



The Sutton Academy



Key Stage 4 Summer Projects

Information for parents and carers to support students in completing their Summer Projects in readiness preparation for Key Stage 4.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Information, advice and guidance for students, parents and carers to support success in tracking assessments.

A Message from your Achievement Leader

Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to share some important information regarding your child's transition from Year 9 into Key Stage 4.

This marks a significant milestone in your child's educational journey, as they begin the next phase of their secondary education and start working towards their General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) qualifications. Over the next two years, students will be focusing on a more specialised curriculum that includes both core subjects and their chosen options. This is an exciting but demanding time, and we are committed to supporting each student to reach their full potential.

The Importance of a Strong Start:

The transition into Key Stage 4 sets the foundation for future academic success. Establishing good study habits, taking responsibility for learning, and remaining organised and focused are key to a positive and productive GCSE experience. It is vital that students return in September ready to engage fully with their new subjects and to take on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Summer Projects and Preparation:

To help support a smooth and confident start to Year 10, all students have been set summer projects in their chosen GCSE subjects. These projects are designed to introduce key concepts, reinforce foundational knowledge, and encourage independent learning. We cannot stress enough the importance of completing these projects. They are not only a way to prepare for the content that will be covered in the autumn term, but also help teachers assess students' understanding and readiness. Completing this work to a high standard will give students a valuable head start as they begin their Key Stage 4 courses.

How You Can Support at Home:

We ask for your support in encouraging your child to:

- Create a plan for completing summer projects, spreading it out to avoid last-minute stress.
- Ask for help if they are unsure about any part of the projects
- Maintain a balanced routine over the summer that includes time for rest, reading, and academic preparation.

We believe that with the right support and a positive approach, every student can make a strong and confident start to their GCSE journey. Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition into Key Stage 4 or the summer projects, please do not hesitate to contact us. Wishing you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Miss Flynn

Achievement Leader – Year 9



Summer Project Completion Checklist

Use this checklist to help you stay organised and complete your summer projects on time and to a high standard.

1. Help Them Get Organised:

- ✓ *Collect all instructions for each Summer Project (printed and on Class Charts)*
- ✓ *Make a list of all the Summer Projects your child needs to complete.*
- ✓ *Note the deadline for each project.*
- ✓ *Create an online/paper folder to keep all Summer Projects in one Place*



2. Help Them Plan Their Time :

- ✓ *Create a weekly plan for the Summer spreading the workload over several weeks.*
- ✓ *Set aside dedicated time to work on your projects*
- ✓ *Include breaks and activities to keep a healthy balance.*



3. Make Sure They Understand the Tasks:

- ✓ *Read all instructions carefully before starting.*
- ✓ *Highlight or underline key requirements.*
- ✓ *Check your child understands what they are doing*



4. Support Them Whilst They Do the Work:

- ✓ *Encourage your child to start with the subject they find most challenging.*
- ✓ *Check in and make sure they understand what they are doing.*
- ✓ *Encourage your child to aim for quality and not just completion.*
- ✓ *Motivate them by checking off each Project once completed.*



5. Do a Final Check for Them:

- ✓ *Proof-read the work for your child and check for any spelling, punctuation or grammar mistakes.*
- ✓ *Make sure the work is clearly labelled with name, subject and date.*
- ✓ *Make sure your child has a back-up of any digital work they have completed.*
- ✓ *Make sure nothing is missing and it is all ready to hand in.*



Summer Project Completion Checklist

Use this checklist to help you stay organised and complete your summer projects on time and to a high standard.

Summer Project	Details of Task	Tick When Completed	Date Completed
English 	<i>Complete booklet including all associated tasks.</i>		
Maths 	<i>Choose 8 Red or Amber topics from my PLC and use Sparx clips to complete questions and check responses in the booklet provided.</i>		
Science 	<i>Write a detailed biography of a famous scientist and an overview of one of the scientific theories</i>		
Geography 	<i>Complete booklet researching case studies, research tasks, and multimedia resources</i>		
History 	<i>Research a key historical figure and two historical events and produce a fact file.</i>		
Spanish 	<i>Practise describing 'photo cards' using the PAL structure that we have learnt in lessons.</i>		

Summer Projects

Core & Foundation Subjects

Summer Projects for Key Stage 4 readiness helps students bridge the gap between Key Stage 3 and the more advanced demands of Key Stage 4. It encourages independent learning, strengthens core skills, and builds confidence in tackling GCSE subjects and coursework. These projects also helps students develop good study habits and a proactive mindset ahead of the new academic year.

This section of the guide contains the details of the summer projects and gives information on parents and carers can support students in completing these projects to a high level.

Summer Project for English

The Summer Project for English is designed to provide a **structured and purposeful transition** from Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4. It builds upon the knowledge and skills developed in Year 9, helping students to establish a strong foundation for the academic demands of GCSE English. This project encourages students to **revisit and reinforce key analytical skills while engaging with contextual knowledge** that will be essential for their success in Year 10 and beyond.

