

Year 11 Handbook 2025 - 2026

'Going beyond our best through KAPP'



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Welcome from Samuel Atkins

I am delighted to introduce myself as the Head of Year 11. Year 11 represents not just the culmination of your child's secondary school journey, but also the gateway to the opportunities that lie ahead. It is an honour to guide and support them through this defining chapter, and I look forward to celebrating their hard work, growth, and success along the way.

My role will be to oversee the academic progress of all Year 11 students, working closely with staff and senior leaders to ensure this forthcoming year is structured in a way that supports every student to succeed. I will be regularly monitoring their progress and will be in touch with you throughout the year with key updates, including exam dates, support evenings, and important guidance on how to help your child thrive in their GCSE studies.

Alongside students continuing to receive the daily care and guidance of their House Leader and form tutor, I will also be meeting regularly with the year group in dedicated assemblies throughout the year. These moments together will be an opportunity to inspire, guide, and remind students of the incredible potential they each hold. We will set clear expectations, provide the support they need, and encourage them to strive for the very best. With the right mindset and our collective support, every student has the ability to rise to the challenge and achieve true excellence.

Year 11 marks the final stretch of your child's secondary school journey — a year filled with opportunities to show just how much they have grown. Our dedicated staff who have guided your child since their arrival at DHS will continue to be by their side, supporting them all the way through to their final exams. This consistency gives your child the chance to build on the relationships and foundations already created, and to take them to the next level. With our support, now is the time for your child to start the year strong, to show commitment, and to give their very best. These efforts will shape not only exam results, but also the pride and confidence they will carry into the future.

As your child begins Year 11, the expectations around independent study naturally increase, as this is such an important year in their journey. Students can expect around one hour of homework per subject each week, which is designed to deepen understanding and grow confidence when it comes to exam performance. We know this is a big commitment, but it's also a valuable opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning and build the habits that will set them up for success beyond school. If homework isn't completed, there will be a one-hour detention — not as a punishment, but as a way of ensuring your child is given the time and space to catch up and stay on track.

This handbook has been created to provide support for both you and your child. This guide includes key information and advice for navigating the year ahead.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our first Year 11 event of the year — the Careers Evening on Thursday 25th September. By working together, we can make this a successful and positive year for every student.

Kind regards,
Mr Samuel Atkins

Associate Senior Leader
Head of Year 11 and Head of Geography

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Durrington High School

Tracking your child's academic progress

We have three key tracking points (TP) throughout year 11:

- TP4. Results sent home 21st October.
- TP5. Results sent home 20th January.
- TP6. Results sent home 22nd April.

As was the expectation throughout Year 10, between these TP's your child will be expected to revise key topics and practice exam strategies at home as well as in school. Teachers will be setting homework and revision on Arbor. A list of revision materials and resources for all subject areas can be seen below and on our school website.

In the weeks prior to the tracking point dates above, your child will sit a series of examinations across all subjects. Tracking points provide the class teacher with key information regarding where your child is currently working, this information will be shared with you and your child. The information from tracking points is also used to amend curriculums to ensure they are designed to give your child the best possible chance to achieve excellent outcomes at the end of their GCSE journey.

Tracking point reports communicate the students current GCSE grade and projected GCSE grade. The grades are numbered from 1-9, for those of you new to the 1-9 system I have included a useful comparison table below:

New Grading Structure	Old Grading Structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Year. 11 Key dates

Date	Event	Information/Notes
Thursday 25th September	Careers evening	This event will deliver key information for your child as they start to plan the next steps on their education journey.
Monday 29th September	Period 0/7 begins	Timetable included within this booklet. These evidence informed focussed sessions provide an invaluable opportunity for your child to revise the key content for exams with their subject expert teachers. Please encourage your child to attend as many sessions as they can!
Thursday 16th October	Celebration evening	Invitations to follow
Tuesday 21st October	TP4 exam results sent home	
Thursday 23rd October	Mock exam (TP5) support evening	Sign up in advance now https://forms.gle/K2jfhEwdZiwaN98y6
Tuesday 11th November	TP5 exams begin	
Friday 14th November	TP5 exam assembly	
Friday 12th December	TP5 exams end	
Tuesday 20th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TP5 exam results sent home TP5 exams assembly - results Year 11 photo 	
Thursday 29th January	Year 11 Consultation Evening	A vital date in our calendar - an opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers in person to discuss progress and next steps.
Tuesday 24th February	Maths Paper 2 mock exam	
Monday 9th March	English & Maths mock exams	
Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th March	Science mock exams	
Tuesday 24th March	GCSE support evening	As the final GCSE exams approach, this event will ensure you and your child have all of the most important information in order to secure success. An evening not to miss!
Wednesday 22nd April	TP6 exam results sent home	

