

MARCH 2025

Learning Support News

Keeping parents & carers up-to-date



IS IT SPRING YET?!

Mrs Hare (SENDCo), Mrs Roberson (Assistant SENDCo) and TAs.

I think we're coming out of that long Winter slog of getting up in the dark, going home in the dark - which always makes things feel more positive! Spring is also a time for change, moving forwards, cleaning up, and new growth. Our students are always changing, growing, and tackling new challenges, which means that we need to move with them and offer them a variety of support.

The main information in this edition is about studying - both now and in the future. Mrs Roberson has created a brief guide to exam concessions for Year 11, and also an overview of the process for those of you awaiting assessment. We have included some study guidance. We hope this will empower you to support your child through the next steps in their education journey. Years 9, 10 and 11 have lots to think about right now - and it won't be long before 7 and 8 will be in the same position!

We hope you find this newsletter (and those that come in the future) a useful addition to your contact with school, and a helpful resource for supporting your child. If you need to get in touch, our email addresses are: SENCo@meole.co.uk and AssistSENCo@meole.co.uk.



Newsletter Highlights

Exam Concessions

Revision and Study Advice

Who's Who & What's What

Support Information



Meole Brace School

NEXT STEPS FOR

EXAM CONCESSIONS

AWARDED EXAM CONCESSIONS

All exam concessions have been awarded and trialled in assessments and mock exams to establish normal way of working, as per JCQ requirements.

These are to be used in final GCSE exams.

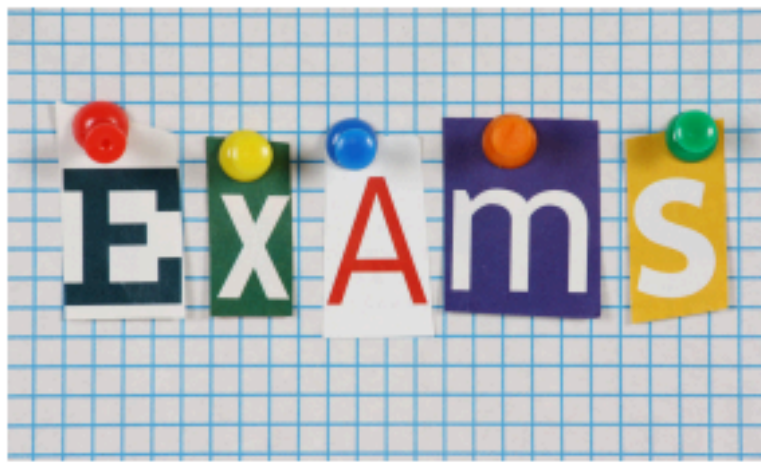


AFTER GCSEs

Your college will be sent the details of your exam concessions directly, where they will organise exam concessions moving forward.

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Please email assistSEnCo@meole.co.uk if you have any exam concessions related queries.



Concessions - what they are & how they work.

Exam Concessions are designed to remove barriers that some students face when they sit their GCSE exams & to make sure that the right student gets the right concessions. The JCQ issue is a set of criteria for identifying and awarding concessions. The concessions that can be applied for are:

25% extra time

Reader

Scribe

Laptop

Rest Breaks

Prompt

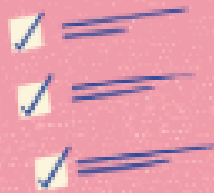
When students on our SEND register move into year 9, we look at the pupil passports & strategies that are included on them to create an overview of the exam concessions that students may need for GCSEs. We then request evidence from teachers to show what concessions may be needed. At the end of year 9 we arrange for students to be assessed for concessions by our JCQ compliant Assess Arrangements Assessor. Once the assessment has been done, any concessions that have been awarded turn into the students' normal way of working for their assessments & exams. These are valid for the whole of KS4. Evidence of these are given to take forward to post 16 provision, where they will have to reapply for concessions.

If you have any concerns or questions then please contact
assistsenco@meole.co.uk



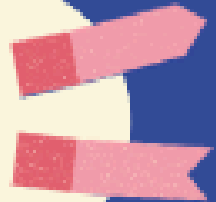
Study Smart

Tips for Students



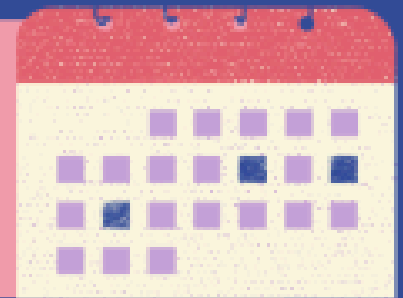
Choose your top 3

Choose 3 top priorities for your day and check them off on a list.