By extending their familiarity with literary analysis, specifically through revisiting a response to Othello, students will consolidate core techniques needed for textual interpretation. Additionally, researching the historical and cultural contexts of the Jacobean, Victorian, and Georgian eras will equip students with a broader understanding of the literature they will encounter at GCSE level.

These preparatory activities are critical in helping students make a confident and informed start to their KS4 studies in September.

Expectations for Students: Students are expected to:

- ✓ Revisit and complete a further analytical response to Othello, demonstrating their ability to interpret language, structure, and themes.
- ✓ Conduct independent research into the Jacobean, Victorian, and Georgian periods to deepen their contextual understanding of key texts studied in the GCSE curriculum.
- ✓ Read or watch accessible versions of set texts where possible, in order to become familiar with plot, characters, and key ideas prior to the start of the course.
- ✓ Approach the project with maturity and independence, recognising that early preparation will ease the transition into KS4 and contribute to long-term academic success.

How Parents Can Support:

Parental involvement is a valuable factor in student success. Parents can support their child's transition by:

- ✓ Encouraging regular time for reading and research over the summer period.
- ✓ Discussing what their child is learning, especially around historical contexts and literary themes.
- ✓ Supporting access to resources such as library books, documentaries, or theatre/film adaptations of the texts.
- ✓ Providing a quiet and consistent space for independent study.
- ✓ Emphasising the importance of this project as preparation for the increased expectations of GCSE English.



Summer Project for Maths

We strongly believe that reinforcing knowledge from KS3 is best preparation you can do for the demands of the GCSE Maths curriculum. However, we also understand that every student has a different starting point on a variety of different topics. Therefore, the most effective way for you to prepare for next year is by using your PLC.

You will have already created your tracking 3 PLC with your class teacher during your feedback lesson. This is the most useful revision resource available to you. You need to use this to revise any topics that are red and amber. There is no point spending time revising those topics that are green as you have already secured this knowledge and so to improve your grade you need to focus on the things that you find difficult.

We recommend the use of Sparx to do this, as this will give you instant feedback on your work! On your PLC, all the topics will have a code on them, this will help you find questions and work on that topic on Sparx under Independent Learning.

Your summer project from maths is to use your PLC to revise and complete 8 different topics that are red or amber and hand the completed booklet back in to either your class teacher in September or to Mr Courtney.

Expectations for Students: Students are expected to:

- ✓ Revise and complete questions on Sparx from 8 different topics identified from their PLCs. (If there isn't 8 identified - to investigate and try something new - found under GCSE)
- ✓ Watch videos and make notes should they need the support
- ✓ Try to be as independent as possible in the learning and show resilience by re-attempting questions they may get wrong.
- ✓ Try their best!

How Parents Can Support:

Parental involvement is a valuable factor in student success. Parents can support their child's transition by:

- ✓ Encouraging them to engage with their Maths project.
- ✓ Sit with them and listen to their problems if they are struggling.
- ✓ Remind them that this will help them with their transition from KS3 into KS4.
- ✓ Providing a quiet and consistent space for independent study.



The science summer project is designed to ease the transition from key stage 3 to key stage 4 by encouraging the students to consider the implications of the **three scientific disciplines** working in concert with one another. Engaging with a task that asks the student to make their own choices and work independently will help them to enter the next stage of their studies with both momentum and confidence.

Expectations for Students: Students are expected to:

1. Write a detailed **biography of a famous scientist** – either from the list provided or one of their own choosing. Exploring the life, achievements and societal impact of this individual will both deepen the student's understanding of the associated scientific theory and broaden their appreciation of how scientific thinking evolves over time.
2. Write an **overview of one of the scientific theories** presented. All six options have been chosen as they are expansive areas of ongoing research, whilst still being accessible at this level. Consider that real understanding of a topic goes beyond scientific fact and into how these ideas may affect our everyday lives through technology and ethics.
3. Take ownership of their own studies by researching further information independently in both a historical and scientific context.
4. Organise their writing clearly and purposefully to produce two pieces of extended writing.

How Parents Can Support:

Parents don't need to be experts at science to support. Here are some practical ways a parent can help:

- ✓ Provide a suitable workspace where the student can study.
- ✓ Create a schedule to help the student work on this and other subject's projects.
- ✓ Discuss the project with your child. Talking about the different options and which fields of science may interest them the most will help solidify their thinking, or to point them in the right direction of they become stuck.
- ✓ Provide feedback and encouragement. Offer to proofread a draft of their work, praise their effort or listen to their ideas

Being involved, even in small ways, parents can make a big difference in helping their child feel motivated to succeed!



