

LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL

LEARNING FOR LIFE ○ TOGETHER ○ ONE COMMUNITY

The Class of Year 9 2025



Mrs Rayner & Mrs Parsons

THE PLAN FOR THIS EVENING

- Introduction to GCSEs
- What will Year 9 be like?
- The Year 9 & KS4 support team
- Key dates, including an assessment timeline
- Importance of strong attendance
- Parental support
- The Tutor Programme
- Communication with us



WHY ARE GCSEs IMPORTANT?

- Provide **choice** for the future – many young people are unsure of their career path at this stage so a good range of high quality GCSE results will keep all options open to them
- They create opportunities for your child to achieve their aspirations

**WELL ROUNDED EDUCATION +
QUALIFICATIONS = CHOICE**



WHAT WILL YEAR 9 BE LIKE?

- 3-year KS4:

- Increased

- Or

- D

Essential that all books, notes, textbooks
etc from Year 9 are kept safe!

They will be needed for PPE revision
and revision for the real exams.

Importance of organisation – place to
store work and study.

- Ho

- Tutor p

- House Points

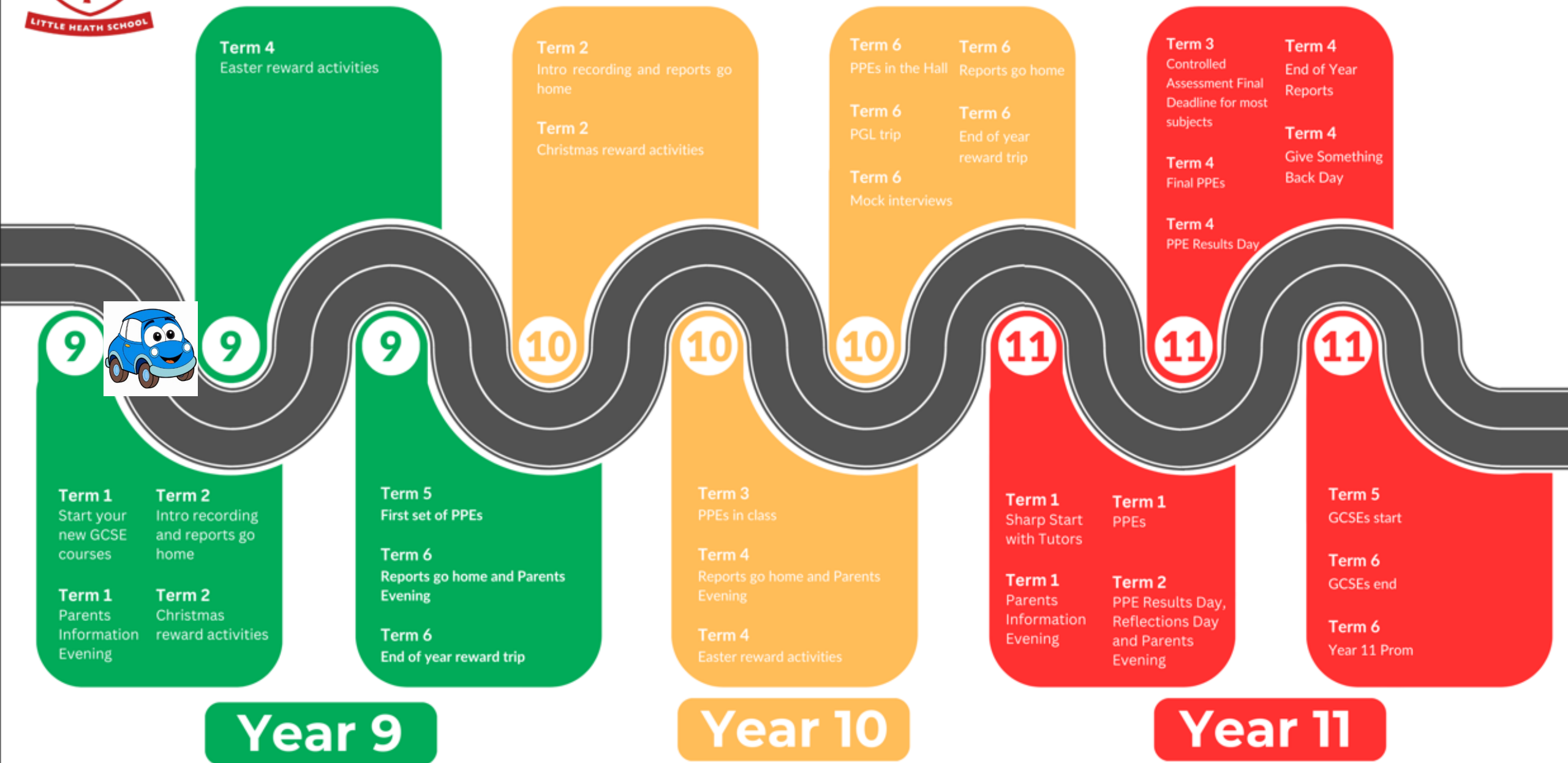
