto:phorler@gms.bucks.sch.uk">phorler@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
<b>11K3</b>	Mrs Messenger Mrs Coates	<a href="mailto:nmessenger@gms.bucks.sch.uk">nmessenger@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:vcoates@gms.bucks.sch.uk">vcoates@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
<b>11H1</b>	Mr Jones	<a href="mailto:djones@gms.bucks.sch.uk">djones@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
<b>11H2</b>	Miss Porter	<a href="mailto:lporter@gms.bucks.sch.uk">lporter@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
<b>11H3</b>	Miss Goodenough	<a href="mailto:cgoodenough@gms.bucks.sch.uk">cgoodenough@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
<b>11E1</b>	Mrs Dale	<a href="mailto:hdale@gms.bucks.sch.uk">hdale@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a> <a href="#">dsi</a>
<b>11E2</b>	Mrs Clark Mrs Harvey	<a href="mailto:cclark@gms.bucks.sch.uk">cclark@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dh Harvey@gms.bucks.sch.uk">dharvey@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>
<b>11E3</b>	Mrs Singh Mr Ross	<a href="mailto:psingh@gms.bucks.sch.uk">psingh@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:sross@gms.bucks.sch.uk">sross@gms.bucks.sch.uk</a>

# Student Support



**Mrs V Todd**

Assistant Headteacher and  
SENCO



**Mrs A Gifford**

Pupil Premium Coordinator



**Mrs M Brunt**

Careers Office

**Mrs S Radnedge**  
Attendance Officer

## We will provide:

- a continual strong relationship with the cohort
- consistent support
- consistent communication with home

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# Key Staff Members



**Mr Maguire** – DSL and Deputy Head Teacher



**Mrs Paul** – Mental Health Support



**Mrs Todd** – SENCO and Assistant Head Teacher

# Our roles with you



## I Will...

reward students  
support students  
educate students  
monitor progress  
communicate openly  
respond as soon as able

## Form Tutors will...

be your first point of contact  
utilise form time  
celebrate successes  
support progress  
communicate effectively  
work closely with DoL and SSO

## You can...

monitor progress  
have open and honest  
conversations  
monitor and support with  
homework  
encourage good habits  
discuss student experiences

## My commitment to you:

- I am always open to hearing from you; you'll never be bothering me.
- I will strive to respond within 24 hours to a communication.
- I will always provide an outcome that has the interests of the student at the forefront of my mind, although it may not be the outcome you wanted.





# Year 11 Tutor Time

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# Form Time Timetable

## Monday

Planners  
Equipment  
UNIFROG



## Tuesday

Reading



## Wednesday

Wellbeing  
Wednesday



## Thursday

Thought for the  
Week



## Friday

Assembly



# GMS – Reading Project

- The reading project is all about exposure to a range of authors, genres and language
- A growing number of academic studies show that promoting reading can have a major impact on children and adults and their future
- A reminder that these are not the GCSE exam texts



# Uniform & Equipment



*Students are expected to take responsibility for wearing the correct uniform and ensuring that they have the essential equipment with them, at all times.*

**Hair** – No extreme styles or unnatural looking colours

**Nails** – Nude colours only, no false/acrylic nails

**Jewellery** – One simple ring, a single stud in each ear (each removed for PE)

**Skirts** – Not rolled at the waistband, logo clearly displayed

**Shoes** – Smart and black, not trainers or trainer-style

**Sports equipment** – Keep in a bag, only used in designated areas at specified times.

**Trousers** – Not jeans

**Jumpers** – Black V neck jumper, no branded sweatshirts or hoodies. The Jumper is an additional layer – blazer must be worn

**Blazers** – To be worn every day, COATS must be worn over the top if required

**Tie** – To be worn every day

## **Essentials**

- Planner**
- Pencil**
- Pen x2**
- Ruler**
- Glue stick**
- Calculator**



“A note from home is required should a student be unable to wear the correct uniform – consideration of the request will be considered by the tutor/DoL.”