Wednesday 7th May	GCSE exams begin	
Thursday 25th June	Leavers assembly & Summer Ball	
Friday 26th June	Official final date of GCSE exams	
Thursday 9th July	Pride of DHS awards	A landmark event in our calendar where we celebrate the very best of our DHS students. Invitations to follow nearer the time.
Thursday 20th August	GCSE results day	

How can you make sure you are in the best position to support your child?

Year 11 Mock Exam Support Evening - Thursday 23rd October

The structure of GCSEs continues to evolve, making the **Mock Exam Support Evening** a valuable opportunity to gain insight into what lies ahead and how to best support your child in performing really well in the TP5 exams (these will provide the traditional 'mock' results that inform important decisions about next steps such as aspirational college destinations and courses of study).

As with the Year 10 TP3 summer exams, the Year 11 TP5 exams will endeavour to mimic the actual GCSE exam experience in that they will not be sat in classrooms but in the examination hall. This provides more valuable real-world exam experience for students in regard to how they are expected to behave and approach each paper they sit.

We will be holding a **Mock Exam Support Evening** on **Thursday 23rd October**, starting at **5:30pm** in the **Performing Arts Centre**. During the evening, we will guide you through the examination process, the support available in school, and how parents and carers can help students at home.

Much of the session will focus on **practical strategies** to support effective revision and build positive study habits. As teenagers are not always the most forthcoming with information - but still want you to understand what they're going through - this evening will help bridge that gap. Students are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend alongside you.

Please note: this evening is not intended for discussions about individual student progress.

To reserve a place at this event please use the link below:

<https://forms.gle/K2jfhEwdZiwaN98y6>

Revision resources to purchase

Subject	Resource	Cost	Where to buy from
Maths <i>AQA</i>	GCSE Maths Revision Guide and Workbook	£8.00	Arbor
	Further Maths GCSE Revision Guide and Workbook	£9.00	
English <i>Eduqas</i>	English Literature revision guides CGP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Inspector calls • A Christmas Carol • Macbeth • Poetry Anthology You can also purchase a copy of Macbeth	£12.00 all	Arbor
Science <i>AQA</i>	Combined Science revision guide: Revision Guide Higher Tier Revision Guide Foundation Tier Triple Science revision guides: Biology: CGP Revision Guide Chemistry: CGP Revision Guide Physics: CGP Revision Guide	£6.25 £3.25 each £9.75 all three	Arbor
	Combined Science workbook: Exam Practice Workbook Higher Exam Practice Workbook Foundation Triple Science workbook: Biology Exam Practice Workbook Chemistry Exam Practice Workbook Physics Exam Practice Workbook	£7.00 £4.25 each £12.75 (all three)	
History <i>Edexcel</i>	Pearson Edexcel revision guides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History- Crime and punishment • History- Superpower relations and the cold war • History- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England • History- Weimar and Nazi Germany 	£12.20 total	Arbor
Geography <i>AQA</i>	PG Online Clear Revise AQA Geography 8035	£4.80	Arbor Collect from Mr Atkins
French and Spanish <i>Edexcel</i>	Pearson Edexcel revision guides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Revision Guide • French Workbook • Spanish Revision Guide • Spanish Workbook 	£4 each	Arbor
Physical Education <i>AQA</i>	Pearson AQA GCSE PE Revision guides	£5.99	Arbor Collect from Mr Pickford

Business <i>Edexcel</i>	Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business revision guide Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business workbook	£5.99 £5.99	Arbor Amazon
Computer Science <i>Edexcel</i>	Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) revision guide CPG python for GCSE Computer Science	£5.99 £4.00	Arbor
BTEC I.T <i>Edexcel</i>	Pearson Edexcel BTEC DIT revision guide	£4.00	Arbor
Citizenship <i>Edexcel</i>	Pearson Edexcel GCSE Citizenship (1-9) Revision guide and Workbook	£5.05	Arbor
Music and Drama	Music: resources supplied by the department Drama: resources provided by department	No charge	Mrs Isham
DT <i>AQA</i>	Clear revise AQA GCSE Design and Technology 8552	£8.00	<u>Amazon</u>

