



2nd September 2026

THE GAINSBOROUGH ACADEMY

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Dear Parents/Carers,

HEADTEACHER: Mrs R Skelton

As we enter the 2026/27 academic year, we are sharing important updates regarding both our **Homework Policy** and our **Assessment Policy** for all year groups.

Homework Policy

Homework is a vital tool for consolidating classroom learning, building independent study habits, and preparing students for assessments through a "little and often" approach. Our homework guidance has been updated to ensure consistency across all departments, clarity for students and parents, and to support your child's academic progress.

Homework Frequency and Duration

All homework tasks are set with a standard deadline of exactly one week so students have plenty of time to complete the work. Each student will receive one homework per week in English, Mathematics, and Science. For all other subjects, they will receive one homework task each fortnight.

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>English, Maths, & Science</u>	<u>Other / Option Subjects</u>	<u>Expected Duration (Per Task)</u>	<u>Standard Deadline</u>
Y7, Y8, & Y9 (KS3)	Weekly	Fortnightly (All other subjects)	20–30 minutes	1 Week
Y10 & Y11 (KS4)	Weekly	Fortnightly (The 3 GCSE Option subjects)	30–40 minutes	1 Week

In addition to regular timetabled homework, **compulsory revision activities** may be set leading up to:

In-class assessments / Assessment weeks	Mock exam windows	The final Summer exam series
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The schedule on the final page of this letter, which is also printed in student homework diaries and, should be used as a suggestion for when students complete homework activities. Students can choose to follow the schedule or to decide upon their own schedule to fit alongside their other commitments.

Before in-class assessments, mock exam windows, and the final Summer exam series, homework activities will focus specifically on required revision. For KS4 students, additional Directed Reading and independent revision expectations are designed to accommodate subject revision sessions.

Student Expectations

To manage their workload effectively, students are required to:

- Bring their homework diary and equipment to school every day and place their diary on their desk each lesson.
- Write down all homework tasks and exact deadline dates in their physical planners during dedicated lesson time.
- Complete homework before the deadline—ideally on the night assigned or the day received—and tick off completed tasks in their diary.
- Utilise Homework Clubs or seek teacher guidance before the deadline if assistance is required.

Assessment Policy - Academic Progress and Reporting to Parents

At Wickersley Partnership Trust, we want all students to leave able and qualified to play their full part in an ever-changing world. Our curriculum is designed for all students to experience a variety of academic subjects, whilst also enabling them to make positive life choices so they are healthy, polite and respectful. With this in mind, we set challenging targets against national standards so students make excellent progress and achieve their academic potential.

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Target Setting

Targets are set for all students based on performance in their KS2 SATS. For students in Years 7-9, they are given a Target Band. Students in Years 10 & 11 receive the actual Target Grade within that band.

Projected GCSE grades based upon the Target Band are below:

Band 1 (Foundation Trajectory)	<i>Descriptor:</i> The student is establishing core skills and working towards securing foundational qualifications across their curriculum. KS4 Outcome: Likely to achieve Grades 1, 2, or 3 at GCSE
Band 2 (Core Trajectory)	<i>Descriptor:</i> The student is meeting national expectations and is on track to achieve standard and strong passes. KS4 Outcome: Likely to achieve Grades 4, 5, or 6 at GCSE
Band 3 (Excellence Trajectory)	<i>Descriptor:</i> The student is working significantly above national expectations, demonstrating high academic depth. KS4 Outcome: Likely to achieve Grades 7, 8, or 9 at GCSE

Reporting to Parents

There will be three opportunities during each academic year for you to gain insight into your child's academic performance for students in Years 7-10. One opportunity is through parents' evening, and two through academic reports. For students in Year 11, there are two further academic reports. Dates of all academic parents' evenings, along with other key information, can be found on the final page of this letter.

Assessments measure student performance across a range of subjects within scheduled assessment weeks, allowing teachers to gain an understanding of what students know and what they need to develop further. The information gained within these weeks will be sent home in an Academic Report. Development areas for students directly impact teachers' planning to help your child make as much progress as possible during their time at school, aiming to get outcomes in Year 11 that support them in their future. To give you advanced notice of the assessments for each Year Group, please see the final page of this letter.

During the final four weeks of the school year, End of Year Exams for Y7/Y8 and Year 10 Mock Exams will take place.

Mock Exams for Year 11 take place on the following weeks:

- Week Beginning 5th October 2026 - English Literature
- Week Beginning 12th October 2026 - English Language, Mathematics, Sciences
- Week Beginning 30th November 2026 spread over 2/3 weeks - Mocks in all subjects
- Week Beginning 22nd February 2027 spread over 2/3 weeks - Mocks in all subjects

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's learning habits.

Yours sincerely,



Rachael Skelton
Headteacher

Information Page / Key Dates

Parents Evenings

Assessment Weeks

Year group	Parents' Evening	Assessment Week 1	Assessment Week 2
Year 7	18th March 2027	Week Beginning 25th January 2027	Week Beginning 26th April 2027
Year 8	13th May 2027	Week Beginning 18th January 2027	Week Beginning 19th April 2027
Year 9	19th November 2026	Week Beginning 11th January 2027	Week Beginning 12th April 2027
Year 10	6th May 2027	Week Beginning 4th January 2027	Week Beginning 22nd March 2027
Year 11	28th January 2027	See Mock Exam Info below	

Mock Exams for Year 11 take place on the following weeks:

- Week Beginning 5th October 2026 - English Literature
- Week Beginning 12th October 2026 - English Language, Mathematics, Sciences
- Week Beginning 30th November 2026 spread over 2/3 weeks - Mocks in all subjects
- Week Beginning 22nd February 2027 spread over 2/3 weeks - Mocks in all subjects

Y7 & Y8 End of Year exams - during the final four weeks of the year (June / July)

Y10 Mock Exams - during the final four weeks of the year (June / July)

Projected GCSE grades - based upon Target Bands are below:

Band	Descriptor and likely KS4 Outcomes
Band 1 (Foundation Trajectory)	The student is establishing core skills and working towards securing foundational qualifications across their curriculum. KS4 Outcome: Likely to achieve Grades 1, 2, or 3 at GCSE
Band 2 (Core Trajectory)	The student is meeting national expectations and is on track to achieve standard and strong passes. KS4 Outcome: Likely to achieve Grades 4, 5, or 6 at GCSE
Band 3 (Excellence Trajectory)	The student is working significantly above national expectations, demonstrating high academic depth. KS4 Outcome: Likely to achieve Grades 7, 8, or 9 at GCSE

Suggested Homework Schedule

WEEK	DAY	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
WEEK 1	MONDAY	English	English & Drama	English & Drama	English	English
WEEK 1	TUESDAY	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
WEEK 1	WEDNESDAY	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
WEEK 1	THURSDAY	Geography & Art	Geography & Art	Geography & Art	Option 1	Option 1
WEEK 1	FRIDAY	Technology & RE	Technology & RE	Technology & RE	Option 2	Option 2
WEEK 2	MONDAY	English	English	English	English	English
WEEK 2	TUESDAY	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
WEEK 2	WEDNESDAY	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
WEEK 2	THURSDAY	History & Music	History & Music	History & Music	Option 3	Option 3
WEEK 2	FRIDAY	MFL & ICT	MFL & ICT	MFL & ICT	Directed Reading / Independent revision	Directed Reading / Independent revision