# Attendance & Legislation

## Attendance - Information for Parents/Carers

- Holiday-related absences may result in a Penalty Notice should 10 sessions be missed in any 10 week block.
- GMS recognises that Penalty Notices may be unpopular with families, but it is important to inform you of the current position.
- Nationally, Headteachers are:
  - not permitted to approve term-time holidays except in genuinely exceptional circumstances
  - required to consider each leave of absence application on an individual basis before a final decision is made

# Attendance



*In the first week of September, students in Year 7 had the lowest rates of absence, missing an average of 2.9% of sessions.*

*Students in Years 1-11 were between five and six times more likely to miss at least 20% of sessions if they were absent at the start of the year than if they weren't.*

*Students in Year 11 had the highest, missing an average of 7.2% of sessions.*

*For Year 7–11 students, those absent in the first days are 2–3 times more likely to miss 10%+ of sessions across the year, and up to 17 times more likely to miss half of all sessions.*

# Prefects



Year 11 prefects are important ambassadors for the school and act as role models.

## **Responsibilities:**

- Two duties per week
- Transition day support
- Open evening support
- Demonstrate My Personal Best values

# Changes to Toilet Use



KS4 Students (Years 10–11) will not be permitted to leave lessons to use the toilet, except in cases of genuine emergency.

Any student with a recognised medical condition or specific toilet needs will, of course, be exempt from these restrictions.

*We have made these changes to minimise disruption to student learning and to help maintain a calm and focused classroom environment, while still ensuring the wellbeing of our students.*

If you have a medical need that requires special consideration, please contact Mr Taylor or Miss Hyde so we can ensure appropriate arrangements are in place.



# Important Dates

# School Calendar



You will find the school calendar on our website.

This will show you when progress grades are issued.

Set changes may result from assessments and the subsequent progress grades.

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Y13 Geography Residential: Cra...				Staff Fit Friday 3:45-4:45 pm		
Week 1						
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm New Staff Meeting: Data  6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Y9 Parent / Carer Information Evening followed by Rowing Information Evening	8:00 am - 10:00 am Governor Monitoring Visit: Exam Results  8:45 am - 5:00 pm Y10 Art Trip: Tate Modern / Borough Market  3:15 pm - 4:15 pm Teaching & Learning Meeting  6:30 pm - 8:00 pm FoGMS AGM and Committee Meeting: T4	6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Y8 Parent / Carer Information Evening followed by Rowing Information Evening	12:30 pm - 3:00 pm SCHOOL CLOSES  1:15 pm - 3:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting  5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Y6 Open Evening: book through website from September			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Week 2						
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm New Staff Meeting: Safeguarding / Teams  5:00 pm - 7:00 pm GMS Local Governing Board	3:15 pm - 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	9:15 am - 10:30 am Y6 Open Morning: book through website from September  3:15 pm - 4:15 pm Learning Development Group Meeting	School photos: Y7, Y9, Y10 & Y12 8:30 am - 3:00 pm DfE Surveyors on site: CDC2  9:00 am - 3:00 pm School photos: Y7, Y9, Y11 & Y13	8:30 am - 3:00 pm DfE Surveyors on site: CDC2  9:00 am - 11:00 am Y10 RS Curriculum Session: Religion, families, education and freedom of speech / thought  9:15 am - 10:30 am Y6 Open Morning: book through website from September		

# Key Dates for Year 11



- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Y11 Information Evening
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September – School Photos
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Y11 Progress Reviews Issued
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Y11 Parents/Carers Evening
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Y11 RS Drop Down Day
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Y11 Mock Exams
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Y11 Progress Reviews Issued
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Y11 Parents/Carers Evening
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Y11 RS Drop Down Day
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Y11 Leavers Morning (241 days until then – **138 school days**)
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – GCSE Exams Begin
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Y11 Study Leave Starts
- **Y11 Prom (tbc)**

# Key Dates for Year 11



## Year 11 Exam Information Evening Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

### The aim:

- To inform of exam dates and expectations.
- To receive key information from HODs of Core subjects
- To provide revision resource information and techniques

# Progress Reports



**Target grades** – aspirational



**Predicted grade** - If the student continues to work at the level they are working now, this is the grade we believe they will get in their GCSE exams.



**Mock exams** - The mock exams scores are used internally to guide predicted grades alongside professional judgement of the teacher and planned interventions.

# Year 11 Prom



**tbc 25/5/26**

- Attending the Prom is a privilege
- To warrant an invitation, students must show they uphold the values of GMS.
- The opportunity to attend could be removed with misbehaviour.

# Friends of Great Marlow School



We are very lucky to have the support of FoGMS as they raise funds to support the wider school community.

