

CURRICULUM BOOKLET 2025-26



OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Aspire ACHIEVE Thrive

YEAR 9 THE TERM AHEAD
for students, parents and carers

THE TERM AHEAD

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, we wanted to share some reflections and some exciting changes we are making.

In the classrooms

This term has been busy in the classrooms with children making excellent progress as well as participating in a variety of clubs and experiences. We've been working hard at ensuring all students are attentive, they're listening and demonstrating their understanding in every lesson. To achieve this, we have been practising some key techniques such as 'whole class echo'. This is when the teacher wants all children to repeat an important fact or key word. It's really important that students can verbalise, pronounce and use key vocabulary in their work. We've also been using mini whiteboards to quickly check students' understanding; turn and talk to promote focused discussion in pairs; reducing the cognitive load for students (how much we're asking them to think about at any given time) by focusing on the core knowledge they need; and many more strategies to ensure we maximise learning opportunities.

Extra curricular activities

Alongside this, we have seen a record number of students engaged in extra curricular activities - from sports teams, to art & clay; from crochet to the Campus Production - there really is something for everyone. By the time you read this, we will be close to the end of our Countdown to Christmas - an exciting range of events and activities to bring the school community together.

There are some exciting changes coming though and you can read more about this throughout this newsletter:

Homework

With regards to homework in Key Stage 3, we are removing the self quizzing and replacing this with an online platform which quizzes the children. Sparx homework in Core Subjects (English, maths and Science) will continue as normal. The new platform (Carousel) also tells the teachers how confident students are in their answers, so lesson content can then be adapted to address any learning gaps or misconceptions. We will launch this fully in January through assemblies and students will be taught how to access this new homework in taught sessions during one of their maths lessons. Further information about this program can be found on Page 8.

Maths lessons

We are changing our maths curriculum to ensure students have additional opportunities to extend their learning. As you know, homework is set on Sparx but they also offer a full curriculum which covers Years 7-11. How we deliver the content won't drastically change - the students will still have worked examples at the start of their lesson, they will still have scaffolded examples to work through but their main work (we call this their 'deliberate practice') will be on Sparx. We have invested in 270 new Chromebooks and

headsets - a class set for every Maths classroom. Sparx allows students to work through the questions their teacher allocates but also provides helpful hints and videos. It also enables the teacher to monitor their progress and confidence throughout the lesson - all students at the same time! We will be rolling this out during the term.

We have been so impressed this term with how our students have demonstrated World Class values. They are working tenaciously and achieving great things.

We hope you have an enjoyable break over the Christmas period and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 5th January.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Oakes - Head of School

What a fantastic Autumn Term it has been for Year 9! From start to finish, our students have shown exceptional dedication, positivity, and school spirit. Their effort in lessons has been outstanding; attendance is at an all-time high, and behaviour across the cohort has been nothing short of exemplary. We could not be prouder of the maturity and focus they have demonstrated as they move closer to the important choices that await them later this academic year.

Year 9 continue to shine both inside and outside the classroom. The sporting achievements this term have been superb, with strong performances in netball, football, basketball and rugby, as well as remarkable individual successes in areas such as boxing. We are equally proud of those who have taken the initiative to volunteer within our community—an inspiring example of the values we encourage every day.

December brought with it a wonderful Christmas celebration. Our famous final assembly, house competitions, silent discos, and the eagerly anticipated Boys vs Girls basketball-meets-netball match all helped create a brilliant festive atmosphere. Alongside this, our students worked hard to raise an impressive amount of money for our chosen charities, showing generosity and compassion in abundance.

As we look ahead to January 2026, excitement is building. Year 9 will play a major role in our star-studded production of High School Musical Jr., and we cannot wait to see their talents on stage. This coming year also marks a significant milestone, as students begin the process of carefully selecting their GCSE options—a crucial and exciting step in their educational journey.

