

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above



Supporting your child through their GCSEs

24 September 2025

Results

Subject information

Pillars of success



2025 Exam Results Overview

- % of all grades 4+ 76%
- % of all grades 7+ 20%
- Grade 4 +:

English 84%

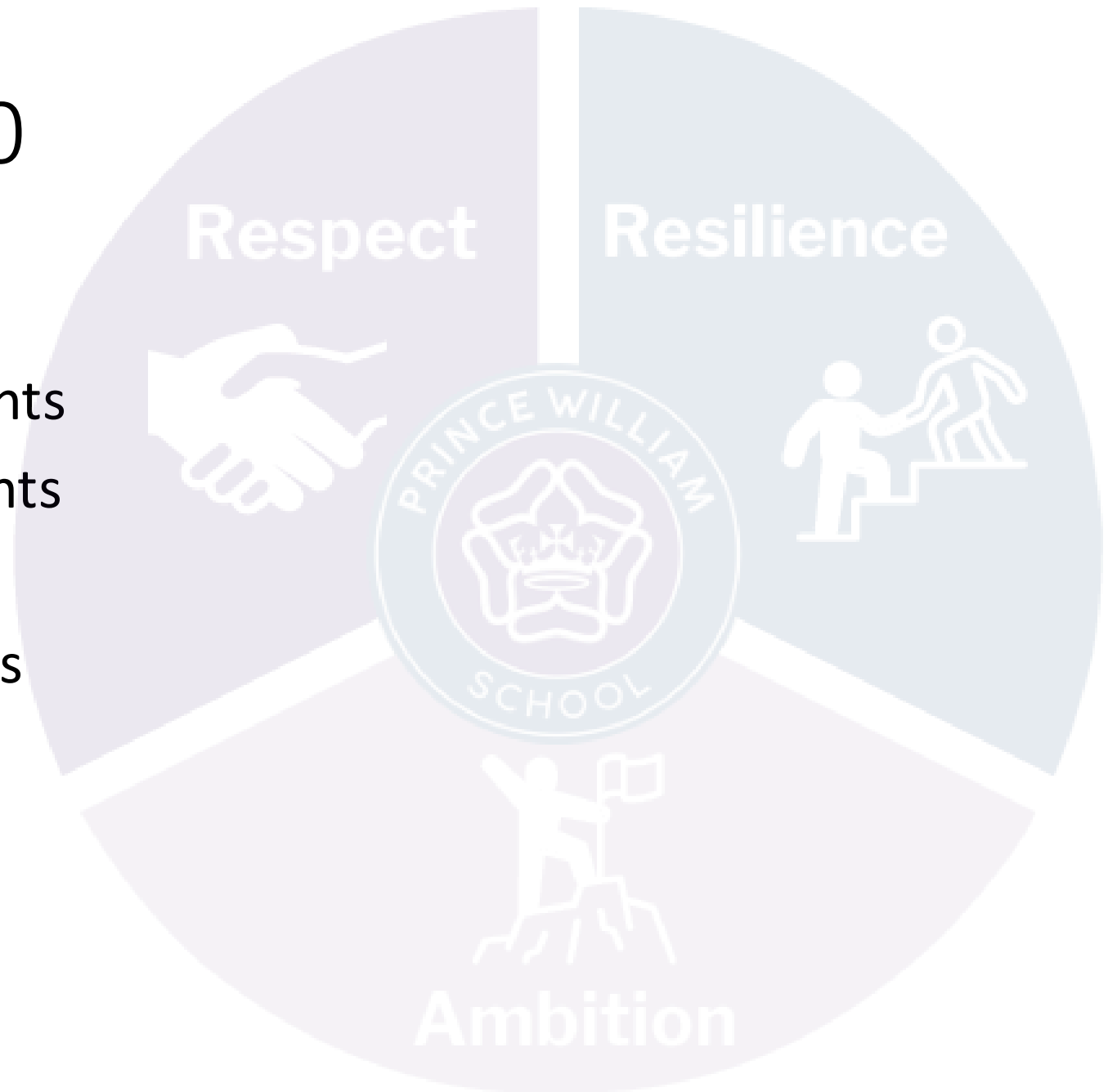
Maths 77%

Science 74%



Key dates for year 10

- 15 October – careers fair
- 4 December – reports to parents
- 26 February – reports to parents
- 5 March – parents' evening
- 22 June – internal assessments
- 9 July – World of Work day



