



WATLING
— ACADEMY —

Year 7 Welcome Evening

Welcome



Mrs Anderson, Headteacher



Welcome



Why we exist

To deliver exceptional education, care and opportunity for every pupil.



Watling Academy Values



Respect



Responsibility



Kindness

Teaching & Learning



Mr Cassidy, Deputy Headteacher

Our Curriculum

- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Ambitious by design
- Our curriculum is supported by three key themes:
 - ❑ Milton Keynes
 - ❑ STEM
 - ❑ Sustainability

SUBJECT		LESSON ALLOCATION PER WEEK
 English		3
 Mathematics		3
 Science		2.5
 Computing		1.5
 Design Technology		2
 Geography		1.5
 History		1.5
 Modern Foreign Languages		2 (1 Spanish, 1 Mandarin)
 Physical Education		2
 Art		1
 Drama		1
 Music		1
 Religious Education		1
 STEM Innovation		1
 Wellbeing (PSHE)		1
 Tutorial		5 x 30 minute sessions

A brief overview of learning in Science



Science Learning Journey

Key Stage 3 Curriculum End Points and key vocabulary: Science

Year 7



Year 7 Science: Curriculum End
Points and key vocabulary

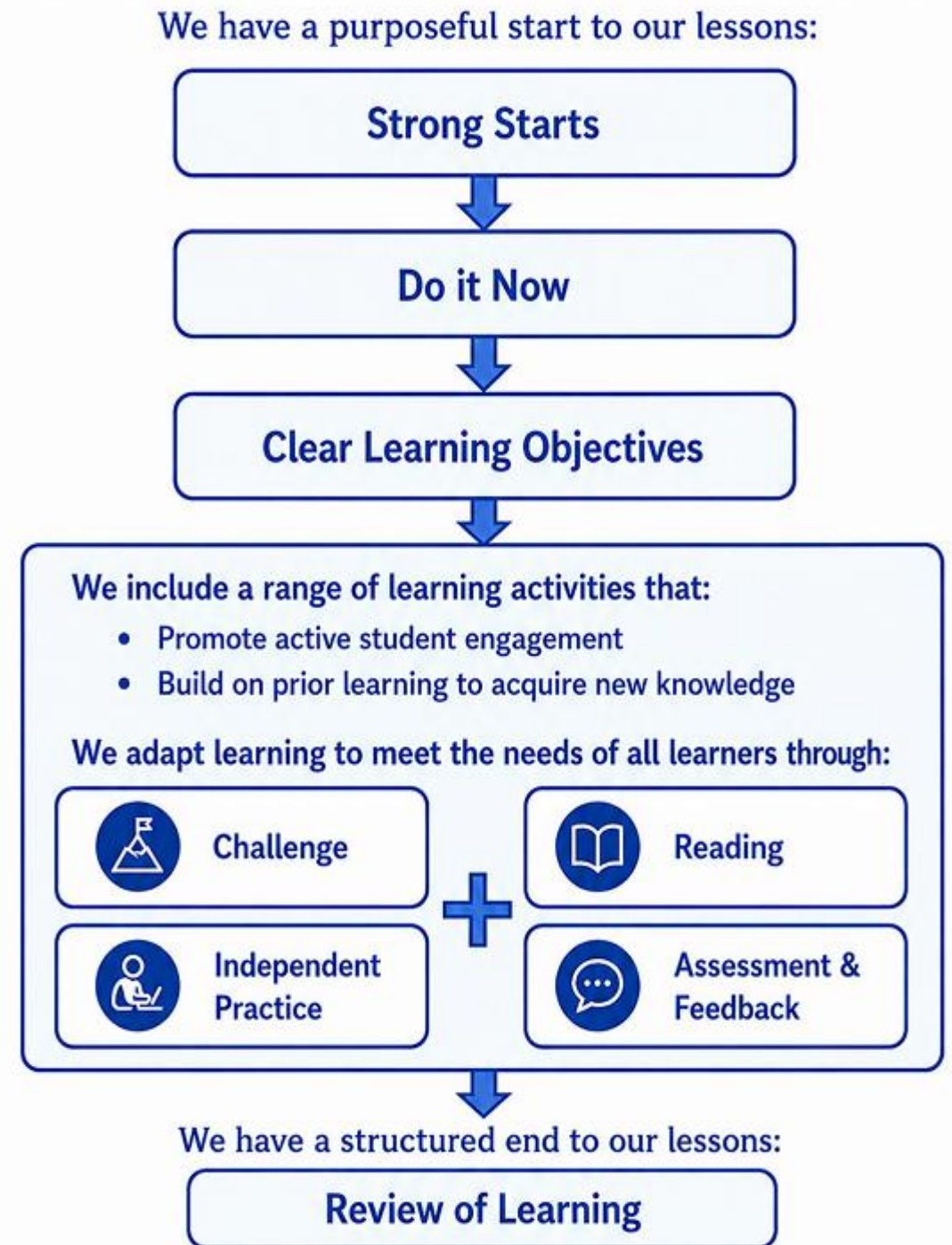
Year 8



Year 8 Science: Curriculum End
Points and key vocabulary

What are lessons like at Watling Academy?