Summer Project for Geography

The summer transition booklet has been created to help Year 9 students bridge the gap between Key Stage 3 (KS3) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) Geography. As students prepare to begin their GCSEs, this booklet supports them in **revisiting core concepts, developing independent learning habits, and building confidence in tackling real-world geographical issues.**

The project includes case studies, research tasks, and multimedia resources (e.g. news articles, podcasts, documentaries) that reflect the scope and depth of GCSE Geography. It introduces students to key themes such as natural hazards and encourages them to think critically, apply terminology accurately, and engage with current global events - essential skills for success at KS4.

By completing this booklet over the summer, students will enter Year 10 with a strong foundation and a clearer understanding of the expectations and structure of the GCSE course.

Expectations for Students: Students are expected to:

1. Complete all sections of the booklet during the summer holiday.
2. Use the recommended websites, articles, and documentaries to support your research.
3. Answer all questions in full sentences with clear explanations and examples.
4. Be prepared to bring your booklet to your first GCSE Geography lesson in September for review and discussion.
5. Demonstrate pride in your work - present it clearly, neatly, and thoughtfully.

The students have the freedom to conduct their research task using a wide variety of sources, and present this research however they wish; whether that be a PowerPoint, written account, article et

How Parents Can Support:

- ✓ Encourage regular engagement: Help your child set a routine to work on the booklet steadily over the summer, avoiding a last-minute rush.
- ✓ Foster discussion: Talk to your child about the case studies, news stories, or documentaries they are exploring - ask them to explain what they've learned and why it matters.
- ✓ Support access to resources: Guide them in navigating reliable sources such as BBC News, The Guardian, and recommended podcasts or Netflix documentaries.
- ✓ Check in on progress: Look through their responses periodically and praise their effort and insight.
- ✓ Ensure readiness: Remind your child to bring the completed booklet on the first day of term - it will be used as a launchpad into their GCSE studies.



Summer Project for History

The History Summer Project will support the students' transition into KS4. The project will support students to study key individuals and events that they will be expected to learn in their GCSE studies.

Key individuals such as:

- ✓ Kaiser Wilhelm II
- ✓ Gustav Stresemann
- ✓ Heinrich Himmer
- ✓ Joseph Goebbels.

Key events such as:

- ✓ Treaty of Versailles
- ✓ Weimar Golden Age
- ✓ Reichstag Fire
- ✓ Night of the Long Knives.

A history summer project supports Key Stage 4 readiness by helping students develop key skills needed for GCSE-level work. It encourages **critical thinking, independent research**, and the ability to **analyse sources**—core components of the KS4 history curriculum.

By exploring historical topics over the summer, students can build background knowledge, improve their written communication, and gain confidence in forming and supporting arguments, all of which are essential for success in Key Stage 4 history.

Expectations for Students: Students are expected to:

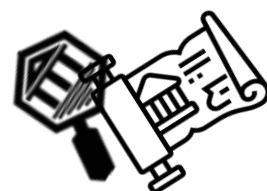
The History project will consist of two research tasks.

1. The first is to research a historical figure from the list provided and create an account of their significance.
2. The second task requires students to research two events from the list provided; they are then expected to research the causes, events and significance of each event.

The students have the freedom to conduct their research task using a wide variety of sources, and present this research however they wish; whether that be a PowerPoint, written account, article et

How Parents Can Support:

Parents can support their child by showing a keen interest in their child's research and keeping their child accountable for the project they begin. It will also help students if they are supported with a quiet environment to complete their research project. .



Summer Project for Spanish

The Spanish Summer Project is a vital step in preparing for the new Edexcel GCSE course. The course places a strong emphasis on **real-world topics, cultural understanding, and clear progression in all four language skills**: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Structured around five key themes, the course builds vocabulary and grammar systematically across Foundation and Higher tiers. Students are assessed equally across all skills, with a focus on practical language use, translation, and spontaneous speaking. The updated course is designed to be inclusive, engaging, and accessible, supporting learners of all abilities.

This project helps you build confidence in describing images clearly and accurately, using essential vocabulary, tenses, and sentence structures. By completing it, you'll strengthen your ability to talk about people, places, and activities—skills that are directly tested in the exam. It's also a great way to keep your Spanish fresh over the summer and hit the ground running in Year 10!

Expectations for Students: Students are expected to:

1. Complete the tasks independently and to the best of their ability.
2. Take at least one photo each week
3. Use the acronym PAL (as we have done in lessons)

Your work should reflect effort and thought, showing that you are ready to take on the challenges of the Edexcel GCSE Spanish course. This is not just a summer task—it's an opportunity to practice and showcase the foundational skills you'll need throughout your GCSE journey.

How Parents Can Support:

Parental involvement is a valuable factor in student success. Parents can support their child's transition by:

- ✓ Encouraging their son daughter to take photos on days out/holidays/visiting family or friends/trips to the cinema or restaurants.
- ✓ Become involved in the project too! Ask your son/daughter to teach you some key phrases!
- ✓ Emphasising the importance of this project as preparation for the increased expectations of GCSE Spanish.





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