Key people

- Tutor
- Head of Year 10 – Mr Guest
- Head of English – Mrs Field
- Head of Maths – Mr Alisauskas
- Head of Science – Mrs Melrose
- Deputy Head Teacher (data) – Mr S Woodhouse
- Deputy Head Teacher (inclusion) – Mr A Kennedy
- Assistant Headteacher Behaviour/Careers Lead – Mr Lane
- Careers Advisor – Ms Allen



GCSE English: Edexcel

- All students will complete **GCSE English Language** and follow one of two possible specifications. Both routes are assessed 9-1 and carry equal weighting with further and higher education establishments. The difference is seen in the formatting of tasks and the style of texts.
- All students will complete the **Spoken Language Endorsement** regardless of which route they follow for English Language. The format and assessment criteria is identical.
- All students will complete **GCSE English Literature**.
- **There is no tiered entry for GCSE English.**

GCSE English Language: Edexcel (Traditional Spec)

Paper 1: 19th Century Fiction and Imaginative Writing (40%)

- **SECTION A:** Students examine an extract from an unseen 19th Century novel. They must respond to a range of tasks that are based on the skills of inference, analysis, and evaluation
- **SECTION B:** Students produce an extended creative response to prompts or images and will be judged on their ability to structure and craft language with sophistication and accuracy.

Paper 2: 20th and 21st Century Non-fiction and Transactional Writing (60%)

- **SECTION A:** Students examine two 20th and 21st century non-fiction texts across a range of forms such as, letters, articles, reports, websites or diary entries. They must respond to these two texts using skills of inference, analysis, evaluation, comparison and the synthesis of information.
- **SECTION B:** They then produce an extended transactional response to one of two tasks that takes its themes from the Section A texts. Much like Paper 1, students will be judged on their ability to structure and craft language in varied ways with sophistication and accuracy but with additional focus on writing for a specific audience and purpose.

GCSE English Language: Edexcel (2.0 Spec)

Paper 1: Non-Fiction Texts (50%)

- **SECTION A:** Students examine a range of non-fiction 19th Century texts and develop their analytical and evaluative reading skills. Students will then respond to a range of short and open response questions on two thematically linked, unseen non-fiction extracts.
- **SECTION B:** Students have a choice of two transactional writing tasks, thematically linked to the texts in Section A. Accuracy, sophistry and variety with spelling, punctuation and grammar is assessed in this task.

Paper 2: Contemporary Texts (50%)

- **SECTION A:** Students examine two 20th and 21st century prose fiction and literary non-fiction. Students will respond to a range short and open response questions on two thematically linked unseen fiction and literary non-fiction extracts.
- **SECTION B:** Students produce an extended imaginative response to one of two tasks that takes its themes from the Section A texts. Students will be judged on their ability to structure and craft language in varied ways with sophistication and accuracy.

GCSE English Language: Edexcel

Spoken Language Endorsement:

- All students are required to complete the Spoken Language Endorsement (SLE). This is common across all GCSE exam boards and, without it, students will not be able to certificate.
- The SLE does not carry any weight toward the overall qualification.
- Students research, plan and deliver a short (4-5 minutes) presentation on an appropriate, and mutually agreed, topic. They must answer questions posed at the end of their presentation. Students are judged on their ability to speak with clarity, order and sophistication. They will also be judged on the depth and challenge of their responses to questions posed.
- Students be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction for their efforts.
- All students will deliver their presentation to their class. Teachers will record presentations from selected students as evidence to send to the exam board.

GCSE English Language: Top Tips

- Read widely – including some 19th century texts
- Expand your vocabulary
- Past Papers
- Get to know the criteria
- Talk to your teachers
- Take detailed notes in all lessons and respond to all feedback
- Attend the revision sessions recommended to you

GCSE English Literature: Edexcel

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Post 1914 Literature (50%)

“Romeo and Juliet”

They first answer one extract based task and then a second task that focuses on the thematic issues raised in the extract, as they can be evidenced throughout the play as a whole. They will also be expected to comment on the relationship between the play and the context(s) in which it was written and performed.

"An Inspector Calls"

Students will be given a choice of two tasks that are based on key elements plot, theme and character. Their response should examine such elements closely as well as make links to the context(s) in which the play was set, written and performed. Students will also be awarded a mark for the quality of the written communication.

Paper 2: 19th Century Novel and Poetry since 1789 (50%)

"A Christmas Carol" OR "Jekyll & Hyde"

Students study one of the above 19th Century novels. Students complete a two part task: one with an extract and one that examines the whole text.