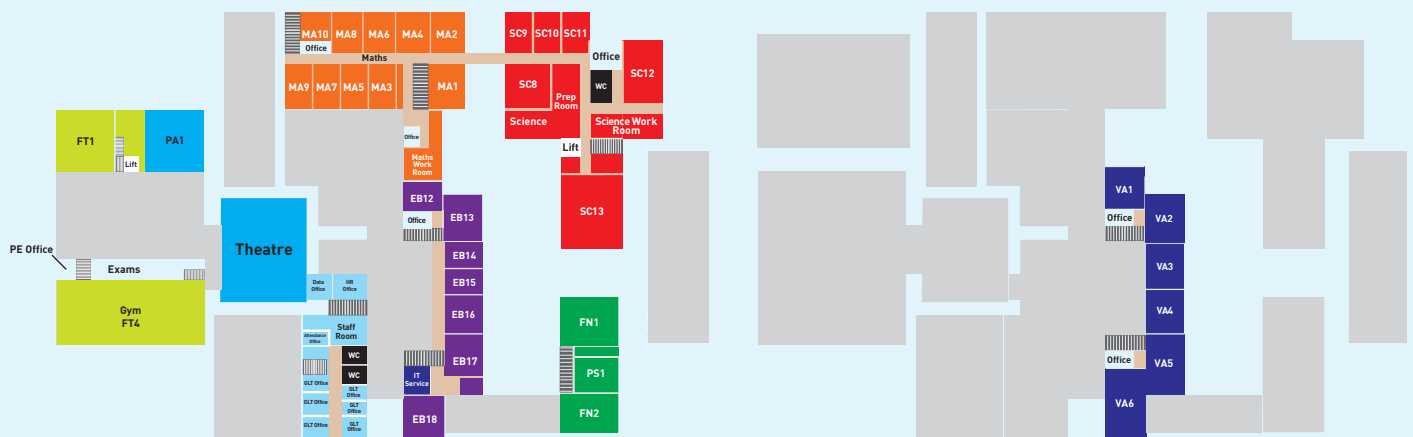
We are incredibly proud of everything Year 9 have achieved this term and look forward to all that 2026 has in store. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr Nevin - Head of Year 9

SDCC MAP



Second Floor



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

YEAR 9 TUTORS

Head of Year: Mr Nevin						
Tutor Group	Tutor	Room		Tutor Group	Tutor	Room
91	E Tremellat F (J Le-Page)	SC1		96	C Harewood	SC6
92	N Carnat	SC2		97	L Kelly	SC7
93	A Beacham	SC3		98	R Bond	SC8
94	D Hatherley	SC4		99	S Romaine/L Heap	SC11
95	V Torrado	SC5		910	T Wright Th PM (A Collins)	SC9



GREENSHAW
LEARNING TRUST



Tutor Time

Reading Programme

YEAR 9

TITLE

AUTHOR

A Spark of Light
Anita and Me
Code Name Verity
Everyday
Homer's Odyssey
Charlotte Bronte
Lord of the Flies
Of Mice and Men
Scythe
The Perks of being a Wallflower
The A.B.C. Murders
The Art of Being Normal
The Book Thief
The Poet X
Things a Bright Girl can Do
Things Fall Apart
Touching the Void
War of the Worlds
Wuthering Heights

Jodie Picoult
Syal Meera
Elizabeth Wein
David Levithan
Simon Armitage
Jane Eyre
William Goulding
John Steinbeck
Neal Shusterman
Stephen Chobsky
Agatha Christie
Lisa Williamson
Marcus Zusak
Elizabeth Acevedo
Sally Nichols
Chinua Achebe
Joe Simpson
H.G. Wells
Emily Bronte

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

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SDCC Year 9 Curriculum	TERM 2	
	HALF TERM 3	HALF TERM 4
Maths	Students develop their data analysis and statistical awareness through study of averages, probability and data presentation. These skills have professional applications and students are taught to understand inference and bias	Students expand their algebraic vocabulary through becoming confident at manipulating, solving and simplifying. These skills are applied to graphs and this continues the earlier taught skills of inference and understanding
English Language & Literature	Unit 8: Dystopia To understand how writers have exploited ideology and manipulated mindsets in order to explore our deepest fears of the future whilst studying George Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty-Four.'	
Science	Biology: Health and disease Chemistry: Atmospheric pollution	Biology: Non-communicable diseases Chemistry: The Earth's atmosphere Physics: Energy stores and transfers
French	My family and me Introduction to basic French culture and pronunciation. Students will learn to talk about relationships with family members and discuss positive relationships. Students will start to talk about role models and who they admire.	
Geography	River processes and landforms Fluvial processes, erosional and depositional landforms. Students focus on key processes that create the shape and landforms found in rivers. An understanding of the interactions between natural processes is developed.	Rivers Causes of flooding, flood hydrographs, hard and soft engineering. Students further consider the interactions between human and physical processes as the natural processes of rivers interact with the human process of urbanisation. Sustainable futures are considered in flood management and environmental design and cultural capital is built through the consideration of the real effects of flooding in the Somerset Levels.
History	An introduction to the Cold War 1943-61 - this looks at how the Cold War develops, the causes and consequences	This term builds on the introduction to the Cold War by focusing on its main flashpoints

