

Year 12 Parent Information Evening



A Typical Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Registration 8:45 - 9:05	MENTORING	MENTORING	MENTORING	MENTORING	MENTORING
Period 1 9:05 - 10:05	SUBJECT 1	SUBJECT 1		SUBJECT 3	SUBJECT 2
PERIOD 2 10:05 - 11:05	SUBJECT 1	SUBJECT 1			SUBJECT 2
BREAK					
Period 3 11:25 - 12:25		CORE	SUBJECT 3	SUBJECT 3	SUBJECT 2
LUNCH					
Period 4 13:05 - 14:05		SUBJECT 2			SUBJECT 3
Period 5 14:05 - 15:05		SUBJECT 2	ENRICHMENT		SUBJECT 3

- Tutor
- Core (Assembly)
- Enrichment

Wednesday 8:45 - 9:05 (Term1)

Tuesday 11:25 - 12:25

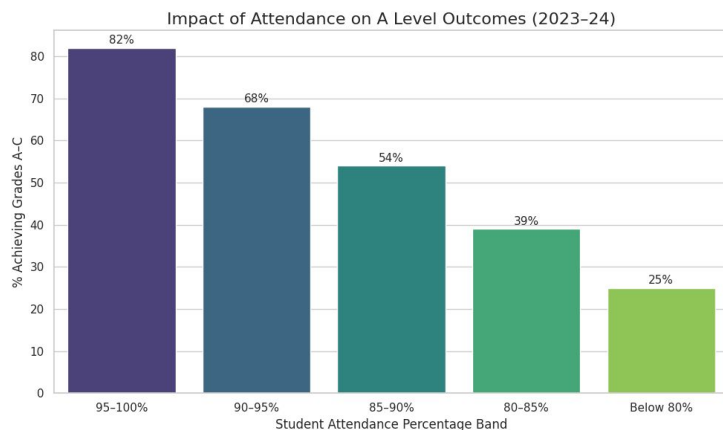
Wednesday 2:05 - 3:05

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- Achieve 95% attendance to lessons, tutorials, and core sessions
 - Be punctual and ready to learn for all lessons
 - Report any absences using the absence framework
 - In the event of absence take responsibility for collecting and completing any work missed
 - Demonstrate a strong work ethic, by taking responsibility for your own learning
 - Ensure all deadlines are met
 - Communicate professionally with all staff
 - Produce work of the highest standard and seek help from subject staff if there are any difficulties
 - Ensure you are dressed appropriately according to Sixth Form policy
 - Wear your ID lanyard when on school premises at all times
 - Act as a positive role model and promote Sixth Form values
 - Become who universities and employers want by taking an active role in Sixth Form life
 - Limit part-time work to no more than 10 hours per week and not during school working hours
 - Take responsibility for the Sixth Form equipment and environment