"Belonging" Poetry

- Students work in their Edexcel Poetry Anthology. We focus on a range of literary devices as well as the context of each poem. In the exam students are given one of the poems studied and asked to compare it, based on a thematic steer, to one of the other poems studied.

Unseen Poetry

Students will be given two unseen poems and are asked to compare how a specific element, usually content based or a thematic idea.

Both exams are closed book – students will not have full copies of the set texts with them in the exams.

GCSE English Literature: Top Tips

- Read the set texts more than once
- Quotation banks
- Character profiles
- Past Papers
- Attend the revision sessions

GCSE Mathematics

AQA (8300)

Paper 1: non-calculator	+	Paper 2: calculator	+	Paper 3: calculator
What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 80 marks• non-calculator• 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 80 marks• calculator allowed• 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 80 marks• calculator allowed• 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment
Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Foundation examines
grades 1 -5

Higher examines
grades 4 -9 and
assumes grades 1 – 3
as prior knowledge

Weightings of topics vary depending on tier of entry

Topic Area	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and statistics (combined)	15	15

- The most successful approach to Maths is:
 - * ensure you have a revision guide which you are using
 - * practice little and often
 - * work on the things you know you can't do
 - * stay positive – ask for help when needed
 - * bring all equipment to every lesson which includes a calculator, compass, 30cm ruler and a protractor

Useful resources in Maths:

- Students have access to MathsWatch which they should be using regularly. They can choose any topic they want to improve their understanding on by watching the associated videos and answering questions.
- PiXL Maths App, tracks individual's areas of strength and weakness and addresses the weakness (free through school)
- CorbettMaths website – free revision videos with corresponding worksheets and examination questions

GCSE Science

At Prince William all students follow the OCR GCSE Science courses.

Some students are following the Triple Science route and will gain separate GCSE grades (1-9) for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Most students are following the GCSE Combined Science route. This course covers material from Biology, Chemistry and Physics but will result in two Science GCSEs grades (1,1 to 9,9) which come from the average performance across all the GCSE Science exams.

Students on either route can apply to study any A-level Science course

The GCSE exams

All students will sit 6 GCSE science exams in the summer; 2 in Biology, 2 in Chemistry and 2 in Physics.

For the Triple Science groups, each exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes long to examine the additional content covered in Triple Science.

For the Combined Science groups, each exam will be 1 hour 10 minutes long.

Practical work in Science

There is no longer any GCSE coursework or ISAs. The final grade is purely based upon performance in the summer GCSE exams.

The course does contain 22 required practical activities. These are experiments that students are expected to complete during lesson time. Each exam will contain questions which test understanding of these experiments which could be anything from planning experiments, processing and analysing data or drawing appropriate conclusions.

Making the most of your time in KS4

Ensure you bring the correct equipment to each lesson, particularly the correct exercise book and your own scientific calculator.

Address weaknesses, or anything you don't understand, as they arise. All the Science teachers are happy to go through tricky concepts again at lunchtime or after school – don't be afraid to ask!

Try to attend every lesson. If you are absent be proactive and ask your teacher what you have missed; it could have been a required practical activity which you will need to do at some point.

Revising at home

If students wish to purchase a GCSE revision guide; we recommend the CPG revision guide. Encourage students to bring this to lessons as well as using it to aid your revision at home.

Look at the OCR specification and either download or print a copy for the course you are following. This is a list of everything you will need to know for your GCSE exam. A good tip is to tick off each topic as you revise it.

Revise the required practical activities as well as the content covered in each lesson. The exam board is required to include questions on these experiments.

Revise for your mock exams. Every year the students who work hard in preparing for their mock exams will ultimately make the most progress.

Central pillars to success

- Establish plans for September 2026 as early as possible.
- Begin revision now.
- Work hard in class.
- Complete all homework.
- Ensure that your focus is increasingly on success at GCSE.
- Attend school.




Tutor groups

- Year 10 Rationale behind Guided Reading and Revision
- Year 11 Tutor Time

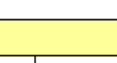


Revision

- Learning to revise is a key factor in success at GCSE.
- Start by making a timetable. Aim to establish a routine whereby a student is completing 10 hours/week of revision now.
- This will take the pressure off next year.
- Use [pastpapers.com](https://www.pastpapers.com) as a source of past papers as a key revision tool.