- Lessons follow a familiar structure to support learning for all
- Lessons are designed to develop the unique knowledge, skills and ways of thinking within each subject discipline



Lesson Expectations

PRESENTATION @ WATLING ACADEMY

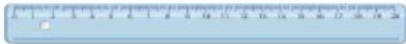
P

PEN- Write in **BLUE** or **BLACK** pen for classwork and **RED** pen for DIRT tasks.



R

RULER- UNDERLINE all dates and titles with a ruler. Use a **RULER** to draw graphs and tables.



O

ORGANISE- Write down the **DATE** and **TITLE** for all new work. **STICK** in all worksheets.



U

UNTIDY WORK- NO **GRAFFITI**. Cross out mistakes with one line **THROUGH** the word. **DO NOT SCRIBBLE!**

D

DRAW- use a **PENCIL** to draw all **GRAPHS, DIAGRAMS** or **IMAGES**. Label all graphs and diagrams.



Are you equipped for
learning?

Pens

Blue & Black—Student work

Red—Self-Assessment

Purple—Peer Assessment



Glue Stick



Pencil & Pencil Sharpener



Exercise Book



Calculator



Ruler



Compass & Protractor?



Highlighters



Rubber



Reading

Promoting reading is a priority for our students at Watling Academy

- Reading is a master skill. The stronger a student's reading ability, the greater their opportunity to success across the curriculum.
- It is estimated that across all GCSE exams, the average student may encounter between 50,000 and 70,000 words.
- The average reading age for GCSE exam papers is between 15-17 years of age.

GCSE subject	Correlation
English Language	0.65
Geography	0.65
Maths	0.63
History	0.61
Science Combined	0.61

Reading

We promote reading through:

- Silent reading every morning in tutorial
- Targeted vocabulary sessions in tutorial once a week
- Targeted activities within the curriculum
- Assessing reading skills termly
- Regular library lessons for students in KS3



How can parents support students?

- Talk about reading and the importance of reading skills in your daily life
- Encourage students to read each day or read to your son/daughter regularly
- Join a local library
- Ensure students have a reading book that they enjoy with them every day
- Encourage students to read anything – this could be instructions or recipes.
- Question students on what they are reading at home

Star Reading Assessments



- All students will sit a termly Star Reading Assessment to assess key reading skills including:
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension
 - Inference
 - Analysis
- These are online assessments that adapt to individual reading levels
- Students will be given a ZPD level to support them in picking the most appropriate books to support them in progressing in their reading.