- Students to come fully equipped

- Year 9 students must have a **reading book** with them each and every day, as we will be continuing with **DEAR Time** ('Drop Everything And Read') in lessons.





Key Stage 4 - The Road to Year 11

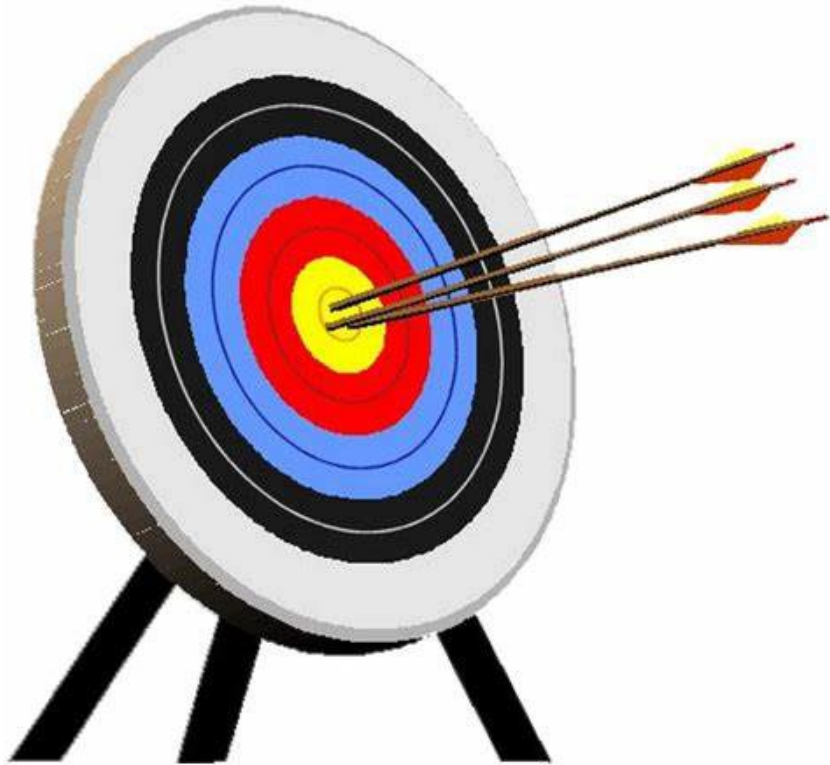


OLD GCSE, NEW GCSE & VOCATIONAL GRADES

Old A*-G GCSE Grades	New 9-1 GCSE Grades	OCR National Equivalent Grades
A*	9	L2 Distinction*
A/A*	8	L2 Distinction*
A	7	L2 Distinction
B	6	L2 Merit
B/C	5	L2 Merit
C	4	L2 Pass
D	3	L1 Distinction
E	2/3	L1 Merit / L1 Distinction
F	2	L1 Merit
G	1	L1 Pass
U	U	U



TARGET GRADE



- One single target grade for KS4
- This target gives students, parents and teachers an idea of what is attainable, but it should not be a limit on achieve i.e. not a ceiling to achievement.
- Equally they are not guaranteed
- Hard work and positive mindset



KS2 SAT SCORES → ALPS BANDS

- Once we have their KS2 Score.
- This then places them in an ALPS Band from 1 to 10.
- ALPS is a national organisation which deals with data from KS2 to KS4 and then onto KS5.