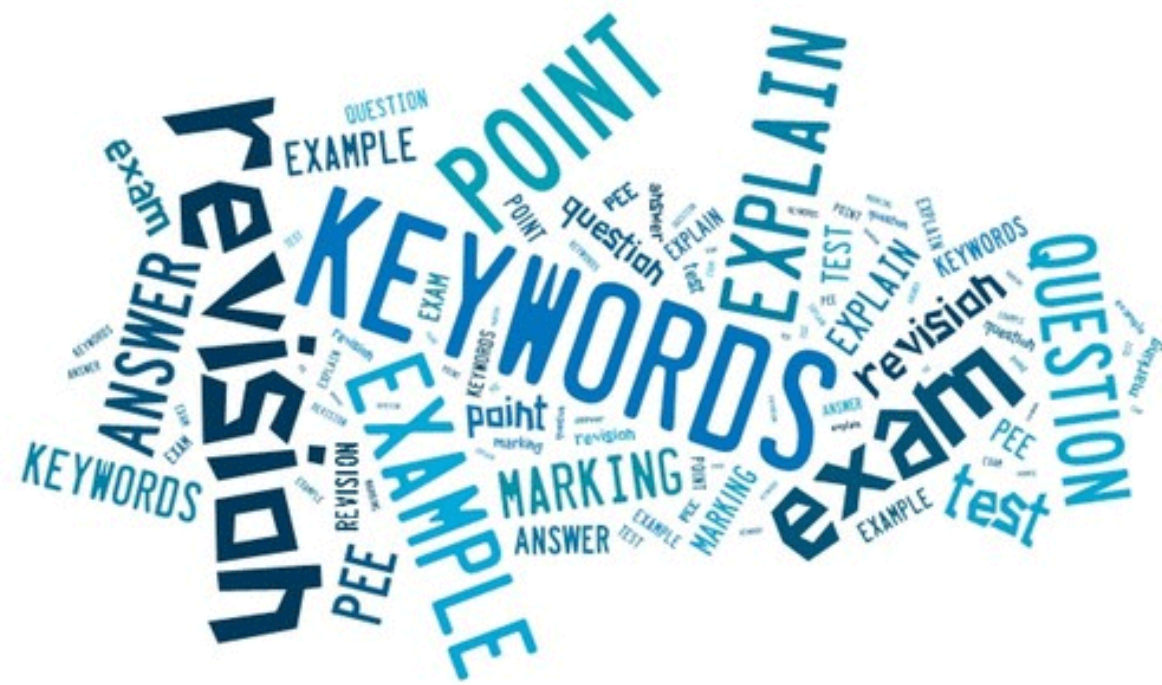
Revision Timetable



	Study Times - fill in at least 14 slots of 40 minutes each									SUBJECTS
	9-10am	10-11am	11-12pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm	
Sunday										English
Monday										Maths
Tuesday										Science
Wednesday										Option1 _____
Thursday										Option 2 _____
Friday										Option 3 _____
Saturday										Option 4 _____

Revision – things to try

- Revision must be ACTIVE.
- Try –
 - Mind mapping
 - Summarising
 - Internet resources/Apps – [senecalearning.com](https://www.senecalearning.com)
 - Coloured cards
 - Post-its
 - Teaching the cat/your parent/sibling
 - Revision books - CGP
 - Past paper practice
- Think about a rewards structure.



There are 190 days in a school year

Missing school means missing out!

If your child is at school for 190 days out of 190, that's 100% attendance.
Your child has a good chance of doing well at school.

If your child is at school for 180 days out of 190, that's 95% attendance. The child will achieve 1/2 a grade less in every subject they take at GCSE.

If your child is at school for 169 days out of 190, that's 89% attendance. Your child has been off for 21 days, and will achieve a full grade less in every subject at GCSE.

If your child is at school for 161 days out of 190, that's 85% attendance.
Your child has been off for 29 days, nearly 6 school weeks.

If your child is at school for 150 days out of 190, that's 79% attendance.
Your child has been off school for 40 days.