Why Good Attendance Matters

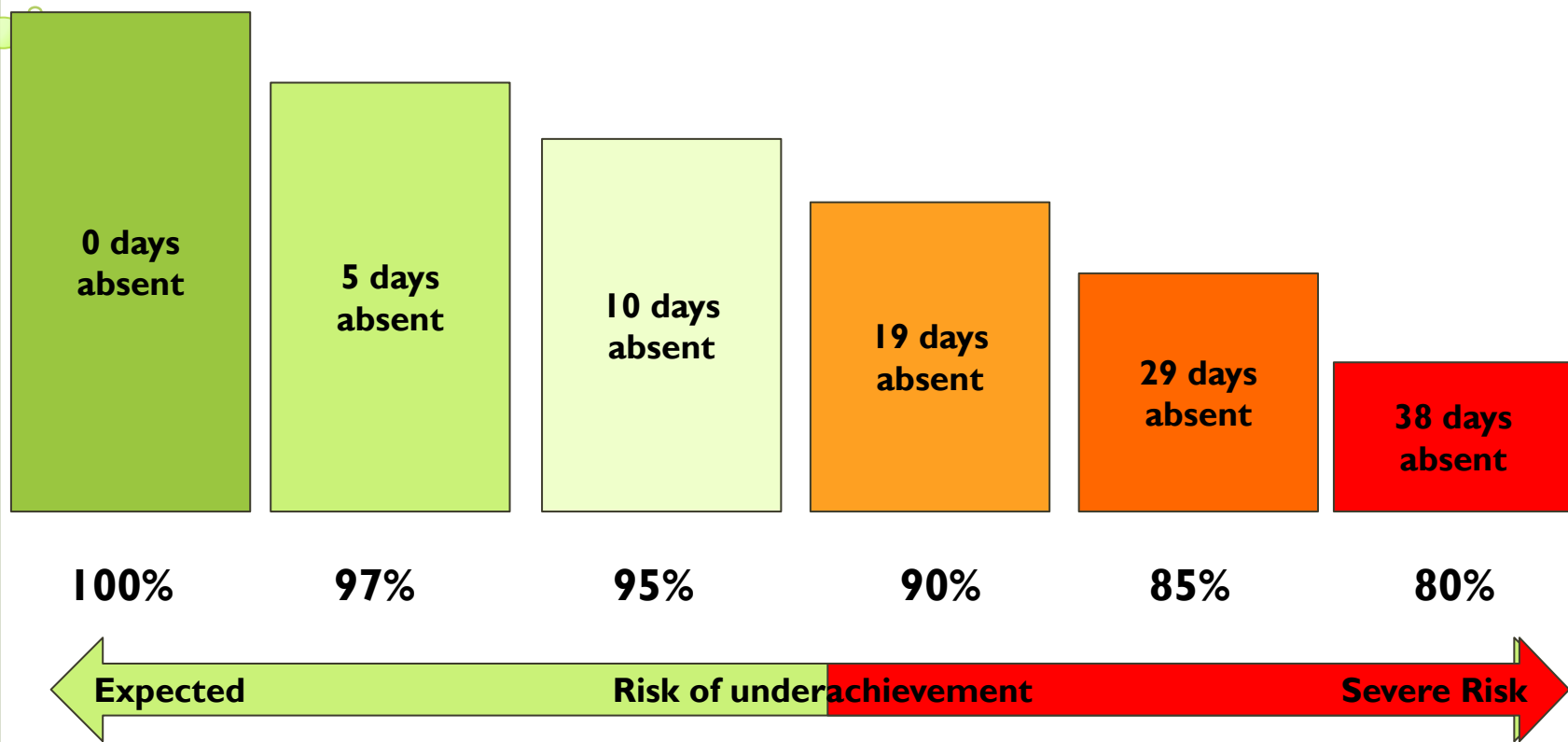
Attendance is more than just showing up. Universities and Employers do ask for attendance records. Consistent attendance reflects commitment, reliability, and resilience—all qualities that matter.

Attendance drives achievement. There's a strong link between being present and performing well. We've seen time and again that students who attend regularly achieve more—and we're here to support that journey.



“Every percent counts.
Students with 95%+
attendance are more
than three times as likely
to achieve strong A Level
grades than those below
80%.” (DFE)

Good Attendance Matters



Based on 180 days a year in school

What We Expect of Students

- Minimum attendance target: **97%**
- If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please ensure you report the absences by 8:45am.
- Where possible, we ask that medical appointments be arranged outside of school hours to minimise disruption to learning.
- Please avoid taking holidays during term time, as this can significantly impact your child's progress.
- If attendance becomes a concern, we'll work closely with students to create a personalised support plan to help them get back on track.
- Being on time to lessons helps your child make the most of every learning opportunity and sets a strong foundation for future habits.

Reporting Absences

If a student is absent from school for illness or an emergency it should be reported by a parent/carer by 8:45am by either calling 01454 862333 or emailing DMSixthForm@cset.co.uk

If they report their own absence a text will be sent to the primary contact number held on SIMS to notify you the absence has been reported.



