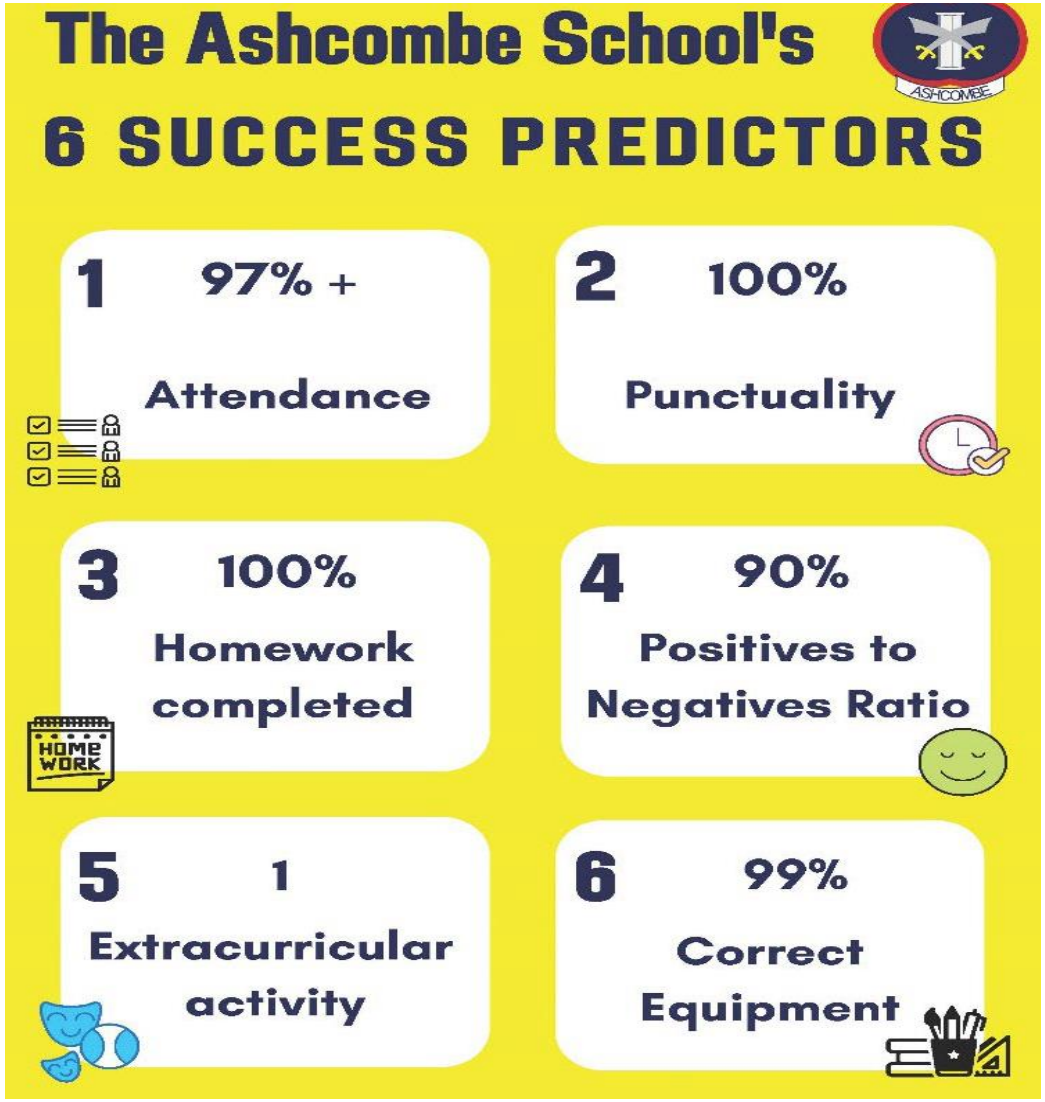
Welcome back to Upper School - Sept 2026

Ashcombe Success Predictors



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Attendance and punctuality

- Students need to be in tutor room for 08.45am; after this they will be marked as late
- Late sign-in must be completed at Student Services after 9.15a.m. We will issue sanctions for persistent lateness.
- Turning up on time is a life skill and gets lessons off to a good start.
- We are here to support students who are absent for some time in returning to school successfully.
- Attendance and punctuality is part of a Sixth Form/college reference.
- Direct correlation shown in August 2025 results between attendance and grade outcomes.