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Art	Many artists explored printmaking as a medium. Students look at these techniques, Andy Warhol and monoprinting; Shepard Fairey with mixed media and screen printing.	Artist and photographer, Paul Rankin is then used as inspiration for a series of manual edits, exploring popular culture and its link with the arts.
Computing	<p>Ethics in Computing Following on from their topic on Cyber Security, learners will begin to explore some of the ethical considerations around Computing.</p> <p>Assessment Point 1 Students will sit their mid-year assessment, assessing their understanding of the key knowledge covered in Term 1</p>	<p>Spreadsheets and Data Science Students will use a range of spreadsheet tools to analyse and present data effectively.</p>
Drama	Silent Movies and Physical Theatre: Developing grotesque exaggerated storytelling skills which use non-verbal skills to tell a story to music. Building into an understanding of Physical comedy	
Food Technology/ Catering	To understand about seasonal food, food wastage and where our food comes from. To evaluate dishes that they have prepared using sensory word. To prepare and cook high skill dishes.	To understand about factors that affect our choice of food. To learn about different types of international cuisine and our British cuisine. To evaluate a dish that you have made.
Modern Britain	Religion, Crime and Punishment - We understand the reasons for wars and why greed, self defence and retaliation can be seen as good or bad reasons. We describe weapons of mass destruction and the impact of them to countries and individuals around the world. We study the Just War theory and how it came about - the relevance of the theory today and whether it is a good way to justify going to war with another country	Religion, Peace and Conflict - We understand what is violence and what is protesting and the importance of a peaceful protest in our society. We look at world wars and the reasons for them, looking at greed, self defence and retaliation. Students will study responses to war and pacifism.
Music	<p>Ukulele Ensemble Musicianship- Students are encouraged to strum using a variety of rhythms, but use a pick or plectrum should they need support. After developing their knowledge of the 4 chords, students return to 'Shake it off', by Taylor Swift to play the same song, but on a different instrument.</p>	Listening and Appraising - Students return to the final part of their listening skills by continuing to be exposed to range of Musical Genres. Students will also be exposed to watching Musical performances and identifying what they can see.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PE and Health	Combining Sport Specific training methods and exercises Develop attacking and defending tactical principles	Explore exercise intensity and the principles of training Compare skills and describe how they connect through physical activities
PSE/RSE	Sex, The Law and Consent: Sexual Consent, FGM and the Law, Relationships and Partners	Sex, The Law and Consent: Why Have Sex?, Delaying Sexual Activity
Textiles	Term 1 repeated on technology rotation	
Media	Term 1 repeated on technology rotation	
Spanish	My lifestyle	

KEY DATES

Assessment Week
Monday 12th - Friday 16th January
Holocaust Memorial Day
Tuesday 27th January
School Production
Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th February
Careers Fair
Year 9 Parent & Option Evening
Thursday 26th February
DofE Presentation Evening
Tuesday 24th March

CAROUSEL

What?

In January we will be moving homework for KS3 (Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9) onto an online platform called Carousel Learning. Therefore, self-quizzing in their yellow homework books will stop. Online homework for Sparx (Maths, English, Science) will remain.

Carousel Learning is a widely renowned programme designed with improving student outcomes at its heart. Carousel Learning allows teachers to quiz students on specific knowledge for their homework and then uses that data to help inform the lessons.

Students will self-quiz given predetermined 'decks' of questions. They are able to revise all the relevant information for the quiz and then submit their answers.