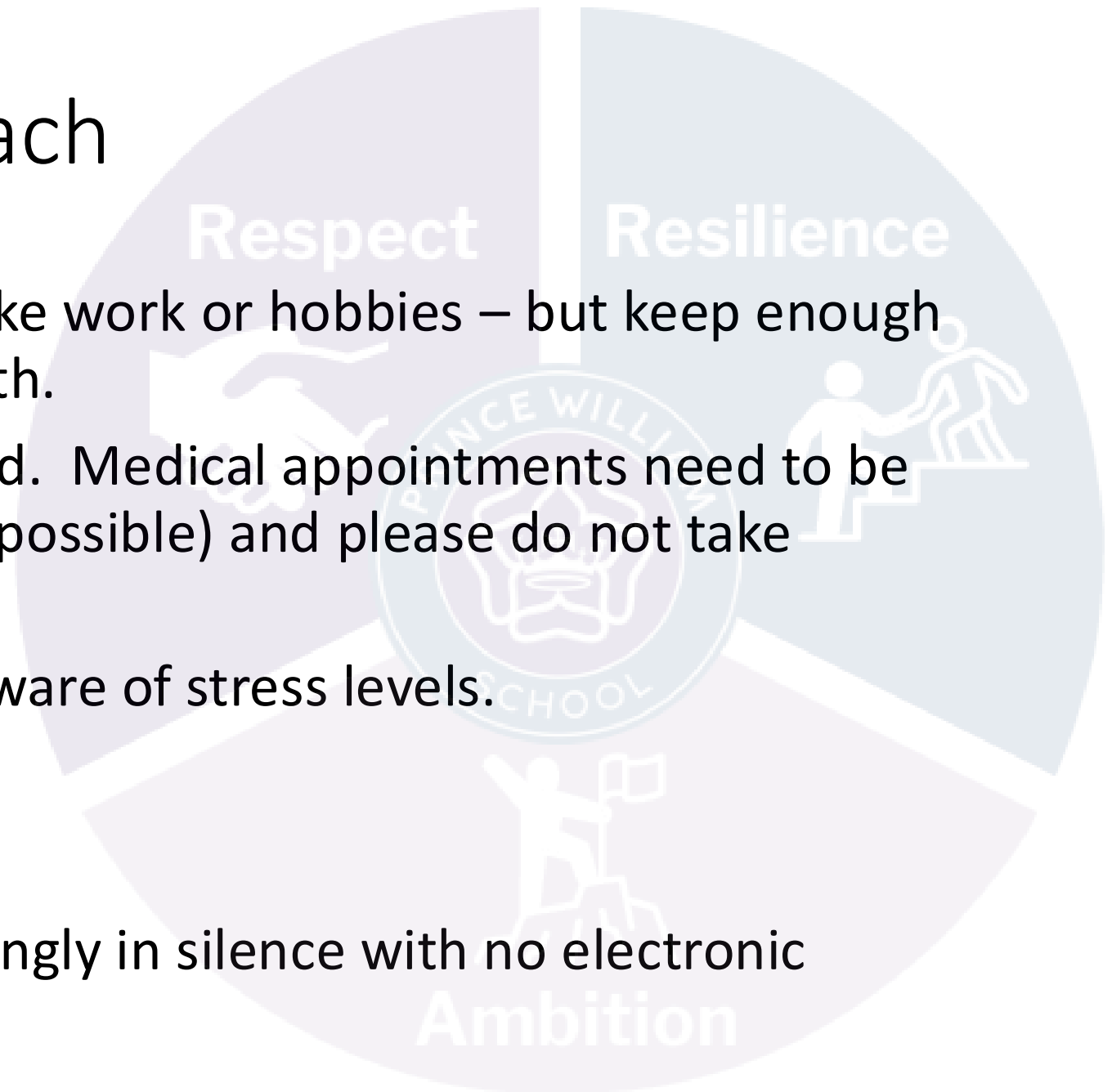
If your child is at school for 143 days out of 190,
that's 75% attendance.

Your child has missed more than 9 school weeks.

**Is your child
missing out?**

As the exams approach

- Reduce other commitments like work or hobbies – but keep enough to maintain good mental health.
- Ensure that attendance is good. Medical appointments need to be outside school time (as far as possible) and please do not take holidays during term time.
- Plan quality time off and be aware of stress levels.
- Students should work increasingly in silence with no electronic distractions.



Next Step

- By law, all students need to be in education, employment (with training) or an apprenticeship until they are 18.
- Start thinking and researching now for your child's continuing education post 16.
- PWS 6th Form – A levels.
- Use of Unifrog during Skills for Life lessons.
- Exposure to local opportunities in assembly.
- Careers 1-2-1 sessions with Kate Allen conducted during the summer term.



Parent View

If you would like to share your positive experiences with Ofsted, please follow the QR link and let them know why you think Prince William School is an excellent school



Good
luck!

