

Aldercar
HIGH SCHOOL

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: MR A BLAKE

YEAR 11 INFORMATION BOOKLET

Key Information for Students and Parents/Carers

Year 11 2026-2027

2026-2027

EMBARK
FEDERATION

Welcome Note

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 11. This is an important and exciting year for your child, and we look forward to working in close partnership with you to ensure every student achieves their very best.

We have high expectations of all Year 11 students in terms of achievement, conduct, organisation, and preparation. We ask that students attend all lessons punctually, complete all classwork and homework to the best of their ability, and come to school each day fully equipped and ready to learn.

This booklet has been designed to provide you with all the key information you need for the year ahead, including important dates, support programmes, and guidance on how you can help at home. Please take time to read through it carefully.

If you have any questions or concerns at any point during the year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Blake

Deputy Headteacher



Working Towards Your Best

Your Target Grades

Every student in Year 11 has been set individual target grades based on their prior attainment. These targets represent the minimum we expect you to achieve. We encourage all students to aim beyond their target grade and strive for the highest possible outcome in every subject. Please discuss your targets with your form tutor or subject teacher if you are unsure.

Key Strategies

Revision: Begin structured revision early. Use revision guides, past papers, and online platforms to consolidate knowledge.

Coursework: Ensure all controlled assessments and coursework are completed on time and to the highest standard.

Exam Preparation: Practise past papers under timed conditions. Review mark schemes to understand what examiners are looking for.

Organisation: Keep a revision timetable and dedicate regular time each evening to independent study.

Steps to Success

Attend all lessons and engage fully. Every lesson missed is learning lost that is difficult to recover before examinations.

Complete all homework and independent study tasks set by your teachers to reinforce classroom learning.

Use Sparx Maths, Sparx Science, and Sparx Reader regularly to build knowledge and confidence across subjects.

Speak to your teacher as soon as you feel unsure about a topic. Early intervention makes a significant difference to your final grade.

Attendance Matters

Why It Matters

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's success at GCSE. Every lesson missed is learning lost. We expect all Year 11 students to maintain attendance of 90% or above throughout the academic year to give themselves the best possible chance in their examinations.

Impact of Absence

90%+ attendance: On track for success

Below 90%: Classified as persistent absence

Missing 1 day per week = losing 20% of teaching

Absence disrupts coursework and revision progress

Holidays during term time will not be authorised

How We Support Good Attendance

Attendance is monitored weekly and parents/carers will be contacted if concerns arise.

Persistent absence may result in a formal meeting with the Deputy Headteacher. Attendance is a key criterion for Year 11 Prom access.

We work with families to resolve any barriers to regular attendance.

Key Year 11 Dates

Important Dates

Please keep a note of the following key dates for Year 11. These are important milestones in your child's academic year and we ask that parents and carers plan around them accordingly.

Exams & Events

Mock Exams (Series 1)
9th – 20th November 2026

Mock Exams (Series 2)
1st – 12th February 2027

Parents' Evening
Thursday 7th January 2027

Results Afternoon
Friday 19th March 2027

Further Key Dates

First GCSE Examination:

Monday 4th May 2027 – students must be fully prepared and in school.

Examination Contingency Date:

Wednesday 23rd June 2027 – no holidays should be booked before this date.

Year 11 Prom:

Friday 2nd July 2027 – subject to meeting attendance and behaviour criteria.

All dates are subject to confirmation. Further communication will be sent in advance of each event.

Important Notice: Examination Contingency Date

Please read this notice carefully. Ofqual requires all schools to reserve a contingency date for GCSE and A-Level examinations. This date exists in case any examinations are disrupted and need to be rescheduled. Families must plan accordingly and must not book any holidays that would conflict with this date.

Contingency Date

Wednesday 23
June 2027

Action Required

Do NOT book any
holidays until
AFTER
Wednesday 23
June 2027

Why This Matters Students absent on this date may be unable to sit rescheduled exams, affecting their final grades and future opportunities.



Support & Intervention

Overview

Year 11 students have access to a range of targeted support and intervention programmes designed to help every student reach their full potential and achieve the best possible grades in their GCSEs.

RAISE Programme

Targeted small-group sessions led by specialist staff

Focused revision and exam technique workshops

One-to-one mentoring and academic coaching



Programme Outcomes

Build confidence and close identified gaps in knowledge.

Develop effective revision strategies and exam technique.

Improve attainment and achieve target grades at GCSE.

Sparx Learning Platforms

Overview

Sparx is an independent online learning platform used across three subjects. Students are expected to complete their Sparx homework regularly and on time. All tasks are set weekly and completion is monitored closely by subject teachers.

Platforms

Sparx Reader: Weekly reading tasks to build literacy and comprehension skills

Sparx Maths: Personalised maths homework aligned to GCSE topics and exam preparation

Sparx Science: Targeted science tasks covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics content

Learning Expectations

Complete all Sparx homework by the set deadline each week.

Log in using your school credentials at sparxmaths.uk, sparxreader.com, and sparxscience.com.

Contact your subject teacher promptly if you experience any technical difficulties.