Cause for Concerns Process

STAGE 1 - Attendance below 95%

- Attendance between 94% - 90% students will be monitored through mentoring meetings by their tutor. An email will be sent home to inform parents of attendance concerns.

Cause for Concerns Process

STAGE 2 – Attendance below 90%

- Attendance between 90% - 85% the student will be required to attend a meeting with the Academic and Pastoral Support Officer (PASO) and asked to sign an attendance agreement to help them improve their attendance.
- This meeting is an opportunity to discuss in detail the issues/barriers that are impacting attendance at school.
- An email will be sent to parents/carers informing them that this meeting has taken place and a copy of the attendance agreement will be included.
- Attendance will be monitored closely for up to 5 weeks or termly



Cause for Concerns Process

STAGE 3 – Attendance below 85%

- A letter will be sent to the parents/carers of the student informing them of the situation and inviting them into school for a meeting (if appropriate) with the Head of Sixth Form where we will address the main issues and agree on targets and support actions to help improve your child's attendance
- An attendance contract will be issued and action points put into place that are agreed by the Head of Sixth Form and the student
- The students will be required to attend Sixth Form full time and complete all independent work in supervised study. This will be monitored by the Head of Sixth Form

Independent Study

- Silent study room
 - We have classrooms allocated for each session
 - The common room is for group study during lesson times
 - Laptops and study materials available throughout Sixth Form
 - School library
-
- Independent study isn't always what is set by teachers. Students should expect to complete a range of independent study tasks, such as revision, prior reading and wider subject research.

Independent Learning (Homework)

- Set on Google Classroom.
- All students have been asked to have the app on their phone so they can access work easily.
- Expect an hour of homework for everyone hour of lesson
- Organisation and time-management are key.

Independent Learning (10th hour)

- All students have an additional hour per subject on their timetable
- Direction to independent work will be provided by teachers
- It is the bridge between assessed 'homework' and true independent study
- **Independent learners do better.**

Where Else Can Students Find Information?

Learning Sixth Form Documents & Policies Contact

Joining Downend Sixth Form

Sixth Form Current Students

Key Dates, News and Events

Y11 to Y12 Transition Work

Bursary

Careers in the Sixth Form

[Sixth Form Curriculum](#)

Sixth Form - Trips and Visits

Attendance & Punctuality

Exam Support

Y12 Work Experience

<https://www.downend.com/Curriculum/>

CURRICULUM MAPS



Art



Biology



Business



Chemistry



Computer Science



Core Mathematics



Criminology

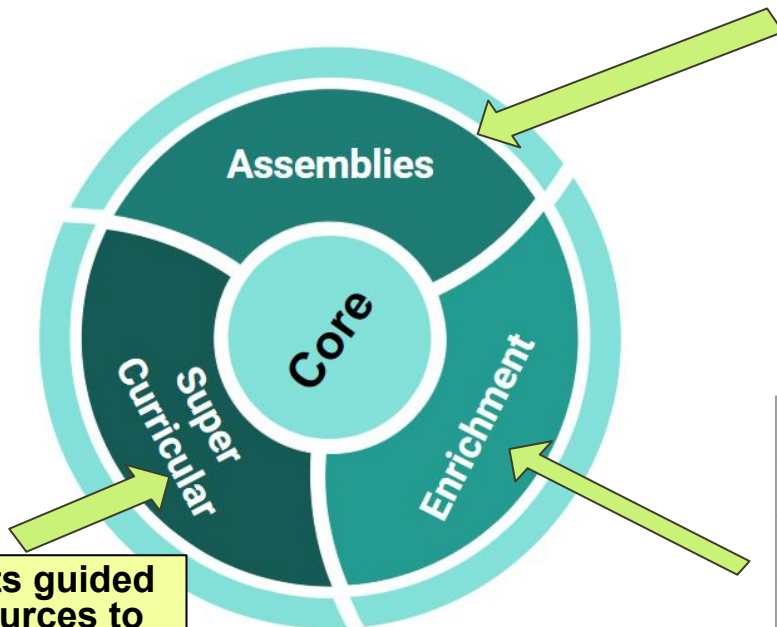


Engineering



English Language

Wider Sixth Form Life



Students guided to resources to help develop a wider interest in their favourite subjects.