Why?

We want our students to be knowledgeable and to apply that knowledge across a variety of subjects and contexts. The process of self-quizzing is proven to help cement knowledge into long term memory and will allow students to better apply their understanding in lessons.

Carousel Learning helps students prioritise information and continually quizzes them on key facts. Teachers are able to see how individuals are performing at their homework and use this analytics within their lessons to further check and support their learning.

How?

Homework will continue to be set for the same subject areas as currently provided.

We will share the link for their quiz through the google classroom. Each week homework links will also be shared on the website so that students and parents/carers can easily access them. Homework can be completed on a laptop/tablet/phone.

Once students have the link, they log in (Using their forename and surname) and can begin revising the content on their quiz. Once confident with the content, they are able to quiz themselves for the homework task.

When?

The following table indicates which homework should be completed each week. Whilst all homework will have a deadline of Friday 4pm, we recommend that students follow the timetable below. Each quizzing homework will be between 8-12 questions, and should take no longer than 30 mins to revise and complete.

KS3 subjects will move to Carousel learning in January. Every student will have a lesson dedicated to using the programme in the first week back, so will be familiar by the time the first homework is set.

Day	Online HW (Campus)	SDCC	SMHC
Monday	Sparx Maths	Geography	Health Sciences
Tuesday	Sparx Science	History	Psychology
Wednesday	Sparx Reader	Languages	PSE
Thursday	Sparx Catch Up	Modern Britain	Geography + French
Friday	Sparx Catch Up	Computing	History + Spanish

Future

Across the year we will roll out Carousel learning into Ks4 to support their extended written answers.

We are also working directly with Carousel so will report back any feedback you have.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with M Hussey mhussey@Sdcc-smhc.net

CLUBS

SPRING 2026

EVERYDAY

MORNING FOOTBALL

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

ENGLISH SPARK 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? SDCC - CT1 (Tuesday)
SMHC - FF03 (Wednesday)
When? After school

FITNESS

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* FT1
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

MONDAY

BASKETBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? Break B

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

TEXTILES CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* VA2
When? After school

BOYS FOOTBALL

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

NETBALL

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

BADMINTON

Who? All Years | *Where?* Sports Hall
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

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

LIBRARY

Who? All years | *Where?* SDCC Library
When? Break A & B

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

LANGUAGES CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* EB6
When? Monday Week A,
Wednesday Week B

Aspire
ACHIEVE
Thrive

WEDNESDAY

ART & CLAY ART

Who? All years | *Where?* VA3
When? After school

GIRLS FOOTBALL

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

DODGEBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Gym Zone
When? After school

TURN UP AND PLAY

NETBALL

Who? All Years
Where? Sports Hall/Courts
When? After school

ROCK CLUB JR

Who? Year 7 - 8 | *Where?* PA2
When? 3.15-4.15pm

EPQ DROP IN SESSION

Who? Sixth Form | *Where?* SMHC SF07
When? Break B

BIOLOGY INTERVENTION

Who? Yr 13 Biologists | *Where?* SC13
When? 4-5pm

THURSDAY

KEYBOARD CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* PA2
When? After school

CROCHET CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* MA7
When? After school

DofE CLUB BRONZE

Who? Years 9 and 10 (will have pre-signed up)
Where? KS3 Canteen
When? After school

DofE CLUB SILVER

Who? Years 9 and 10 (will have pre-signed up)
Where? KS3 Canteen
When? After school Week B

RUGBY

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

BOYS FOOTBALL

Who? All years 9 & 10 | *Where?* Blue Astro
When? After school

BENCHBALL

Who? Years 7, 8 & 9 | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

FITNESS

Who? All Years | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

MEDIA CLUB

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

eSPORTS (ROCKET LEAGUE)