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Reminder of times

08.45 – 09.15 registration

09.20 – 10.30 Lesson 1

10.35 – 11.45 Lesson 2

11.45 – 12.15 Break

12.15 – 13.25 Lesson 3

13.25 – 14.05 Lunch

14.05 – 15.15 Lesson 4

Clubs start at 3.30pm and end at 5pm.

Homework Club finishes at 4.30pm

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Arbor

- Arbor provides students and parents with attendance, homework and behaviour information.
- You can log in via the parent app on your phone or any web browser.
- Further information is available on the school website. https://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Parents/Arbor-Parents/
- Please email passwords@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk for help.

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GCSEs

- Year 11 are more than halfway through their journey towards the GCSE exams.
- Students must feel they can do it and be successful. This comes from encouragement from school and home backed by incremental improvements.
- Students who have secured their plans are more motivated and successful.
- We will publish a year 11 calendar page on the website to give you an overview of the year, including assessments.
- There will be times of pressure during the year, but planning will help.
- The teachers will support students. Please do contact us. Mr Mason (Head of Year) and the form tutors who are keen to help.
- We have a dedicated team of staff working on student progress and will be offering targeted mentoring to students who could benefit from it. Mr Robinson leads this work.

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Tiered entry

- **Tiered levels of entry for GCSE exams**

- The following subjects have tiered exam papers for students to sit either the higher or foundation papers.

- Science
- Maths
- French, German, Spanish, Italian

- The HOD will decide which paper a student is entered for based on their progress during the year. Students should continue to discuss their tier of entry with their teacher.

- Higher Paper – Grades 9-4
  Foundation Paper – Grades 1-5

When are the assessments?

- NEA assessments, completed in school, contribute towards the final grade. They are like old-style coursework and occur throughout the year. Don't hesitate to contact the Head of Department if you have questions.

- **Assessments 1 – Autumn Mock GCSE Exams: 11th November – 16th December. Timetable early October.**

- **Assessments 2 – Spring Mock GCSE Exams: dates to be confirmed.**

- **Summer Exams (Hall): Start 6th May.**
- **Students are in school until 28th May.**

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Homework

- Homework completion is crucial to success at GCSE. It builds on class learning and allows students to practice what they have learnt.
- Many departments will set revision tasks for the Autumn mock exams. It has been proven that spaced learning and returning to topics improves learning.
- Homework tasks include NEA assessment work, contributing to the final grade. This work must be their own.
- Departments plan homework carefully to ensure both content and exam skills are covered.

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Microsoft Teams - Homework

- **All homework is set as assignments on Microsoft Teams – not Arbor. Students manage their own assignment list and mark work as submitted.**
- A Homework Concern is logged on Arbor if homework is regularly not completed; a detention is cancelled if the work is completed before it.
- Parents will receive a weekly digest email listing submitted, late and upcoming assignments. We are in the process of setting this up.
- Students will know if, and when, the homework links to an internal assessment.

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Translate

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How To Revise

+ Michele Miller Session
+ Working Memory vs Long Term Memory
+ Self-testing and RAG rating checklists
+ The Leitner System and Distributed Practice
+ Links to Revision Resources and GCSE Subjects

RELATED PAGES

Assessments and Exams

How To Revise

GCSE Subjects

Revision Resources

A Level Subjects

[The Ashcombe School - How To Revise]

Revision Resources

To help you plan, prepare, and get the best out of your revision, we've gathered some useful resources to help you study for and complete your exams more effectively.

Please make sure you have read How To Revise before you begin.

+ **Revision Timetable**

+ **Cornell Revision Paper**

+ **Revision Guides and Microsoft Teams**

+ **Revision sessions in school**

+ **Exam Specification Codes - Make sure you are revising for the correct exam. Ask your teacher if you are unsure**

+ **Visit the GCSE Subjects page and download your checklists for each subject. Save them in your OneDrive**

+ **Leitner systems such as Quizlet**

+ **BBC GCSE Bitesize**

RELATED PAGES

Assessments and Exams

How To Revise

GCSE Subjects

Revision Resources

A Level Subjects

Careers

Online Learning

Online Safety

Wellbeing

Extracurricular Activities

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Trips and Visits

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GCSE Subjects

We will continue to develop revision resources for Year 11 students. The subject pages include checklists which students can use to RAG rate their understanding of the content. The pages also include links to specific BBC Bitesize pages and Quizlet revision card sets. Please ask your teacher if you have revision questions.

- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- English
- Food
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Maths
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Spanish

RELATED PAGES

- Assessments and Exams
- How To Revise
- GCSE Subjects
  - Revision Resources
  - A Level Subjects
- Careers
- Online Learning
- Online Safety
- Wellbeing
- Extracurricular Activities

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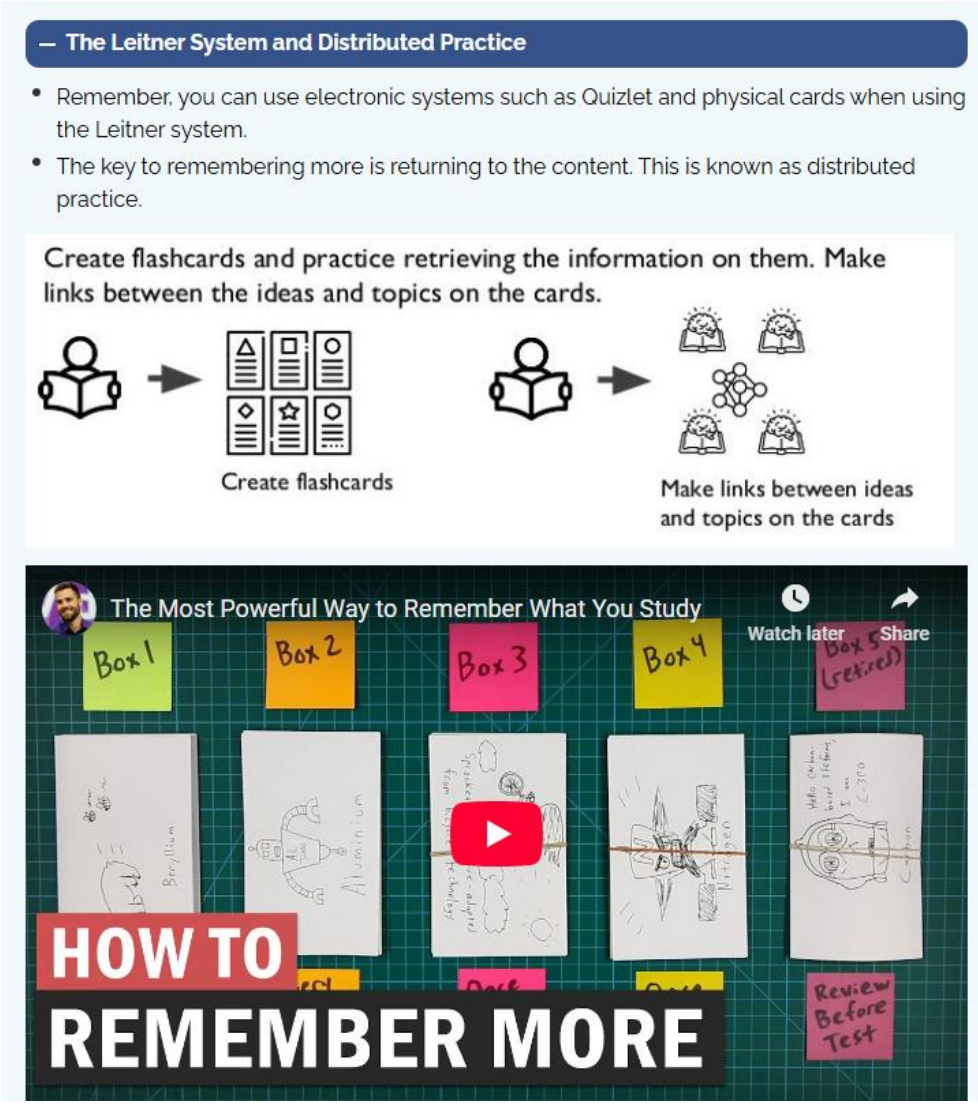
Michele Miller

- Over the last few years, we have been lucky to have Michele Miller come into school to work and will be working with Year 11 in November.