Zone of Proximal Development

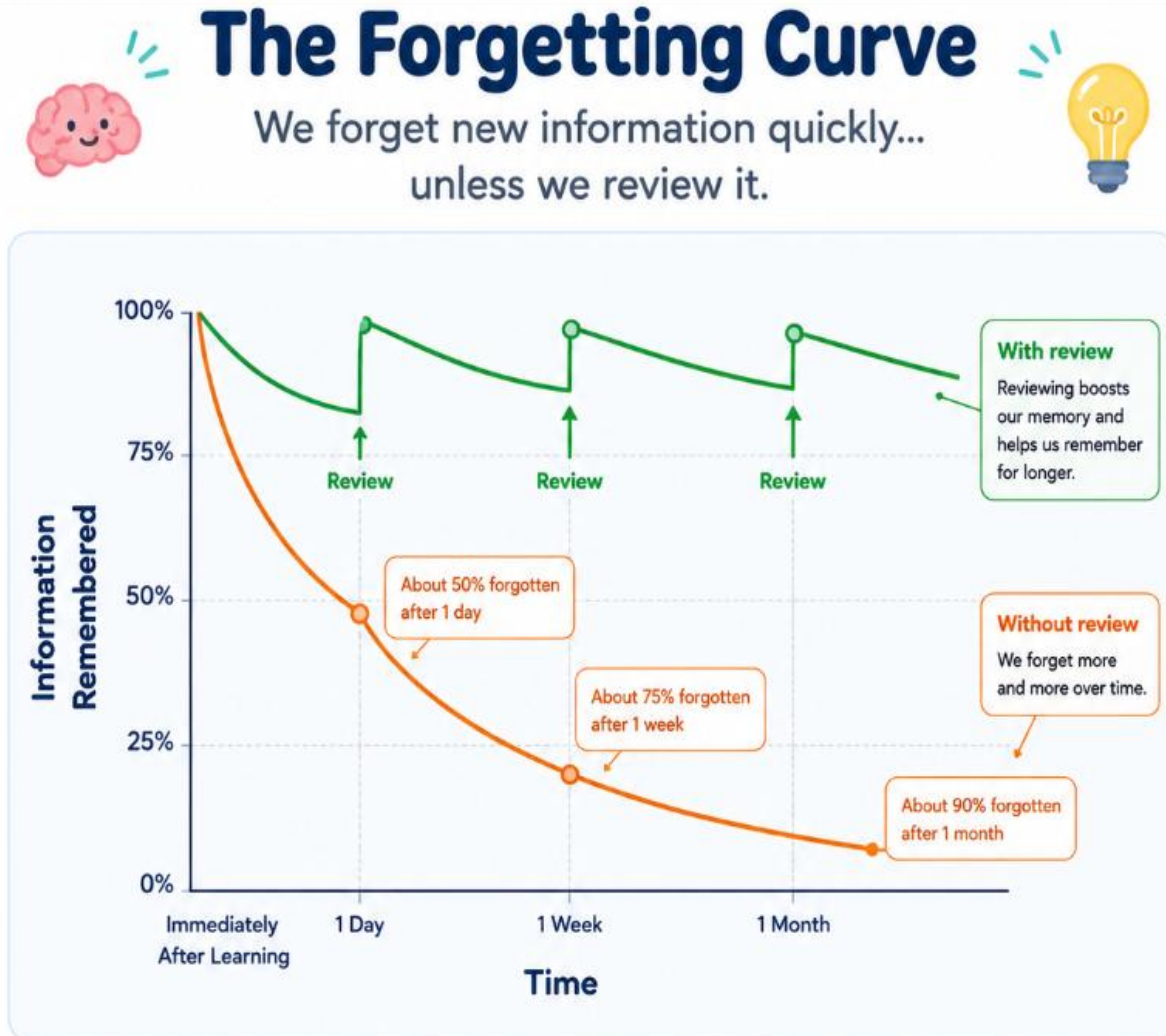


Students select books according to ZPD and their interests

	0.0 - 1.9
	2.0 - 2.9
	3.0 - 3.9
	4.0 - 4.9
	5.0 - 5.9
	6.0 +

Homework

- Homework supports knowledge retention and develops effective independent study skill.
- Homework is set regularly via Class Charts.
- Most homework tasks focus on knowledge retrieval using digital platforms.
- Tasks should take students up to 15-20 minutes to complete
- Support for students within homework clinic.



Progress Reports

- Progress Reports are sent home to parents three times a year to report of student progress across each term.
 - ☐ Autumn Term
 - ☐ Spring Term
 - ☐ Summer Term
- Parents will receive information on student engagement, behaviour, homework and Current Learning Grade.
- Parents will have the opportunity to meet with individual subject teachers during our subject consultation evening.

Mandarin Excellence Programme



The Mandarin Excellence programme is a unique yet intensive language programme organised by the UCL Institute of Education in partnership with the British Council.

This would involve:

- 2 lessons of Mandarin per week during your normal school timetable
- 1 additional lesson of Mandarin after school
- Up to 4 hours of independent learning each week

Participation involves a potential trip to China in Year 9.

Mr Scott, our Head of MFL, will provide more information in the Autumn Term



Pastoral Team



- Mr Gibbs: Assistant Head Teacher, SLT link
- Mr Simmonds: Head of Year
- Mrs Middleton: Year 7 Pastoral Assistant
- Mrs Bennett: SENDCO
- Miss Okutu: Assistant SENDCO
- Mrs Lawson: School Counsellor
- Mrs Ford & Ms Carpenter: Medical Team

Role of the Form Tutor



- Fostering strong relationships with both students and parents, ensuring a holistic approach to each child's education.
- Students meet their Form Tutor daily at 8:40 am, allowing for consistent support and guidance.
- If students have any concerns or issues, they are encouraged to speak with their Form Tutor to ensure timely support.
- Leading wellbeing lessons
- **The Form Tutor is the first point of contact for parents to discuss any concerns or questions.**

Tutorial Programme



Assemblies Assemblies are themed school meetings that happen every other week for each year group.	Celebration assemblies These take place once a half term and recognise achievements of students both academically and pastorally
Math Matters Students complete a set of Maths challenges set by the Maths department. Supporting what they have been learning in lessons	Notices An update of useful information and key messages.
Word of the Week Key words are defined, the morphology of the word examined and the contexts of the word explored.	Tutorials Introduction The tutorials are weekly PSHE-based lessons with subject-related themes.
House Challenges House Challenges are an exciting opportunity to earn house points.	