Who? All years | *Where?* CT3
When? 3-4pm

CHESS CLUB

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

DIVERSITAS

Who? All years | *Where?* KS4 Canteen
When? 11.30 P3

PARAGON MATHS

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

FRIDAY

CCF

Who? Years 10-13 (Invite only)
Where? Off site *When?* After School

CHRISTIAN FAITH GROUP

Who? All years | *Where?* EB14
When? Break A

FURTHER MATHS

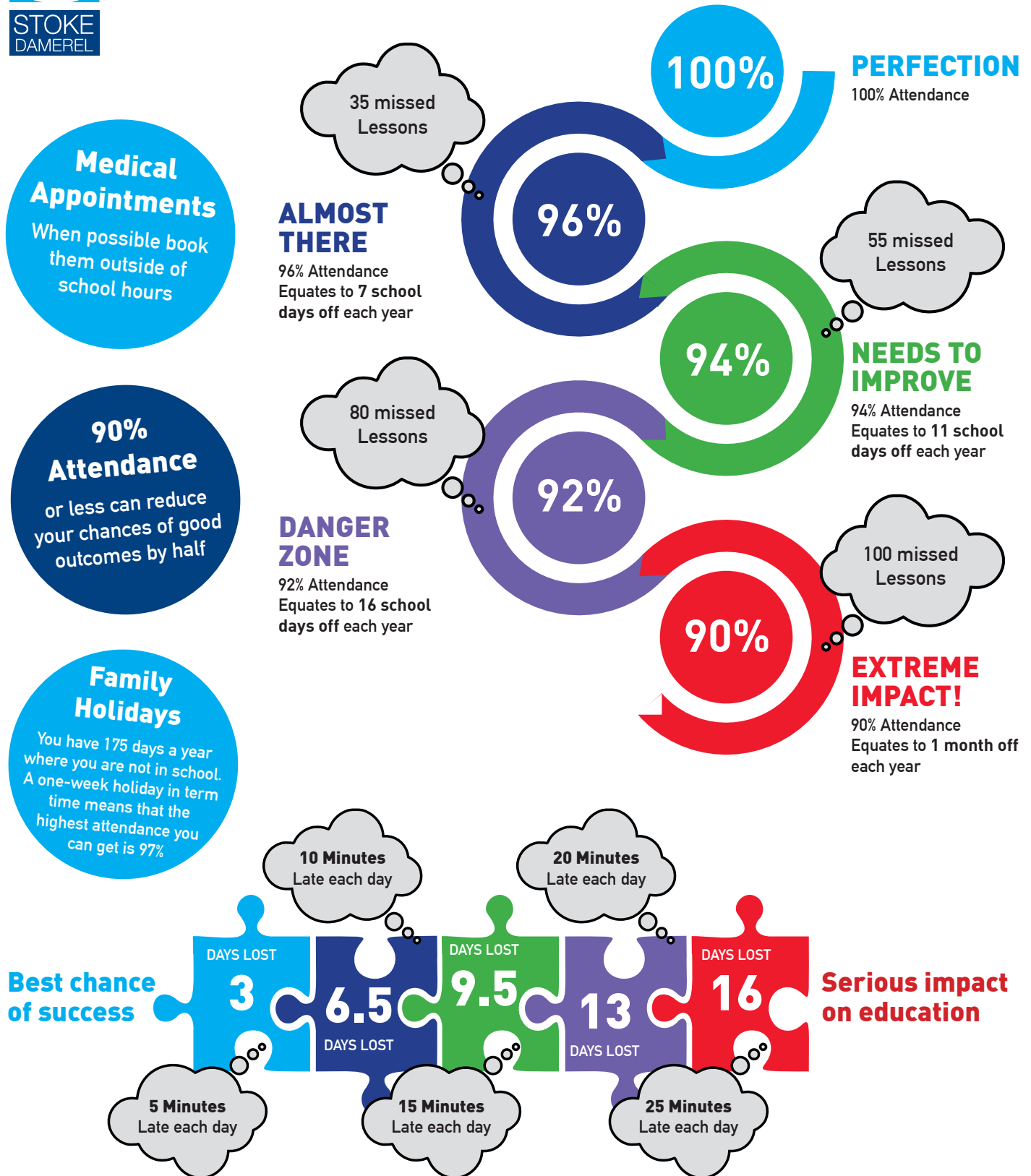
Who? Year 11 (top maths sets only)
Where? MA6
When? 3-4pm

ROCK CLUB SR

Who? Years 9 - 11 | *Where?* PA2
When? 3.15-4.15pm

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!