



GRAVENEY SCHOOL

Year 10 Parent - Tutor Evening

September 2026



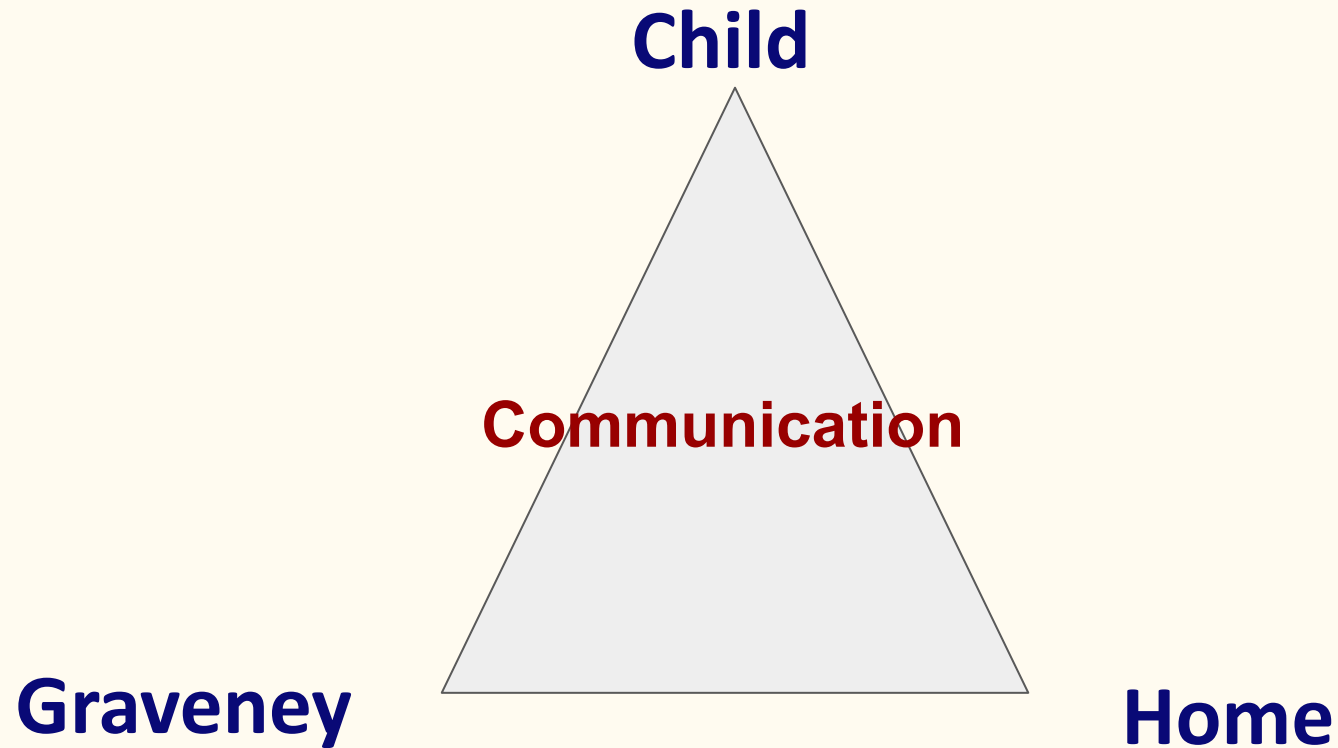
Mrs S Wickliffe
Head of Upper School

Welcome



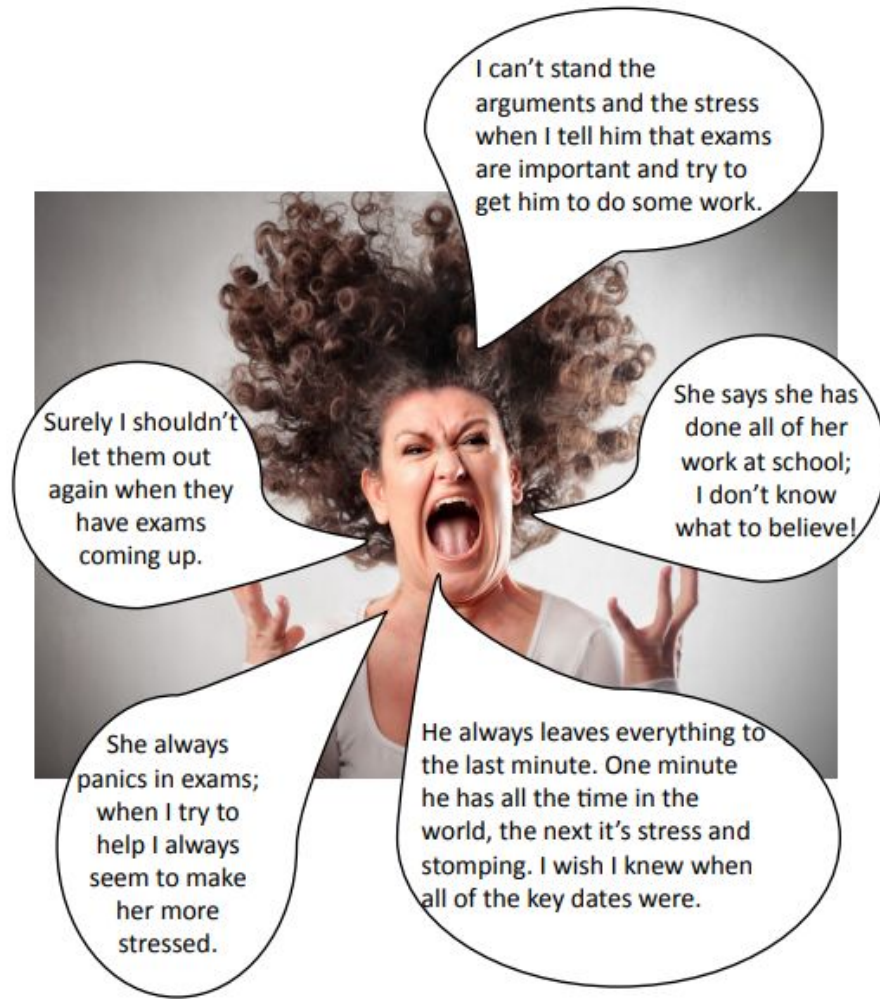
Today, you will hear about:

