

CURRICULUM BOOKLET 2025-26



OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Aspire ACHIEVE Thrive

YEAR 8 THE TERM AHEAD
for students, parents and carers

THE TERM AHEAD



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you and your children back to school for the start of a new academic year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break, and that our students are feeling refreshed and already embracing the opportunities ahead.

*This year promises to be an exciting one. Our staff have been working hard to ensure that our curriculum is rich, ambitious and inspiring for every learner. Alongside the curriculum information included in this newsletter, you will also find details of the reading books students will be engaging with and a wide range of clubs and activities available to them. We strongly encourage every child to get involved in at least one of these opportunities, as they help to build confidence, friendships and a strong sense of community. It has been fantastic to see so many engaging already, from football success, to a growing number of students taking part in our catering club. It was also brilliant to see 177 students audition for this year's school production, *High School Musical Jr. - Good luck!**

As a school, we are continually striving to be World Class in everything we do — from the quality of our teaching and learning to the opportunities and support we provide outside the classroom. Our ambition is to ensure that every student leaves us not only with excellent academic results, but also with the skills, character and confidence to thrive in life beyond school. We are pleased to announce that we have now joined the World Class Education Network - the only school in the City and children will be able to work towards World Class status through their Personal Development curriculum.

Please keep an eye on upcoming newsletters and our school website for key dates, events and information. We look forward to working in partnership with you to make this year both successful and memorable for our students.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. If you have any questions about the curriculum or wider school life, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best wishes,

Mr Oakes
Head of School

Welcome to a fantastic start to the term, Year 8!

This term is a great chance to build on everything you've learned so far and take the next step forward with confidence.

We have welcomed the launch of the new clubs for the Autumn term, this gives all of you the opportunity to be part of something extra during your time at school, whether it's in the classroom, on the sports field, or in the arts.

Last week we saw the excitement of the auditions for the new school production. It was great to see many of the year 8's auditions for roles.

Mrs Bevin
Head of Year 8

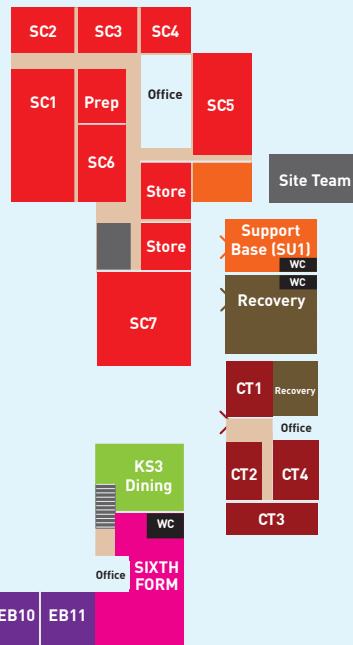
KEY DATES

Open Evening (Years 6-7)
Wednesday 10th September 2025
Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 14th May 2026
DofE Presentation Evening
Tuesday 24th March 2026

Ground Floor



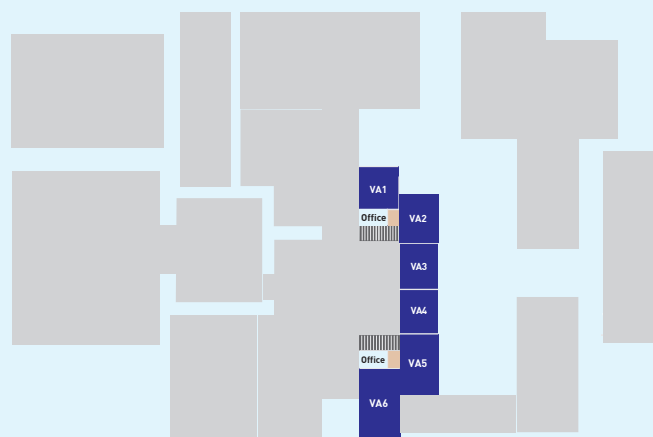
SDCC MAP



First Floor



Second Floor



Please feel free to contact your child's tutor at any time by phone or email if you have any queries, whether this be pastoral, academic or a general enquiry.