ALPS Bands & The Single Target Grade for 2024+

KS4 ALPS band (1-10)	2023+ KS2 Scaled Score	H/M/L Prior Attainment [PA] Bands	GCSE TARGET GRADE	OCR Nationals	KS4 ALPS band (1-10)
Band 1	117-120	H	8+	L2D*	Band 1
Band 2	113.5-116.5	H	7+	L2 D	Band 2
Band 3	110-113	H	7	L2D	Band 3
Band 4	107.5-109.5	M	6	L2M+	Band 4
Band 5	105-107	M	5	L2M	Band 5
Band 6	102.5-104.5	M	4+	L2M	Band 6
Band 7	100-102	M	4	L2P	Band 7
Band 8	96-99.5	L	4-	L2 P	Band 8
Band 9	90-95.5	L	3	L1D	Band 9
Band 10	<90	L	2+	L1D	Band 10



The Iceberg Illusion

Success is an iceberg

SUCCESS!

WHAT PEOPLE SEE

Persistence



Failure



Sacrifice



Disappointment



WHAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE

Dedication



Hard work



Discipline (((alarm clock)))



@sylvia duckworth

- This is what 'success' is really about, and how to achieve it.
- Could Usain Bolt just turn up and run under 10s without doing all that training?
→ Absolutely **NOT!**
- The same is true for success at GCSE
- *Strive for that Target Grade*



TUTOR PROGRAMME

- The Tutor should be the first point of contact for any concerns.
- The Tutor Programme in Y9 follows the whole school PSHE themes which are Relationships, Living in the wider world and Health and Wellbeing
- We have a focus on discussion and development of measured opinions and how best to bring these up with both peers and adults.
- This also includes looking at appropriate body language in formal settings with an additional focus on resilience and personal growth through challenges.
- Alongside this we also have our individual student check in meetings where the tutors discuss behaviour and attendance, assemblies and current affairs discussions.



SUBJECTS AND HOURS PER FORTNIGHT

SUBJECT	Lessons/Hours per Fortnight
English	7
Mathematics	7
Science (Trilogy)	7
Religious Studies	4
Games	3
PSHE	2
Option 1	5
Option 2	5
Option 3	5
Option 4	5

Science (Trilogy) is a **Double** award leading to **2** GCSEs

Triple Science =
Science + an Option

This gives $7 + 5 = 12$ lessons/hours per fortnight, which is 4 lessons/hours each for Biology, Chemistry & Physics



JOHN HATTIE EFFECT SIZES



“the effect of parental engagement over a student’s school career is equivalent to adding two or three years to that student’s education”.



WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

- **Unplug** – sensible boundaries for technology
- **Promote health** – Sleep, Move, Eat
- **Encourage** out of school interests /time out / resilience
- **Provide** a quiet space for study (not on a bed)
- **Know the GCSEs** – check the exam boards, texts being used etc.
- **Test your child** –take interest in their revision; use the PLCs they receive
- **Communicate** – home/pupil/school
- **Support** our Behaviour for Learning policy
- **Monitoring homework – quality** rather than if it has just been completed (SMHW – Satchel One checking)
- **Regular communication at home** about their studies – ‘What book are you reading for English Literature?’ ‘What topic are you currently studying in History?’
- **Ongoing revision support**
- **Aspiration** – grade quality
- **Attendance** – ensure your child comes to school every day they possibly can



ENHANCED EQUIPMENT LIST

- At least 2 blue or black pens
- A purple pen
- At least 2 pencils
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Compass
- Highlighters
- Glue stick
- Coloured crayons or pens
- A scientific calculator
- Any other specialist equipment (e.g. Art)



HAVING A GROWTH MINDSET HELPS TO ACHIEVE GOALS/TARGETS

**Resilience
is key!**

How to Achieve Your Goals

- 1 Take action.
- 2 Try hard.
- 3 Keep practicing.
- 4 Explore a different way.
- 5 Ask someone for advice.
- 6 Do your best.
- 7 Learn how others did it.
- 8 Build upon your strengths.
- 9 Review and fix mistakes.
- 10 Don't give up.