1. KS4 - the GCSE years
2. English at KS4
3. Maths at KS4
4. The importance of work experience





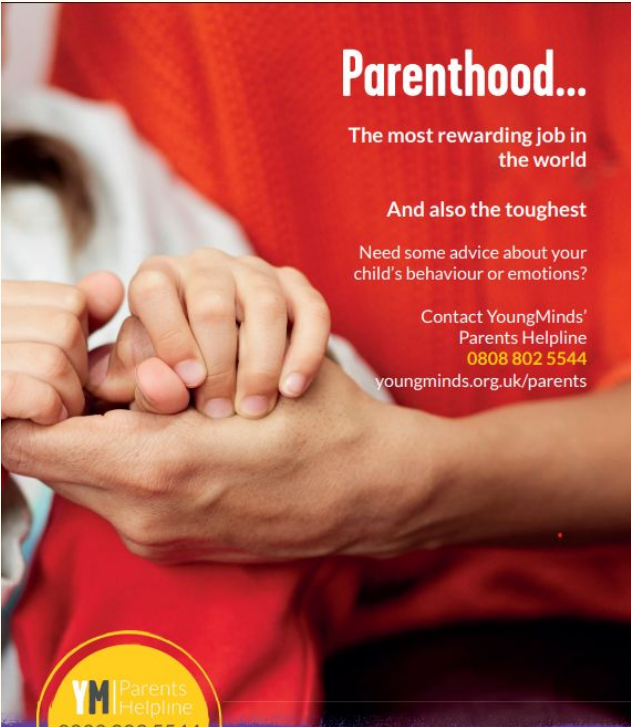
As children get
older, they
want you less
but need you
more!





How can you make a difference?

- Find out how your child is doing
- Attendance and punctuality
- Make time to talk to your child
- Encourage your child to work independently
- Help your child find a balance
- Seek help early
- Stay calm!



Parenthood...

The most rewarding job in
the world

And also the toughest

Need some advice about your
child's behaviour or emotions?

Contact YoungMinds'
Parents Helpline
0808 802 5544
youngminds.org.uk/parents

YM Parents
Helpline
0808 802 5544
youngminds.org.uk
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm

YOUNGMINDS



Ms Thwaites - Head of English

English Language and Literature GCSE



- Over the next two years, all Year 10 students will be studying for the **AQA** English Literature and English Language GCSE.
- They will sit two separate qualifications and be independently awarded two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature.
- **There is no tiered entry and all students sit the same exam papers. This means that there is no limit to the grade any student can achieve in the exams for both GCSEs.**



GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 50% of GCSE Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	Reading and responding to a fiction text	Writing to describe/ narrate
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 50% of GCSE Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	Reading and responding to non-fiction texts	Writing to persuade/ argue
Spoken Language (speaking and listening) Assessment Students will receive a separate award for this assessment: Pass/Merit/Distinction	Students will give a presentation on a topic of their choice	



GCSE English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel 40% of GCSE Exam: 1 hour, 45 minutes.	Shakespeare <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> OR <i>Macbeth</i>	19th Century Novel <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> <i>by Robert Louis Stevenson</i>	
Paper 2 : Modern Texts and Poetry 60% of GCSE Exam: 2 hours, 15 minutes	Modern Prose or Drama <i>An Inspector Calls</i> <i>by JB Priestley</i> OR <i>Leave Taking</i> by <i>Winsome Pinnock</i>	Poetry Anthology Power and Conflict poetry An anthology of 15 poems	Unseen Poetry



Key Information

- Students will sit assessments in exam conditions in April and July of Year 10, and in December and March in Year 11. They will also complete regular assessments in class.
- The qualifications are 100% exam and these are taken at the end of Year 11.
- Students will be graded using numbers 9-1; the number 9 is highest possible grade.
- Both exams for GCSE English Literature are closed book which means students can't take copies of the texts into the exams, so they will have to learn a range of quotations.