Study skills

Taking opportunities

Health and Wellbeing

Safe driving

Personal safety

Revision skills

Careers/ Post 18 options

Volunteering

Extended Project (EPQ)

Student Leadership Team

Sign Language Course

Pre Teaching Award

Clubs & Societies

TEFL*

Support in Sixth Form



Mentors

Every Sixth Form student is assigned a personal mentor who meets with them at least once per term. These sessions are designed to support both academic progress and pastoral wellbeing.



Pastoral support

We understand that mental health challenges can significantly impact academic performance. We encourage students to talk to us for support or further referrals in necessary.



Academic Support

Our Pastoral & Academic Support Officer provides personalised guidance on study skills and exam technique to help students feel more confident and prepared.

Sixth Form Scholars Programme

Tailored programme aimed at students with at least five 8/9 grades at GCSE, who are considering a competitive University application.

Support for students aiming for top destinations, including:

- Russell Group universities
- Competitive fields such as medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science

How do Scholars benefit?

- Expert guidance with applications
- Access to specialised STEM workshops
- Mock Interview practice in school and with external guests
- Support with admissions tests
- Guest speakers from Oxford/ Cambridge and other Russell Group Universities
- Access to widening participation programmes

Sixth Form Bursary

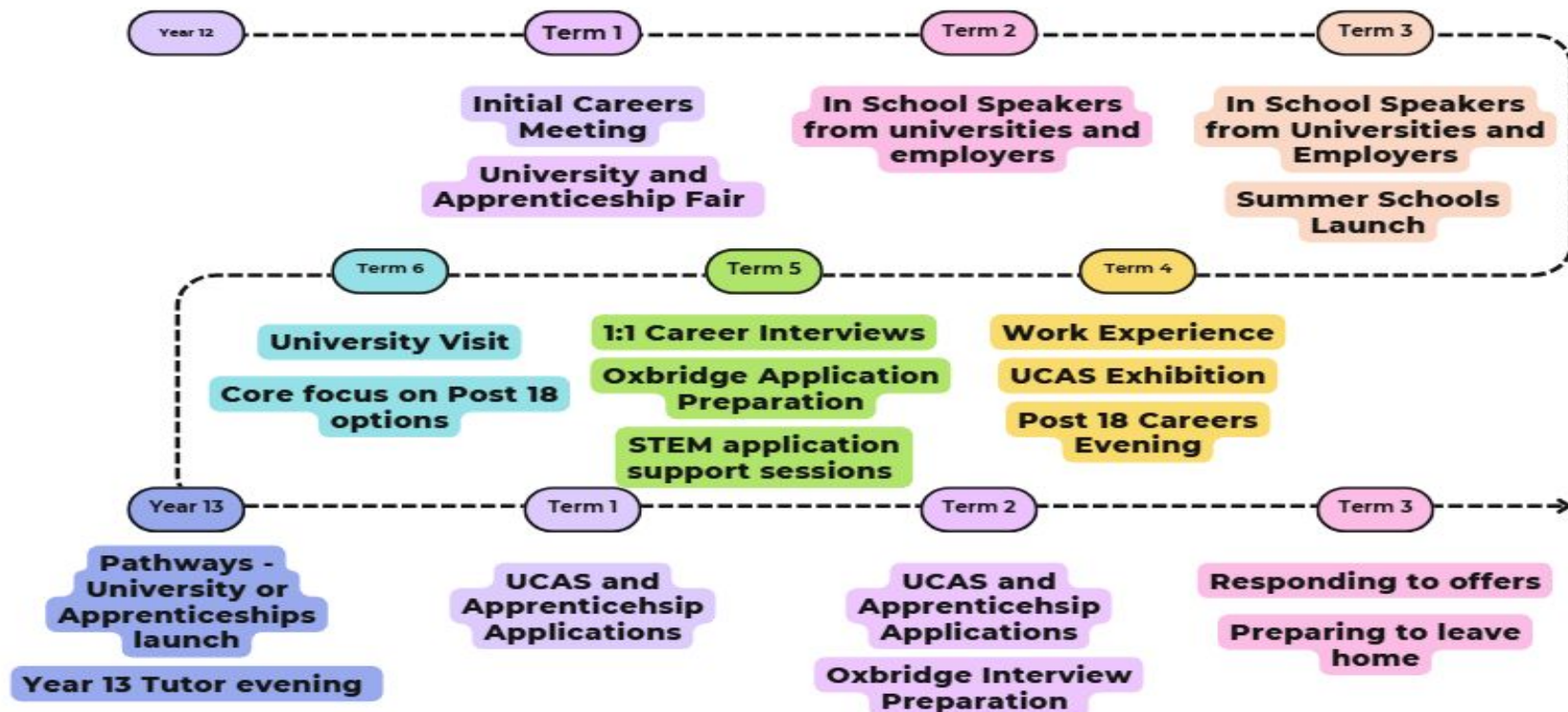
The 16 - 19 bursary is available to financially assist learners who are from households on a low income with costs incurred by attending Post 16 education.