Tutor: to email, use staff initial and surname @sdcc-smhc.net for example mhussey@sdcc-smhc.net

YEAR 8 TUTORS

Head of Year: Mrs Bevin						
Tutor Group	Tutor	Room		Tutor Group	Tutor	Room
81	S Hashemi	EB12		86	A.Keene Th (F Haley)	VA5
82	R Lightfoot	EB15		87	S Greenough MonA (K Burn)	EB18
83	E Wanless / K Hesletine	EB13		88	F Gallacher	EB14
84	S. McKensie	VA3		89	K Booth	EB17
85	I. Stephens	VA4		810	A Howle W (F Haley)	EB16



GREENSHAW
LEARNING TRUST



Tutor Time

Reading Programme

YEAR 8

TITLE

AUTHOR

Adventures of a Young Naturalist
Animal Farm
Chinese Cinderella: The True Story
of an Unwanted daughter
Children of blood and Bone
I Am Malala
Life of Pi
Looking for JJ
Maggot Moon
Mud, Sweat and Tears
One
Noughts and Crosses
The Curious Incident of the Dog in
the Night Time
The Giver
The Hiding Place
The Hobbit
The Lion, The Witch and The
Wardrobe
The Ruby in the Smoke
The Woman in Black
Wed Wabbit

David Attenborough
George Orwell
Adeline Yen Mah

Tomi Adeyemi
Malala Yousafzai
Yann Martel
Anne Cassidy
Sally Gardner
Bear Grylls
Sarah Crossan
Malorie Blackman
Mark Hadden

Lois Lowry
Corrie ten Bloom
J.R.R. Tolkien
C.S. Lewis

Phillip Pullman
Susan Hill
Lissa Evans

Students complete 20 minutes of reading each morning, giving them an experience of
a wide range of texts

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SDCC Year 8 Curriculum	TERM 1	
	HALF TERM 1	HALF TERM 2
Maths	Students are able to use number types, such as factors, multiples and primes in a range of problems whilst also demonstrating confidence with their written methods	Students become confident working with proportionality and ratio, whilst being able to apply fractions and percentages to developed problems
English Language & Literature	Unit 4: Fear of the Unknown To consider how and why the gothic genre allowed writers to explore our greatest fears. Students will delve into the depths of famous gothic writers and poets with a view of understanding how our fears have developed throughout time.	
Science	Students start the year learning about the reproductive systems of humans and plants. They then move on to learning about the basic principles of forces through the lens of the Earth and its position in the solar system. Students build on this by applying their forces knowledge to investigations about springs.	Students learn about more complex chemical reactions such as metals and oxygen, acids and water. They will look at how metals are extracted from their ores. Students then move on to learn about health and disease in humans.
French	My friends and me: French phonics, descriptions (age, best friend), relationships	My holidays: destinations, means of transport, holiday activities, using the past and future tenses, expressing opinions
Geography	Development Development indicators, factors affecting development, perceptions of Africa, physical geography of Ghana, poverty and improving quality of life in Ghana. Students develop a wide understanding of the concept of development, linking physical and human factors to understand differences in development. Locational knowledge of Africa is taught and cultural capital is grown through consideration of perceptions of Africa.	Sustainable oceans Ocean ecosystems, food webs, oceans and climate change, Plymouth Sound - a marine national park, seagrass, overfishing and plastic in the ocean. Students engage in local learning as they learn about the natural habitat on our doorstep. Sustainability is a core concept of this topic as students consider threats to the oceans and sustainable solutions. This unit includes an option to visit the National Marine Aquarium.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

History	Empire and problems in the 20th century - this module builds on the Year 7 module of slavery- looking specifically at the reasons for the desire for an Empire and the impact it had on the indigenous people . it culminates in looking at how this led to WW1 becoming a world rather than a European war. It examines the disciplinary concepts of contestability and perspective	Turning points WW1 and WW2 - this unit looks at the significant events of WW1 and WW2 which had an impact on the outcome of the war. It introduces the idea of importance
Art	Students begin the year re-visiting basic skills in numerous materials, producing a series of still life studies on the theme of Food.	Students start to explore the work of artists, using Claes Oldenburg as inspiration to produce colourful 3D clay cupcakes and Michael Craig Martin to produce colourful graphic still life images.
Computing	Data Representation Students will learn how data is represented in Computing Systems. They will gain an understanding of how binary is used to store text and image data in a computer system. Students will learn the units of data measurement and be able to perform data capacity calculations for real-world scenarios.	Introduction to Python Programming This unit introduces learners to text-based programming with Python. The lessons form a journey that starts with simple programs involving input and output, and gradually moves on through arithmetic operations, randomness, selection, and iteration. Emphasis is placed on tackling common misconceptions and elucidating the mechanics of program execution.
Drama	Aberfan: Exploring Historical context of the Aberfan Disaster as experienced by the children and staff at Pantglas Infants and Junior School. Skill development - spontaneous improvisation, duologues, whole class tableaux, scripting.	
Food Technology/ Catering	To know what a commodity is in food production. To understand what the different commodities are, how they are produced or reared and how they can be cooked and used to produce different recipes. Students will then cook with these commodities, building on their skills from last year and learning how to use the hobs. They will then learn how to evaluate their dishes and shop brought ingredients to create sensory star profiles	