Keep a planner

Schedule all your tasks, appointments, and projects on a planner.



Set up a study space at home

Have a dedicated study space to do work.



Minimize distractions

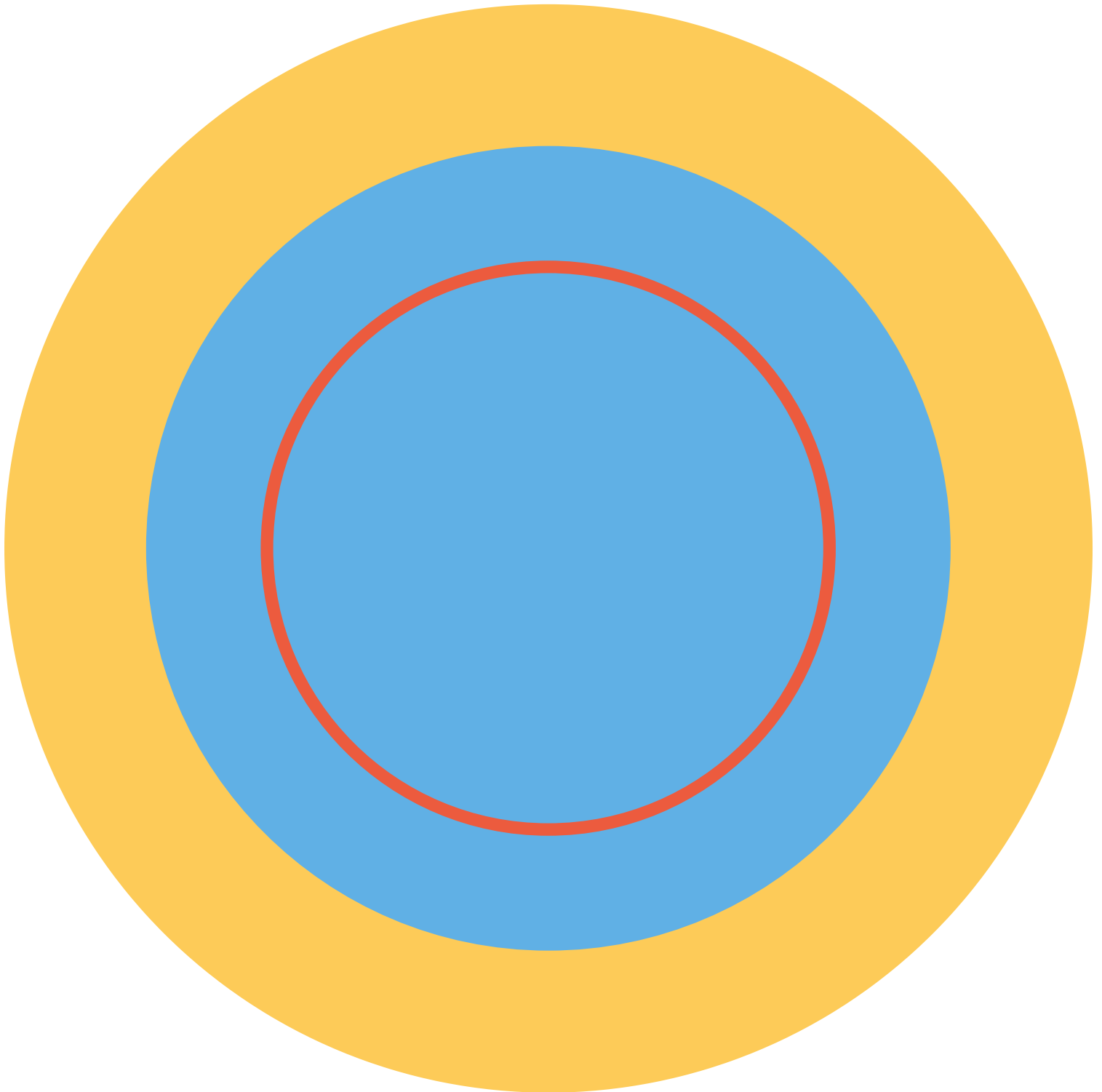
Put electronic devices that you are not using for work out of sight.

Circle of Control

Orange circle - what CAN you control? What CAN you change?

Blue circle - what can you INFLUENCE?

Yellow circle - what is out of your hands? What won't change?



Try this exercise to help focus on exam prep - for example, we cannot change the questions on the exam but we CAN change how well we've revised for them. We can't change how long the exam is, but we CAN change how prepared we feel.