SPARK
The UNODC eLearning Platform



Calculator Requirements

Students in Year 11 are required to have their own scientific calculator for use in lessons and examinations. We strongly recommend the CASIO FX Scientific Calculator, which is widely used across our Mathematics and Science departments and fully approved for all GCSE examinations.

Recommended Calculator

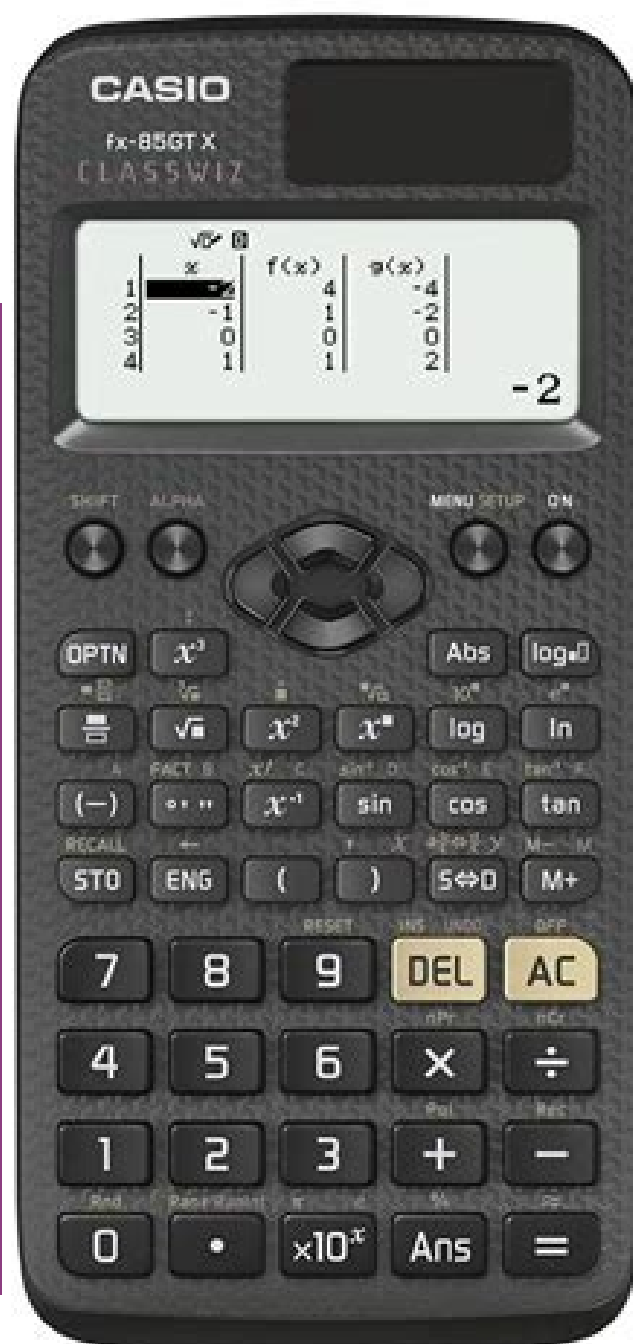
We recommend the CASIO FX-85GT CW or equivalent CASIO FX Scientific Calculator, available from most stationery and online retailers.

Use in Lessons

Students must bring their approved calculator to every Maths and Science lesson. Sharing calculators is not permitted during timed assessments.

Use in Examinations

Only approved scientific calculators are permitted in GCSE examinations. Calculators must be free of any stored notes or programmes. Graphical calculators are not permitted.



Year 11 Prom Criteria

Prom Access

The Year 11 Prom is a celebration of your achievements and hard work. Access to the prom is based on maintaining a 95%+ behaviour ratio throughout the year. Invitations are issued in three rounds, with checks at key points in the academic year.

Eligibility

Behaviour Ratio: Students must maintain a 95% or above positive behaviour ratio at each checkpoint.

Attendance: Good attendance supports eligibility and reflects the commitment expected of Year 11 students.

Conduct: Students must demonstrate respectful and responsible conduct throughout the year.

Academic Effort: Consistent effort in lessons and completion of work is expected from all students.

Invitation Rounds

Round 1 invitation issued after the February half-term checkpoint. Students with 95%+ behaviour ratio will receive their first invitation.

Round 2 invitation issued after the Easter checkpoint. Behaviour ratio is reviewed again at this stage.

Round 3 final invitation issued after the May half-term checkpoint for students who have met the criteria.

Prom Date: Friday 2nd July 2027. We look forward to celebrating with all eligible Year 11 students.

How Parents Can Help

Key Actions

Your support at home is one of the most important factors in your child's success this year. Research consistently shows that engaged and informed parents make a significant difference to student outcomes at GCSE level.

At Home

Encourage regular attendance and punctuality every day
Help establish a consistent revision routine at home
Monitor Sparx Maths, Reader, and Science tasks weekly

Staying Connected

Attend Parents' Evening on 7th January 2027 to discuss progress with teachers.
Communicate promptly with school if your child is absent or struggling with any aspect of their studies.



Get In Touch

We hope this booklet has been helpful. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress in Year 11, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your child throughout this important year.

Yours sincerely,
Mr A Blake
Deputy Headteacher



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