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Modern Britain	Diversity - What does it mean and where do we see it? How we deal with prejudice and stereotyping and understanding other cultures that live in the UK. BLM and racial equality play a major role in acceptance of others and all of us being equal for all human kind.	Democracy - Understanding what is a democracy and what is a dictatorship. Learning that we live in a democracy and the role of parliament. Students can learn about the role of a Member of Parliament and their duties and responsibilities. To understand the purpose of political parties and how its vital that everyone has a choice and opinion when it comes to voting in a general election.
Music	Keyboard skills 2 - Students continue their keyboard work into Year 8, looking at chord progression and structures. They look at the chords C, A, F and G and consider how the order might affect the way they sound. Students will play chords to a selection of pop songs and work on their timing and rhythmic skills.	
PE and Health	The effects of a warm-up Develop attacking principles of play Develop passing/shot varieties	Examples of a cool-down Develop passing/shot varieties Develop agility to quickly change direction
PSE/RSE	Proud to be Me! : Employability and Enterprise Skills, Proud to be me!, Careers and Aspirations, What are my interests?	Equality and Diversity Explored: Equality Act and Protected Characteristics, LGBTQ+ What is it?, Rights Across the World, Superhero CVs!
Textiles	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Developing research and analytical skills to form opinions by exploring the work of Textile artist Vanessa Barragão. Exploring a range of textile techniques using upcycled materials including weaving, Batik and fabric inks.	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Part 2): Students continue their project by embellishing their Batik designs with beads, sequins and buttons. They will develop their pattern cutting knowledge as well as developing sewing machine skills to make their outcome. (The project will run for one term and then groups will rotate to a new technology subject)
Media	Film Promotion. Media production using Adobe Creative Cloud. Creating promotional websites. Introduction to video editing. Film Sound.	
Spanish	My friends and me: French phonics, descriptions (age, best friend), relationships.	My holidays: destinations, means of transport, holiday activities, using the past and future tenses, expressing opinions.

HOME LEARNING - KS3

EVERY MOMENT
MATTERS

WE ARE
#TEAM SDCC

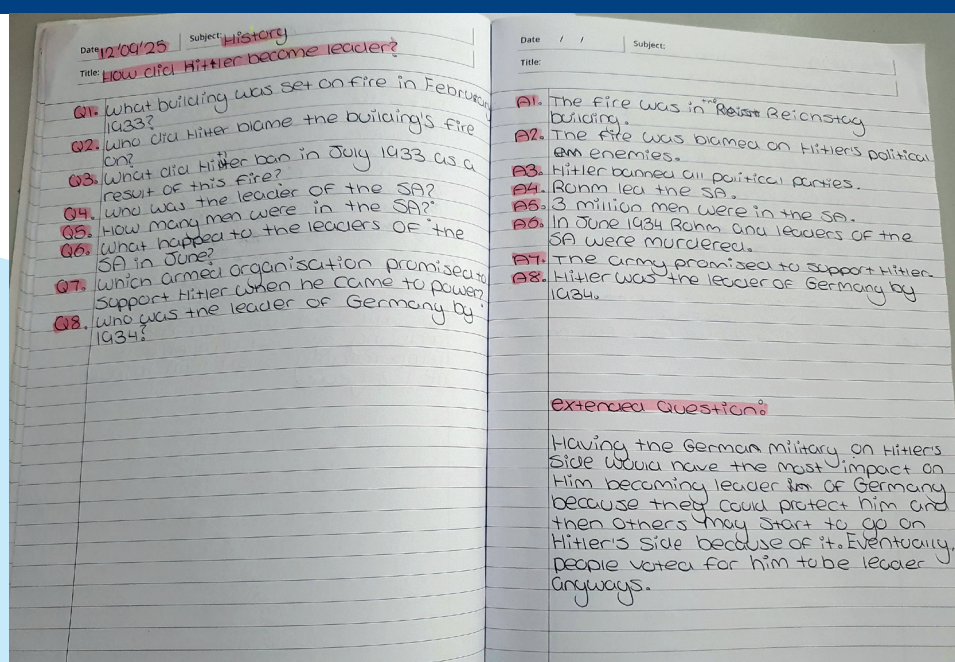
	Online HW	Written HW
Monday	Sparx Maths	Geography
Tuesday	Sparx Science	History
Wednesday	Sparx Reader	Languages/Literacy
Thursday	Sparx Catch Up	Modern Britain
Friday	Sparx Catch Up	Computing