- Ensure your child is completing all homework set to a high standard and keeping their English folder or book in order.
- Please make sure your child looks after their Literature texts as these will need to be returned at the end of Year 11.
- Purchase and encourage your child to use the CGP revision guides and workbooks for all areas of the GCSE English Language and English Literature exams.
- Encourage your child to be careful about relying on guidance from the internet and social media influencers, particularly in relation to pre-prepared answers and obscure terminology.
- Support your child with using AI responsibly - do encourage use of it to create quick revision quizzes but it should not be used in place of thinking or to write answers.
- Please look out for our end of term KS4 English bulletins in which we celebrate students' work, reflect on the term and update you about the term ahead.



The Importance of Reading

Reading regularly at home has a huge impact on performance at school as well as giving students a break from screen time.

- Let them see you reading and talking about books.
- Share an online newspaper article with them and have a chat about it- all newspapers are online and free!
- Encourage them to visit our school library. It's open before school, at lunchtimes and after school and is packed with a fantastic range of diverse books.
- Choose an audiobook you can listen to.
- Take them to a bookshop or a local library and spend time choosing a book that appeals to them. Please see our ***KS4 Reading Recommendations*** booklet we emailed home.



Ms Hedger - Acting Head of Maths

Mathematics GCSE



GCSE Mathematics – why is it so important?

- Teaches different skills like problem solving and data analysis
- Provides tools for Science and for understanding the financial world
- Highly valued by employers across many industries
- Is a core subject
- Must resit in Year 12 if a grade 4 or higher is not achieved



Mathematics GCSE – Key Information

- Exam Board: Edexcel
- Three exams – one Non-Calculator and two Calculator papers, all 1 hour and 30 minutes long
- Two tiers
 - Foundation tier: Grades 1-5
 - Higher Tier: Grades 3-9
 - The School will decide which Tier each pupil studies



Mock Exams

- Regular assessments throughout the GCSE Mathematics course
- Three Main sets of exams:
 - Year 10 exams in June/July 2027
 - Year 11 Mid Year Assessments in December 2027
 - Second Year 11 Mock in February/March 2028
- Mock exams are an opportunity to practise and hone exam revision and preparation
- The results are used by the school to inform intervention decisions
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Sparx Mathematics

- The Compulsory homework should be completed to 100% each week
- If the compulsory work is not completed, then it will be compulsory for the pupil to attend Sparx Club for help
- Sparx Club is also open to all pupils to receive help after school in C16
- There are also written homeworks throughout the two years, as well as almost limitless scope for pupils to do their own independent learning!



What can you do to support your child with their Sparx homework?

- Encourage them to do it on their own by the deadline set
- Suggest they start the homework early in case they run into difficulties
- Encourage them to use the support videos if they are stuck
- Encourage them to write their workings in their Sparx book
- Only help after your child has tried by themselves first
- Discourage them from trying to cheat on their Sparx homework



What can you do to encourage your child to achieve their best?

- Complete all their homework
- Make use of the student maths website to consolidate any gaps in learning and to extend themselves ahead of assessments.



October

Here are all the topics you will be learning.

Work through the questions and use the videos if you get stuck. If you feel like you've got the hang of it - try the challenge questions to really push yourself.

Topic	Need Help? Watch this video	Try Some Questions	Mark it	Feeling confident? Try these Challenge Qs
Bounds	Video	Questions	Answers	Exam Qs and Answers
Trig graphs	Sine graph Cosine graph Tan graph	Questions	Answers	Exam Qs Answers
Sine rule	Video 1 Video 2 Video 3	Questions	Answers	Exam Qs Answers
Area of a triangle	Video	Questions	Answers	Exam Qs Answers
Cosine rule	Video 1 Video 2	Questions	Answers	Exam Qs Answers
Bearings with trig	Video			Exam Qs
Pythag 3D	Video	Questions	Answers	Exam Qs 1 Exam Qs 2 Answers 2
Trig 3D	Video	Questions	Answers	
Transforming trig graphs	Video			Exam Qs



Science GCSE



- At Graveney we teach OCR Gateway Science over three (3) years. This means all pupils have already started the GCSE content last year.
- In year 10 we build on their existing knowledge and as the year progresses decisions are made by the department on which route best suits the pupils.



In December, all Year 10 pupils will sit an internally assessed exam in all 3 Sciences.

The result from the exam, homework, class work and in class assessments will help us make a decision as to which qualification and tier is best suited for the pupils.



Work Experience

- It will take place in Year 10
- Speak to your child about what they'd like to do
- Start speaking to friends and family now
- We will write to you with exact dates and how the process will work



Thank you!

**If you have any further questions, do
come and speak to anyone on the
KS4 team**