To purchase independently and extra resources

Subject exam board Google Drive link	Resource
Maths AQA Maths google drive	<p>Useful websites that are free to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SparxMaths.uk: Log in and use the “independent learning” option to revise topics you are weak at. Alternatively, use the “target” and “xp boost” sections once per week to practise skills recently visited in class. ● MethodMaths.com: Online past GCSE papers that mark answers as you go! They also give help for some questions in the form of hints. The centre ID is “durring”, and each student can get their username and password from their maths teacher. ● MathsGenie.co.uk: Focus on specific grades or topics. Includes help videos, exam questions and worked solutions. ● CorbettMaths.com: Videos, worksheets and practice papers. The 5-a-day section is particularly useful. ● MMERevise.co.uk: Click Revise > GCSE Maths. Under the AQA section there are lots of exam resources including past papers with model solutions.
English English google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poetry anthology videos
Science AQA Science google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arbor: Resources including practice questions, PowerPoints and knowledge organisers are available centrally from your class teacher. ● Practice Question Booklets: Handed to you individually after the October Half-Term, with an individual book for each exam paper and each subject. These are for both Triple and Trilogy science students. ● YouTube: GCSE Science content broken down into bitesize 2-5 minute videos. These work for both Triple and Trilogy students. ● Dr Kyle Explains on YouTube/TikTok: Dr Kyle has made short videos that focus on key areas of content and exam skills to help you have the best chances of success in your exams.
History Edexcel History google drive	<p>BBC Bitesize have fantastic revision resources available for some topics- including podcasts, videos and quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowledge organisers & Revision topic list (Google classroom) ● past papers.
Geography AQA Geography google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As the case studies studied in geography do not always match the revision guides available, the geography department advocate using their YouTube channel. This channel will also have a series of video lessons that cover the most challenging concepts students encounter in GCSE Geography which they can watch in their own time when revising.
French Edexcel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revision flashcards on: www.quizlet.co.uk ● BBC Bitesize resources for Edexcel GCSE French:

French google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past papers on Edexcel website
Spanish <i>Edexcel</i> Spanish google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision flashcards on: www.quizlet.co.uk BBC Bitesize resources for Edexcel GCSE Spanish: Past papers on Edexcel website
Design & Technology AQA DT google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge organisers & Revision topic list (Arbor & Google classroom) Student class workbooks BBC bitesize revision website:
PE AQA PE google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YouTube - Everlearner AQA PE - Paper 1 Everlearner AQA PE - Paper 2 Bitesize GCSE PE resources - Revision RAG checklists (handed out by staff)
BTEC D.I.T <i>Edexcel</i> DIT google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past papers DIT (they have an official exam every January and June) YouTube channel for revision Revision topic list (handed out by teacher, on Google classroom & Arbor)
Business <i>Edexcel</i> Business google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student class workbooks Revision topic list (handed out by teacher, on Google classroom & Arbor) Past Papers and sample case studies on google classroom Website : BBC bitesize YouTube: @TwoTeachers
Computer Science <i>Edexcel</i> Computing google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All student exercise books are digital and on Google classroom Revision topic list (handed out by teacher, on Google classroom & Arbor) Computer science, past papers Bitesize revision website Issac computer science website python help videos YouTube: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> @crashcourse @craigndave
Drama GCSE Drama google drive	<p>The National Theatre has lots of videos on youtube - it would be great to watch as much live theatre as possible (or streamed on youtube) National Theatre - YouTube</p> <p>There are also lots of helpful videos to watch on bbc bitesize Watch the videos and complete the mini tests at the end.</p>
Music Music google drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBC bitesize revision: bbc bitesize a further revision folder Mrs D THIT

How to revise effectively

Effective revision is crucial to your chances of success in your GCSE exams. It is important that you have revised sufficiently and in the correct way to make sure you are prepared for your exams.