Support is available:

Students are supported with their written homework each morning during their tutor sessions, but additional support for homework can be found in En1 before school starts.

Support for online Homework takes place each break-time in En4, and after school for each of the Core subjects.

KS3 HOMEWORK EXAMPLE



CLUBS

AUTUMN 2025



EVERYDAY

MORNING FOOTBALL
Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? Before School

**ENGLISH SPARX
BREAKFAST CLUB**
Who? KS3 | *Where?* EN1
When? Before school from 7.45am

BREAKFAST CLUB
Who? All years | *Where?* KS4 Canteen
When? 7.45am

CAMPUS RADIO CLUB
Who? All years | *Where?* EB17
When? Break A & B

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

STEAM
Who? All years | *Where?* Stoke - CT1 (Tuesday)
Scott - FF03 (Wednesday)
When? After school

SIXTH FORM GYM
Who? Years 12 & 13 | *Where?* FT1
When? Wednesday Week A
Tuesday Week B 3.10- 4pm

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

SCHOOL PRODUCTION
Who? All years | *Where?* Theatre (Main Space)/PA1 & PA2
When? 3-5pm

THURSDAY

KEYBOARD CLUB
Who? All Years | *Where?* PA2
When? After school

CROCHET CLUB
Who? All years | *Where?* MA9
When? After school

DoFe CLUB BRONZE
Who? Years 9 and 10 | *Where?* KS3 Canteen
When? After school

DoFe CLUB SILVER
Who? Years 9 and 10 | *Where?* KS3 Canteen
When? After school Week B

E-SPORTS
Who? All years | *Where?* CT3
When? After school

RUGBY
Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

BASKETBALL
Who? All years | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

FITNESS
Who? Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

MEDIA CLUB
Who? Years 7-10 | *Where?* VA5
When? After school

CHESS CLUB
Who? All years | *Where?* Ma7
When? After school Week A

PARAGON MATHS
Who? All years | *Where?* MA5
When? After School Week B

MONDAY

**ARGYLE COMMUNITY
TRUST FOOTBALL (GIRLS
ONLY)**
Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

TUESDAY

READING CLUB
Who? Years 7-9 | *Where?* Library
When? Break A

D.I.Y FASHION
Who? All years | *Where?* VA2
When? After school

FOOTBALL
Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

NETBALL
Who? Years 8 & 9 | *Where?* Sports Hall/
Courts
When? After school

FITNESS
Who? Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

COOKING CLUB
Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* FN1
When? 3-4pm