Planner

- Home school agreement
- Policies
- Passwords
- Student notes
- Subject Support
- Timetable
- School-Home Communication

School-Home Communication Sheet

Comment

Teacher's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Comment

Teacher's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

30



Rewards

We have 3 academy rules - these form part of our everyday language with students, especially when issuing praise or a consequence.

We are respectful, we are responsible and we are kind.

To recognise achievement-

- House Points
- 'I heard a Wispa'
- Postcards and Letters home
- Reward Assemblies
- Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum badges



Uniform

We have very high expectations of uniform

If you are unsure whether uniform is suitable after reading our policy, then please contact the Form Tutor.

PE kit forms part of the school uniform and the same high standards of presentation are required.

Please make yourselves aware of our policy on jewellery and make-up.

Shoe Clarification



Black socks only

Attendance & Punctuality

How can you support?

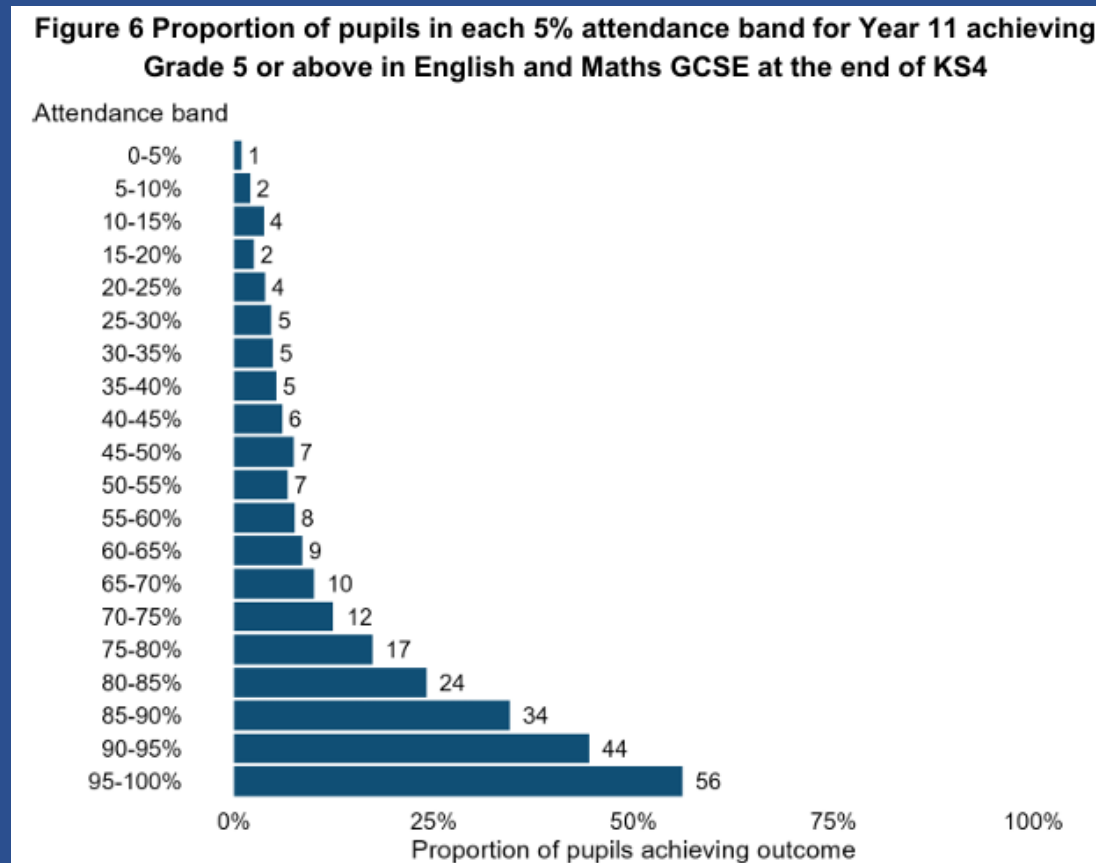
- Ensure your child is punctual to school every day.
- Keep us informed of any absences.
- Ensure you avoid term time holidays.
- Book medical/dental appointments outside of school time if possible.
- Liaise with Form tutor and Pastoral team should you need support with raising your child's attendance.



Impact of missed Education			
	90%	95%	100%
Cumulative loss of Education	= Half a year of school over 5 years	= Quarter of a school year over 5 years	=No loss of Education

Attendance & Punctuality

Department for Education: The link between attendance & attainment, March 2025



Key dates & thank you



- **3rd September 2026:** Day 1 for year 7
- **10th September 2026:** Meet the tutor evening
- **15th September 2026:** Year 7 photos
- **13th May 2027:** Subject consultation evening
- **Term 3:** Year 7 trip to Whipsnade Zoo

Clubs sign up will be sent out to parents during the first 2 weeks in September.