It could help with any education-related costs that may arise during the school year.

- Young people in care/ care leavers
- Young people who are carers
- Young people with a total (inclusive of benefits) household income of less than £32,000 per annum
- Young people in receipt of Income Support/Universal Credit
- Young people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments AND Employment Support Allowance/Universal Credit in their own right

Further information available at <https://www.downend.com/Bursary/>

Career Support



Student Conduct

- ❖ Dress code
- ❖ Teacher absence
- ❖ Part time work
- ❖ Use of mobile phones
- ❖ Lanyards
- ❖ Canteen
- ❖ Trips & Visits (Evolve & Scopay)



Dress code

Sixth Form students are role models. While the dress code offers flexibility, it must remain respectful and appropriate.

- Trainers and jeans are acceptable
- No sports shorts - unless you study a sports related subject
- Skirts must be of an appropriate length
- Underwear must not be on display
- No strapless tops
- Midriffs must be covered
- No hats or caps to be worn in lessons

This is not an exhaustive list; the application of common sense is advised.

Sixth form students are role models for students across the school. They look up to you and aspire one day to be in your shoes. Those shoes need to be smart and clean.

The final decision as to whether a student is appropriately dressed rests with the Head of Sixth Form.





Teacher Absence

If your teacher is absent, you're expected to complete the work they've set on Google Classroom. They'll let you know whether this should be done on site or at home. Regardless of location, you should treat the task as a timetabled lesson and complete it during your usual lesson time.



Part Time work

Sixth Form students are encouraged to strike a healthy balance between studies and employment.

- Limit part-time work to no more than 10 hours per week
- Do not work during school hours
- Reduce hours during the exam season to prioritise revision and wellbeing

Your education comes first—plan your schedule to support long-term success.