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

LGBTQ+
Who? All years | *Where?* EN2
When? Break B

WEDNESDAY

ART & CLAY ART
Who? All years | *Where?* VA3
When? After school

GIRLS FOOTBALL
Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

FOOTBALL
Who? Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

BADMINTON
Who? All Years | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

NETBALL
Who? Year 7 | *Where?* Sports Hall/Courts
When? After school

EPQ DROP IN SESSION
Who? Sixth Form | *Where?* SF07
When? Break B

ROCK CLUB JUNIOR
Who? Year 7 | *Where?* PA2
When? After school

FRIDAY

CCF
Who? Years 10-13 | *Where?* Off site
When? PM

CHRISTIAN FAITH GROUP
Who? All years | *Where?* EB14
When? Break A

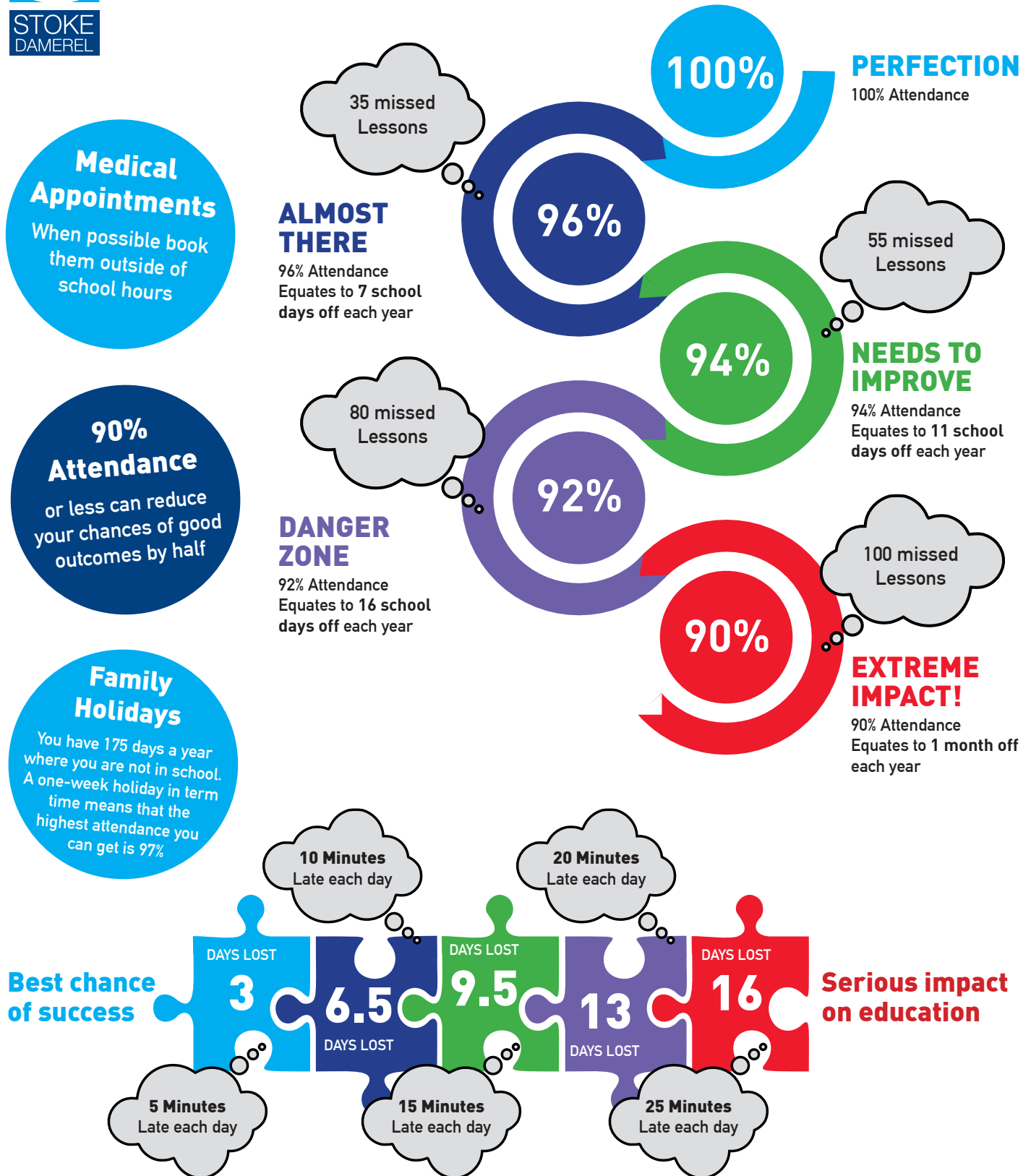
FURTHER MATHS
Who? Year 11 (top maths sets only) |
Where? Ma6
When? After school (3-4pm)

ROCK CLUB
Who? Years 8-11 | *Where?* PA2
When? After school

Aspire ACHIEVE Thrive

Attendance Matters

#EVERYDAYCOUNTS



Average learning hours per day is 5 hours.

If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks of school in 1 year!