**FoGMS AGM is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm.**

**Information will be communicated with opportunity to sign up and attend.**



# Access Arrangements

# Access Arrangements



*“The purpose of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage due to persistent and significant difficulties. The integrity of the assessment is maintained, whilst at the same time providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate”. (AARA Section B)*

# Access Arrangements



There are a number of access arrangements that support students with a wide range of needs such as:

- Cognition and learning needs, specific learning needs – dyslexia, processing difficulties
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder, speech, language and communication needs
- Sensory and physical needs – vision impairment, physical disability, hearing impairment

**A diagnosis does not lead directly to an access arrangement**

# Access Arrangements



"Access arrangements / reasonable adjustments should be processed at the **start of the course**...should be able to process applications at the start of or during the first year of a two-year GCSE course having firmly established a picture of need and normal way of working during Years 7 to 9." (AARA 4.2.4)

*"A **centre must make decisions on appropriate access arrangements for their candidates. Although professionals from other organisations may give advice, they cannot make the decision for the centre**". (AARA 4.2.1*

# Access Arrangements



Core evidence is from teachers, without this, AA cannot be pursued

*“...detail the candidate’s current difficulties to show how they impact on teaching and learning and performance in examinations, summarising evidence of feedback from teachers and/or support staff”. (AARA5.4)*

Module Year 11 assessments / exams can be used to identify the potential for needing an access arrangement.

- Year 10 mock exams are a vital part of the information gathering.
- The deadline for raising an issue with the school is **December 2026**



# Safeguarding & Wellbeing

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing - Key Staff Members



**Neil Maguire**

Deputy Headteacher

Designated  
Safeguarding Lead  
(DSL)



**Karen Craig**

Assistant Headteacher

Deputy DSL



**Anna Gifford**

Safeguarding Officer  
(Designated Looked  
After)



**Guy Pendlebury**

Headteacher

Safeguarding



**Sheryl Paul**

Safeguarding Officer

(Mental Health Lead)

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing



## Safeguarding involves:

- ensuring the safety, wellbeing and success of every student
- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up in safe and effective care
- taking action to ensure all children have the opportunity to access the best outcomes

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing



## Our Commitment at Great Marlow School

### GMS believes:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- in an open culture, where concerns can be raised
- in students being supported to make safe choices
- in collaborating with parents and carers
- in promoting continuous improvement and training

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing



## Inappropriate Behaviour

- Homophobic, misogynistic, racist, sexist or transphobic language will not be tolerated at Great Marlow and is not considered as banter. It needs to be called out and addressed.
- Pulling down trousers (in the same way as upskirting or flicking bra straps) is classed as sexual misconduct and is likely to result in a suspension from school, it is not just a joke.



# Safeguarding & Wellbeing



## Sleep

- The developing brain of a teenager needs between 8 and 10 hours of sleep every night. The effects of chronic (ongoing) sleep deprivation may include:
  - concentration difficulties
  - mentally 'drifting off' in class
  - irritability
  - an impact on mental health and physical health
- Routines and habits are crucial for term time
- Reduce screen time before bed – at least a 30 minute gap

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing



## Social Media and Online



Online Safety – [nationalonlinesafety.co.uk](https://nationalonlinesafety.co.uk) offers free resource for parents/carers

- As parents be curious – follow the 4Cs as a starting point: content, contact, conduct and commerce (online posts, online unknown people, online influencers and online businesses (gambling, phishing))
- Respect the age limits, they are in place for a reason
- Remember 'Less is More' – less time online is healthier
- Screen time should be reduced before sleep routine
- Disinformation and misinformation are forms of fake news and should not be believed

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing



## Mental Health - Bucks Mental Health Partnership

To help support the Mental Health of our young people, Great Marlow continues to work with the Bucks Mental Health Support Team (MHST).

### Online Workshops

- Promote positive behaviours
- Discuss anxiety
- Discuss low mood
- Discuss self-harm

Details of how to sign up for the online Parent Sessions delivered by MHST will follow in a separate correspondence from Mrs Paul.

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing



## Vaping

In 2025 20% of children aged 11-17 had tried vaping, this is up from 15.8% in 2022 and 13.9% in 2020.

Vaping – can contain harmful and potentially harmful substances, including:

- Nicotine
- Flavourings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease
- Volatile compounds
- Cancer-causing chemicals
- Heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead
- SPICE – 1 in 5 illegal vapes contain other substances other than advertised

# Thank you for listening

This PowerPoint will be available to view on the website under  
Parent & Carers >>Information Evenings

## One last thing...

Please scan the QR code (at the front of the hall)  
MS Form with the option to send us any questions you may have.