- Michele was a very successful Deputy Headteacher at Paddington Academy and is now an educational consultant. She has also worked with the British Olympic Team looking at the psychology of success.

https://michelemiller.co.uk/exam-preparation-revision-seminars-for-parents/



Uniform

Link to uniform expectations:

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Key points:

- Shirt and tie **OR** polo shirt,
- Leavers Hoodies will replace school jumper/blazer. Shop closes 21st September.
- Girls – dark navy-blue skirt – pleated, not-rolled, knee or dark navy-blue calf length or black trousers
- Jewellery is not permitted except for 1 plain gold or silver stud earring in the lower part of the ear. Any other piercings are **NOT** permitted, e.g. nose, lip or eyebrow.

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Mobile phones

- We recommend that mobile phones are not brought to school as they are not essential.
- New legislation introduced for mobile phone use in schools.
- Mobile phones must be switched off as soon as the student enters the school site and **not seen on site.**
- **They must be placed in bags, not pockets.**
- Students who need their phone for pre-approved medical needs such as diabetes monitoring may still use their phone.
- They are only to be switched on or checked **once off the school site.**

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Mobile phones

- **Mobile phones should not be in pockets during GCSE exams – this can invalidate the exam even if they are off.**

- If a parent needs to send an urgent message to their child, then please contact the school and staff will pass on the message.

- If a phone is seen it will be confiscated and a lunchtime detention issued. If the incident is the first time, students may collect the phone at end of day.
- For any subsequent confiscations parents/guardians must collect the phone from the school office (closes at 4.30pm).
- Refusal to hand in the phone to a member of staff will mean internal isolation.

Social events

- Do need to balance any extra-curricular trips with the potential cost of Year 11 for families.

- If finances are a concern, please contact me, in confidence.

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Leavers Events

- Lovely celebration of the students' time in mainstream school
- We will offer the following **which are optional**:
- Leavers Hoodies (£21.90) – these will be issued in November and will become part of school uniform for Year 11. No other hoodies can be worn in school. Order date deadline: 21st September at 17.00

- Leavers Book (approx. £18)

- Leavers Prom - this will be at Denbies and booked for the 23rd June (approx. £50) – please be aware buses do not fit under the railway bridge!

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Leavers Criteria

- We want everyone there however, it is a **privilege**, not a right.
- There are criteria attached to attendance:
- 97%+ attendance (unless there is legitimate authorised absence)
- Excellent punctuality to school and lessons (less than 20 lates this academic year)
- A positive attitude to learning with no outstanding work or detentions
- Uniform worn correctly and with pride
- No suspensions from school.

- The vast majority of students will meet these criteria by doing nothing different to their usual habits of attending school and following core behaviours.

Leavers Events - Prom

- Illness/medical conditions will be taken into consideration.
- Concern letters will be sent throughout the year.
- Invites to students will be issued in waves in the late Spring term.

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Progression to Sixth Form

- Mr. Blackband is looking forward to working with the Year 11 students over the academic year.
- Careers Fair 22nd September 6pm - 8pm
- Sixth Form Progression Evening – Wednesday 14th October 6pm – 8.30pm
- Sixth Form Speed dating session – Opportunities to meet Current Students.
- Sixth Form Taster Day in January – try lessons in the subjects you have chosen.
- University and Apprenticeship Talks to help with choices.
- 1:1 Meetings with Mr Blackband in January

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Wellbeing

- Whilst we want pupils to succeed, we also want them to be happy and healthy.
- Please let us know if you are worried about any changes and we will help as much as possible.
- Challenge any change that concerns you.
- Some will be “teenage behaviour”, but some may be more concerning.
- We will do another evening on revision and specific year 11 stresses (on both student and parent!)

- Link to wellbeing information on school website https://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Wellbeing/

Extracurricular

- Timetable of extracurricular clubs for all subjects will be sent home as soon as possible.
- Information regarding clubs and an up-to-date extracurricular timetable will be on the school website.

- The Ashcombe School - Home

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Upcoming events

- On Head's weekly letter
- Link to school calendar
- https://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Calendar/
- Yr11 parents evening Thursday 1st October, in person

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Working together

- Contacts:

Deputy Head (Curriculum) – Mr Simmonds

simmonds.jay@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

Pastoral – Head of Year, Mr Mason

mason.joshua@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

Assistant Head (Pastoral) Head of Upper School - Ms Gray

gray.pam@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk

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Thank you

- Thank you for the support
- Please do get in touch if you have concerns or questions
- The PowerPoint will be uploaded to the school website.