Try these revision techniques

Method	Explanation
Revision timetable	Getting organised helps you to focus and motivates you. It also helps you to identify how much time you need to spend on different areas. It is a great starting point from which to build.
Exam practice	You don't need to endlessly practise papers – although some whole-paper practice is good. Break the paper down into question types and think about what skills/content is repeatedly required for those types of questions. Start with the ones you find most difficult.
Collaborate	Revising together does not mean just socializing, but it can be really productive to revise with a friend and share notes/tips/ideas. Test each other orally on your knowledge and peer assess each other's written answers.
Take regular breaks	This doesn't mean that you shouldn't do anything at all, but you should give your brain a chance to reboot. Make sure you have healthy snacks, water and get plenty of exercise in between revision sessions – prepare these beforehand so you don't waste time throughout the day.
Revision flashcards: key facts/quotations/terms	Make a set of revision flashcards – these could have a term on the front with a definition on the back. You could also use these for sequencing, learning processes, quotations or for essay planning. They are multipurpose and will be really useful.
Make purposeful revision diagrams	Diagrams can be useful, even for written subjects – whether you are looking at character development or a lifecycle, these can help. Don't waste time making them works of art – stick to clear, simple facts... and stick them up EVERYWHERE!
Sit at a proper desk and start early	Starting early in the day will still leave you time to relax later and ensure you feel on top of everything. Sitting at a proper desk will help you focus and prevent you getting so easily distracted.
Don't just read notes	Reading your notes endlessly isn't the way to do it. Create mind maps, flashcards, written responses and other visual aids.
Test yourself	Decide on the key things you want to know by the time you have finished revising that topic and create a test before you begin. You can then use this test to ensure your revision has been successful. If it hasn't, try some new techniques for this topic.
Spread it out	Spreading your revision out over time (rather than rushed at the last minute) is proven to be far more successful. Spend a small amount of time on everything you have to learn and repeat regularly.
Speak to your teacher/tutor	If there's anything you are unsure of – ask! Your teachers will have other resources and tasks that can help. You're not alone.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOL?



ASPIRATIONS TALKS - SIGN UP ON SCHOOLSBUDDY FOR A TALK FROM A REAL PERSON ABOUT THEIR REAL JOB.

READING, WRITING, SPELLING & MATHS SUPPORT - IF YOU'VE GOT A PLACE, MAKE SURE YOU GO! IT'S HELPFUL FOR YOUR FUTURE.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - YOU CAN FIND THESE ON SCHOOLSBUDDY. TURN YOUR HOBBY INTO SOMETHING MORE!

SPECTRA SUPPORT - REMEMBER TO GO TO YOUR GROUP SESSION TO GET EXTRA HELP!

HOMEWORK CLUB - WE'RE HERE IN TUTOR TIME & AFTER SCHOOL TO HELP YOU SUCCEED!

EMBRACE MENTORING - REMEMBER TO GO TO YOUR SESSION EVERY WEEK!

REVISION CLASSES IN ALL YOUR SUBJECTS! GET A TIMETABLE FROM YOUR TEACHER AND COMMIT TO YOUR EXAM PREP

WELLBEING WORKSHOPS - LOOK OUT FOR THE TIMETABLE AND SIGN UP WITH YOUR TUTOR!

WE RUN LOTS OF INTERVENTIONS IN LEARNING SUPPORT. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS A PLACE ON ANY GROUPS, AND ANY HELP TO REMIND THEM TO ATTEND IS ALWAYS HUGELY APPRECIATED. WE MONITOR OUR SUPPORT CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE IT'S EFFECTIVE AND WE'RE WORKING HARD TO MAKE MORE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM.

WHO'S WHO IN LEARNING SUPPORT?

MRS HARE IS THE SENDCO. SHE LOOKS AFTER REFERRALS, EHCPs, EDUKEY, DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS, AND LONG-TERM PLANNING.

MRS ROBERSON IS THE ASSISTANT SENDCO. SHE LOOKS AFTER EXAM CONCESSIONS AND TESTING, AND SENSORY INCLUSION.

MISS PARRY IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF YEARS 10 AND 11, AND ALSO RUNS NUMERACY INTERVENTIONS.

MRS MCKAY IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF TRANSITION AND YEAR 7.

MRS THOMPSON IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF TIMETABLES AND COLLEGE LIAISON.

MRS POWELL IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF YEARS 8 AND 9, AND ALSO RUNS TALKABOUT INTERVENTIONS.

