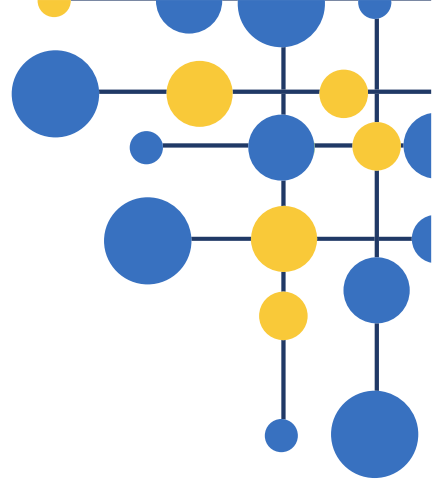




11th September 2026

Curriculum Update 2026/27

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for helping us to start the 2026/27 academic year so positively. It has been fantastic to welcome our new year 7 students to Whitcliffe Mount (with an attendance of 99.01%), and we are really pleased to see they have settled so well, thanks (in part) to a successful transition week back in July. They have already shown they are ready to embrace our values of **Work Hard, Model Kindness** and **Aim High** and we have seen some excellent examples of working hard in lessons.

We also have some new students joining us in other year groups and we welcome them into our community. It has been great to see everyone returning to school, particularly with our strongest start to a school year ever – 96.55% attendance!

We celebrated the 2026 GCSE results with our year 11 leavers in August and are pleased to report another year of excellent results. We are delighted that the vast majority of our 2026 leavers have accessed aspirational and exciting courses at college or sixth form or started an apprenticeship. We cannot wait to see just how well our new year 11's can do in 2027 – they have already made a fantastic start to the new year too with attendance of 97.02% for the first week.

As is normal at the start of an academic year, we are writing to you with an update around our Curriculum and key dates. We want to share with all parents and carers what our curriculum looks like and how we structure it to help everyone achieve **Work Hard** and **Aim High**.

Curriculum

The **Key Stage 3 (KS3)** curriculum provides your child with an opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects and broaden their understanding of what different subject specialisms looks like, beyond what they have experienced at primary school. Our KS3 courses are ambitious and engaging and cover the National Curriculum and beyond, linking all key topics to students' experiences beyond the classroom.

During Year 9, students will start to consider which courses they wish to study at GCSE level and will be in an excellent position to start and succeed at their chosen subjects due to the skills and knowledge they have learnt throughout KS3. You can find the topic areas and the components of learning covered each half term on our school website. The options process will commence in the spring term.



01274 851152



Whitcliffe Mount,
A SHARE Academy
Turnsteads Avenue, Cleckheaton,
West Yorkshire BD19 3AQ



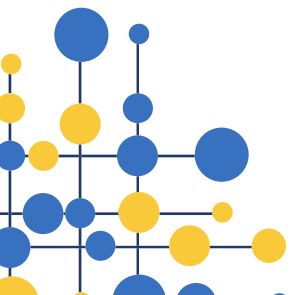
whitcliffe.office@sharemat.co.uk

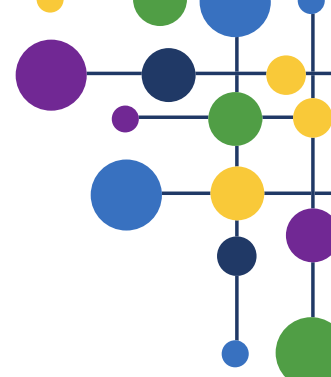


www.whitcliffemount.co.uk

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In **Key Stage 4 (KS4)**, your child will continue to follow a broad, balanced, ambitious and inclusive curriculum. Through our flexible and personalised routes, students continue to develop their understanding and knowledge of specialist subjects, to achieve their full potential and access the Post 16 provision they choose. If you wish to see in more detail what you student is studying in each subject in each year, all our curriculum plans are available on our website: [Whitcliffe Mount, A SHARE Academy - Curriculum Plans](#)

Assessment

The following dates throughout the year will be used to share your child's **attitude to learning (ATL)** data and their progress through '**working at**' grades. In KS3, student progress is measured in the form of subcategories titled emerging, developing, securing, and mastering. In KS4, students will receive a 'working at grade' and 'predicted grade.'

We are confident that our ATL grade descriptors are useful to parents and students in sharing how your student is doing in each lesson and if there are any areas for improvement. Details of the descriptors will be shared when the first ATL report is issued.

We will also be adding a further garde this year for Homework Completion; this will now be separated from their ATL garde which will solely focus on how they are working in lessons.