Key Sixth Form Dates 2026/27

Term	Date	Event
Term 1	Thu 3rd Sep 2026	Inset Day 1
	Thu 10th Sep 2026	Main School Open Evening - Students Finish at 12:25
	Thu 17th Sep 2026	Year 12 New Parent Information Evening (in School Event)
	Fri 2nd Oct 2026	Inset Day 2
	Thu 15th Oct 2026	Trip: Ashton gate UCAS event
	Fri 23rd Oct 2026	End of Term 1
Term 2	Mon 2nd Nov 2026	Inset Day 3
	Thu 26th Nov 2026	Year 12 Parents Evening (Online)
	Mon 14th – Wed 16th Dec 2026	Y12 Criminology Controlled Assessments
	Fri 18th Dec 2026	End of Term 2
Term 3	Mon 4th Jan 2027	Inset Day 4
	Mon 18th – Wed 20th Jan 2027	Y13 Criminology Controlled Assessment
	W/c 18th Jan 2027	Year 12 Progress Review 1
	Fri 12th Feb 2027	End of Term 3
Term 4	Mon 22nd February 2027	Trip: UCAS Discovery event in Newport
	Thu 18th Mar 2027	Year 12 and Parent Post 18 Careers Information Evening (In School Event)
	Thu 25th Mar 2027	End of Term 4
Term 5	Mon 12th & Tue 13th Apr 2027	Inset Day 5 & 6
	Thu 29th Apr & Fri 7th May 2027	Year 12 PPEs
	W/c 17th May 2027	Year 12 Progress Review 2
	Fri 28th May 2027	End Of Term 5
Term 6	W/c 21st June 2027	Work Experience Week
	W/c 28th Jun 2027	Enrichment Week - Trip to London
	Mon 5th July 2027	Inset Day 7
	Fri 23rd July 2027	End of Term 6

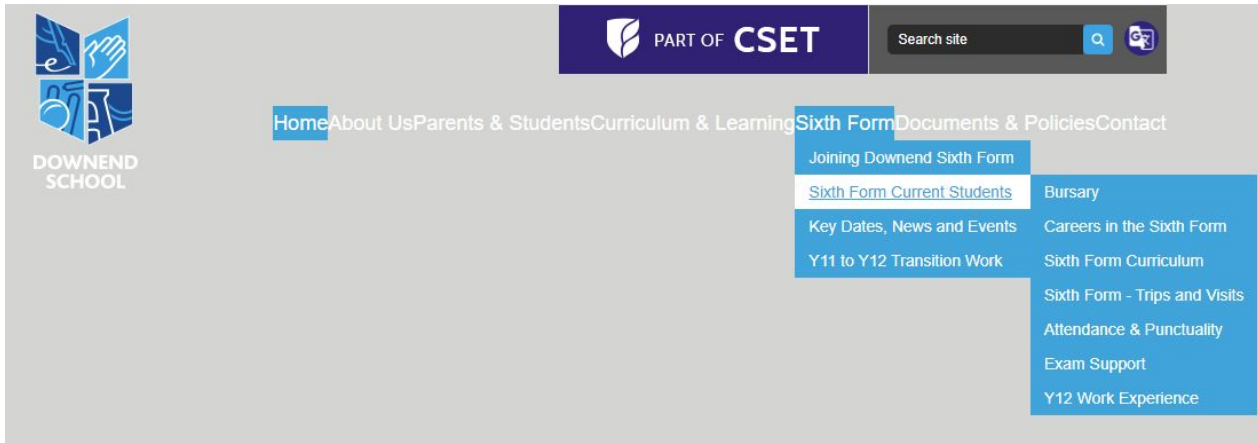
MUSIC CLUBS AND ENSEMBLES

alice.muir@cset.co.uk



	BREAKTIME 11.05–11.20	LUNCHTIME 12.40–1pm	AFTER SCHOOL 3.15 – 4.15
MON		String Ensemble (A3) Guitar Ensemble (A2)	Pops Orchestra (A2)
TUES	Woodwind ensemble (PR2)		
WED	Brass Ensemble (A3)		Flute Ensemble (A3)
THURS	BEFORE SCHOOL: Lads' Choir 8.20-8.45am		Downend Singers (Choir) (A2) Thursday Afternoon Music Crew (Rock club) with Mr Browne (rock instruments and vocalists)

Sixth Form Information



For any queries phone 01454862333 or
email DMSixthForm@cset.co.uk