Strategies such as re-reading your notes or highlighting large parts of the revision guide may feel like you are doing revision, but in the long run will have little to no impact on your ability to remember the information. The Learning Scientists (a group of cognitive scientists), have recommended six effective revision strategies, here are the three most important:

Spaced Practice	Create a study schedule that chunks up your study and ensures you look at each subject little and often - for example do 20 or 30 minutes on each subject every few days rather than 2 or 3 hours on a subject once a month.
Retrieval Practice	Test yourself from memory before looking at any notes or revision guides. Blanked out knowledge organisers work well for this as well as flashcards (tips on how to use both of these via the videos below).
Elaboration	Make connections between the different ideas you are learning in class and explain ideas in as much detail as you can. You can use flashcards for this by adding two extra bits of knowledge to each correct answer.

The School has a **YouTube** channel that has videos explaining different ways that students can revise most effectively and also how parents/carers can support this process. The links to these videos are below:

- Using [knowledge organisers](#) to support revision
- Using [flashcards](#) to revise effectively
- How to use [retrieval practice](#) to support revision

Period 0 & 7 timetable (from Monday 29th September)

Day	Period 0 8-8:30am	Period 7 3:15-4:15pm
Monday	Subject: Biology (Week A only) Staff: Mr Finch Room: L1	Week A • Computer Science
	Subject: Biology for all (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Wardell Room: G16S	Week B • Geography • PE • French/Spanish • Citizenship • Drama
	Subject: Chemistry for all (Week A + B) Staff: Dr Kyle Room: L3	
Tuesday	Subject: Geog (Week A only) Staff: Miss Townsend (Paper 1) & Mrs Steele & Mr Richards Room: F36H & F29H & F28H	Week A • Maths
	Subject: DT Theory (Week A only) Staff: Miss Gerlings Room: G07T	Week B • Maths
	Subject: Physics (Trilogy) (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Finch Room: L1	
	Subject: Biology for all (Week A only) Staff: Mr Wardell Room: G16S Week B	
	Subject: DT -NEA (coursework) (Week B only) Staff: Miss Wade Room: G08T	
Wednesday	Subject: Science (Week A + B) Staff: Mrs Chan Room: G12s	Week A • Science
	Subject: DT -NEA (coursework) (Week B only) Staff: Miss Gerlings Room: G07T	Week B • DT • History • Business • Music
Thursday	Subject: Textiles (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Bloomer Room: F03T	Week A • English
	Subject: PE (Week A + B) Staff: Mr Pickford Room: G19	Week B • English
Friday	Subject: Chemistry for all (Week A + B) Staff: Mrs Temple Room: G02	Week A • Art • Graphics • Photography • Textiles • Dance
	Subject: Chemistry for all (Week A + B) Staff: Dr Kyle Room: L3	Week B • Science

Accessing careers support

Please encourage your child to visit our careers library during break time and after school to ask questions or explore resources. Good questions to start with include:

“How could I progress further in science?”

“What do I need to do to become a hair stylist or a set designer?”

“What should I do if I have no idea what I want to do in the future?”

Students have access to Xello, our online careers platform, which we encourage parents and carers to explore alongside their child. If you would like advice or wish to arrange a more in-depth discussion, you can contact our Careers Leader, Mr Henry, at any time by emailing careers@durring.com

Useful Resources

- [Xello](#) – Our school careers platform. Log in with your child’s school account to explore over 800 career profiles, plan pathways, and build CVs.
- [Get career confident](#) – Our main school careers partner. Their website includes videos, guides, and inspiration for a wide range of career options.
- [National careers service](#) – The government’s careers advice site.
- [Find an apprenticeship](#) – The official government site listing apprenticeship opportunities. It’s a great place to explore this pathway and discover which local employers may be able to offer placements in Year 11.

Year 11 tutor list

Staff code	Email
11BMa	bmaughan@durring.com
11SBI	sbloomer@durring.com
11SBu	sbuitenhuis@durring.com
11TPi	tpickford4@durring.com
11DSc	dscott@durring.com
11ACr	across@durring.com
11IBa	ibaquedano@durring.com
11EMe	emelluish@durring.com
11ACa	acann1@durring.com
11AGr	agrimes@durring.com
11NLo/EWa	nlockford@durring.com ewade3@durring.com
11HKi	hkingwell@durring.com
11RGa	rgaskell@durring.com