KEY MESSAGES TO PARENTS

- Your children will **never** have “no homework” or “nothing to do for school”
- This year will be challenging and they may feel stressed/anxious at times about their GCSEs
- Grade quality matters
- More than ever, consistent hard work matters!



WHAT NEXT FOR YEAR 9?

- The next three years are so important – you need to get it right:
 - ✓ **Come to school every day**
 - ✓ **Be kind to each other**
 - ✓ **Hard work will lead to success**



*'You can't go back and
change the beginning, but
you can start where you
are now and change the
ending.'*

C.S.Lewis



*'I'm in control of my own
destiny, and my own
development if I put the
work in.'*

Jude Bellingham



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

■ Last year's Year 11s:

Attendance	No. of students	Progress 8	Average GCSE grade	5+ in Maths and English
0-80%	16			
80-90%	19			
90-95%	45			
95-98%	58			
98-100%	113			

Every lesson counts; punctuality is crucial.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

■ Last year's Year 11s:

Attendance	No. of students	Progress 8	Average GCSE grade	5+ in Maths and English
0-80%	16	-2.1		
80-90%	19	-1.1		
90-95%	45	-0.2		
95-98%	58	0.0		
98-100%	113	+0.5		

Every lesson counts; punctuality is crucial.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

■ Last year's Year 11s:

Attendance	No. of students	Progress 8	Average GCSE grade	5+ in Maths and English
0-80%	16	-2.1	2	
80-90%	19	-1.1	3	
90-95%	45	-0.2	4/5	
95-98%	58	0.0	5	
98-100%	113	+0.5	6	

Every lesson counts; punctuality is crucial.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

■ Last year's Year 11s:

Attendance	No. of students	Progress 8	Average GCSE grade	5+ in Maths and English
0-80%	16	-2.1	2	0%
80-90%	19	-1.1	3	11%
90-95%	45	-0.2	4/5	36%
95-98%	58	0.0	5	55%
98-100%	113	+0.5	6	62%

Every lesson counts; punctuality is crucial.



WHAT WE AIM TO DO

- We continue to work hard to ensure each student has the best possible chance of achieving their best results, whatever their ability, interest or ambition.
- Even more than ever, we are committed to delivering high quality teaching and learning in the classroom.
- We continue to offer a broad and balanced education to all students to enable greater choice in the future.
- We continue to be a caring and kind school where every person matters.
- The pastoral team of tutors, Heads of Year, Progress Leaders and Inclusion are all here supporting your children.



Key People



MRS R RAYNER
Assistant Headteacher KS4



MRS A PARSONS
Head of Year 9



MR C DAVIES
Head of Year 10



MISS J KENNEDY
Head of Year 11



MISS K NICHOLSON
KS4 Progress Leader



MISS E GLASGOW
KS4 Progress Leader



MRS J PERRY
KS4 Administrator



MR K BUTTON
Deputy Headteacher
i.c. Student Support and
Attendance



MR J COULSON
Deputy Headteacher
i.c. Raising Standards



MRS R WHITFORD
Assistant Headteacher
Teaching, Learning
and Options



MISS C JONES
SENDCo



MRS M WRAIGHT
Progress Leader
Disadvantaged Students



MISS R VERMA
Leader of Learning Plus



MR J LINZ
Student Wellbeing Lead
Deputy DSL



MS J VALLARD
Office Manager



MRS C STRUDLEY
Exams Officer

LHS WEBSITE – WELLBEING PAGE

[HOME](#)[INFORMATION](#)[NEWS & EVENTS](#)[JOB OPPORTUNITIES](#)[SIXTH FORM](#)[CONTACT](#)

■ [Little Heath School - Student Wellbeing](#)

Self-Care September 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'
8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break
15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside
22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn
29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are					

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**

[E-Safety](#)[Wellbeing over Summer](#)

KEY DATES FOR YEAR 9 2025-2026

Date	Event
December 2025	Introductory report sent home
March – April 2026	Two weeks of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)
May 2026	End of Y9 Report sent home
4 th June 2025	Y9 Parents' Evening



THANK YOU

- Finally, we would like to say a massive thank you in advance for all the support you will give your son/daughter as they move through KS4, and for supporting us all, here at school
- Thank you for attending and listening to us