	Attitude to Learning	Monitoring 1 (ATL & Progress)	Monitoring 2 (ATL & Progress)
Year 7	21 st October 2026	16 th December 2026	4 th May 2027
Year 8	21 st October 2026	15 th January 2027	16 th June 2027
Year 9	21 st October 2026	10 th December 2026	30 th June 2027
Year 10	21 st October 2026	20 th January 2027	20 th April 2027
Year 11	11 th September 2026	11 th September 2026 <u>Mock Results Afternoon</u>	19 th January 2027 <u>Mock Results</u>

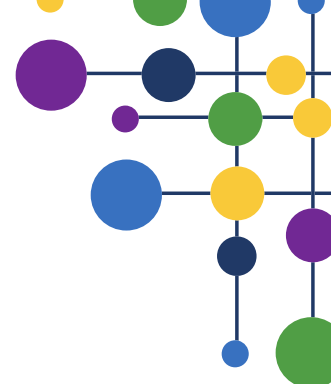
Learning Beyond the Classroom

Learning inside the classroom needs to be supplemented with learning outside of the classroom as well. Homework is a key part of being successful in any subject. Completing home learning tasks will help students to build links between subject components, strengthen recall and broaden knowledge. As such, students are required to complete tasks set within each subject area.

Key Stage 3 (**Year 7, 8 and 9**) will be set at least **one homework task per subject, every week in English, Maths and Science**, each task will take around 30 minutes to complete.

Key Stage 4 **students (Year 10 and 11)** will be set **one homework task per subject, every week**. Each task will take at least 30 minutes to complete. These will support students in developing recall skills, as well as prepare them for examinations and assessments.

Once mock results have been shared with Y11 students next week, we will start running Achieve revision sessions for Year 11 after school. Once ready, the programme will be shared with students and available on the website.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We also wish to provide the students with opportunities to find their passions and talents beyond the classroom and to build the personal skills that come from joining in with other students and other activities. Whitcliffe Mount has a long tradition of providing a high quality extra-curricular sports/PE provision and we are working on matching that with a range of other clubs and activities that students might wish to attend outside of their lessons.

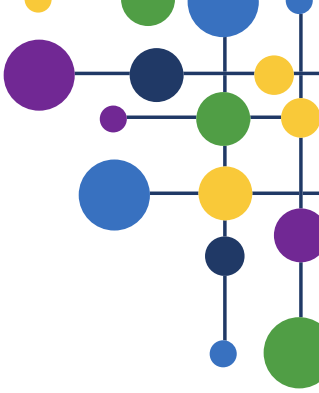
The club timetable has been shared with students and is updated regularly on the website.

Key dates

The following list includes key dates throughout the academic year.

Progress and parents' evenings will allow you time to communicate face to face with subject teachers and discuss your child's progress.

Date	Year Group	Information Evening
Friday 11 th September 2026	11	Mock Results afternoon
Thursday 17 th September 2026	11	Year 11 Parents/carers evening (4-7pm) Careers Fair (3.30pm- 7pm)
Wednesday 30 th September 2026	8	Year 8 Information evening
Wednesday 30 th September 2026	11	Year 11 Revision workshops (For parents/carers and students)
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	5/6	Open Evening for Year 5/6 students
Thursday 15 th October 2026	7	Y7 Meet the PD tutor phone calls (All day – bookable appointments)
Monday 30 th November 2026 to Friday 11 th December 2026	11	Year 11 Written Mock Exams (Some practical exams will fall before or after this window – full timetable tbc)
Thursday 10 th December 2026	9	Parents Evening (4pm-7pm)
Tuesday 19 th January 2027	11	Mock Results afternoon
Thursday 21 st January 2027	11	Year 11 Parents Evening (4pm-7pm)
Wednesday 3 rd March	9	Year 9 Options Evening (5:00pm- 8:00pm)
Thursday 18 th March 2027	8	Year 8 Parents Evening (4pm-7pm)
Wednesday 21 st April 2027	10	Year 10 Parents Evening (4pm-7pm)
Wednesday 5 th May	11	GCSE Exams start
Wednesday 5 th May 2027	7	Year 7 Parents Evening (4pm-7pm)
Thursday 27 th May 2027	10	Y10 Parents Revision/Support evening
Monday 21 st June to Friday 2 nd July	10	Year 10 Mock exams
Monday 12 th July to Friday 16 th July	10	Work experience placements



We look forward to meeting you and your child to discuss their progress and achievements over the next academic year and will be in touch with you in advance of each evening to share with you details of each individual evening, and information regarding access to our online booking system.

Should you have any questions about your child's curriculum or progress please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance or directly with myself via helen.jeffrey@sharemat.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Jeffrey
Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)