MISS JEWsbURY IS IN CHARGE OF HOMEWORK CLUB AND MONDAY CLUB.

MISS HAZELL, MISS DAVIES AND MISS BAKER ARE ALL TRAINED IN SOCIAL STORIES.

MRS CHUMBLEY IS IN CHARGE OF SPELLING INTERVENTIONS.

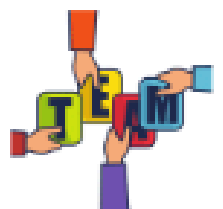
MISS DUNKLEY RUNS A SUPER FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

MR GRAINGER IS OUR SCIENCE EXPERT. HE TEACHES AQA SCIENCE UNIT AWARDS.

MR LEWIN RUNS A UKULELE INTERVENTION.

MISS EMBERTON & MS FULWELL RUN A HANDWRITING INTERVENTION.

MISS PRICE, MISS COWLEY AND MISS THOMAS DO EVERYTHING! THEY SUPPORT IN CLASSROOMS, MENTOR STUDENTS, HELP WITH CLUBS AND INTERVENTIONS, & ARE KEY WORKERS FOR SEVERAL STUDENTS.



WHO'S WHO IN THE LITERACY TEAM?



MRS BYNE IS AN HLTA AND RUNS LOTS OF AMAZING INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING OUR PHONICS PROGRAMME, SUPPORTING STUDENTS TO IMPROVE THEIR READING SKILLS. SHE ALSO RUNS OUR READING BUDDIES SCHEME.

MRS PHILLIPS IS ALSO AN HLTA, SPECIALISING IN STUDENTS WHO HAVE ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE. SHE SUPPORTS STUDENTS' LITERACY SKILLS, TEACHES OUR PHONICS PROGRAMME, AND RUNS SNIP SPELLING.



MS DUDDERIDGE IS A LITERACY-SPECIFIC LSA, SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN LESSONS, RUNNING THE FLASH AND IDL ONLINE PROGRAMMES, & PROVIDING PERSONALISED SUPPORT WITH SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY STUDENTS MAY FIND DIFFICULT.



MS YERMACHENKO IS ALSO AN LSA, SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE. SHE WORKS WITH THEM IN LESSONS AND 1:1 TO HELP THEM LEARN THE LANGUAGE THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.



FAMILY SIGNPOSTING

KOOTH

Mental health and well-being support, 1-1 and group, plus free resources and advice.



PARENTING TEAM

Parenting advice, support and workshops for any age of child.

NHS BEST FOR YOU

Wide-ranging support and advice from the NHS.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD

A course from the Parenting Team to support your understanding of your child and their feelings.

FAMILY SIGNPOSTING

SEND LOCAL OFFER

All advice and support for families of children with SEND in the Shropshire area.



AUTISM WEST MIDS

Support and networking for autistic people and their families.

FAMILY INFO DIRECTORY

Local courses, support, online help – on every topic.



EARLY HELP

Drop-ins and personalised support, including a worker to the home if needed.

Does your child struggle with their Sleep?

Free Sleep Tight Groups

Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups which run for 5 weeks and:

- Find out why sleep is important for our health and emotional wellbeing
- Get support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines
- Meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences

Our next groups start:

Sleep Tight SEND Monday 9th June 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm

Virtually Via MS Teams

or

Sleep Tight Monday 16th June 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am

Virtually via MS Teams

SEND groups are for parents/carers of children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups.

To book a place email Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or call 01743 250950

Find out
more here



Understanding your child

From toddler to teen

- Would you like to know more about your child's development?
- Do you need help and support to understand your child's behaviour?
- Would you like a chance to meet with other parents and carers with children of a similar age?

Join us for one of our free virtual or face-to-face groups, our next groups start:

Understanding Your Child Group 29th April 2025 from 9.15am to 11.15am at Crowmoor Primary School, Shrewsbury

Understanding Your Child Group 30th April 2025 from 9.00am to 11.00am at Clee Hill Community Primary School

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 30th April 2025 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm at Shrewsbury TBA

Understanding Your Child Group 30th April 2025 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm at Belvidere Primary School, Shrewsbury

Understanding Your Child Group 1st May 2025 from 09.30am to 11.30am at Highley Community Primary School

Understanding Your Child Group 1st May 2025 from 09.30am to 11.30am Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 1st May 2025 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm at St Lucia CofE Primary School, Upton Magna

Understanding Your Child SEND Group 2nd May 2025 from 09.30am to 11.30am Virtually via MS Teams

Understanding Your Child Group 2nd May 2025 from 1.15pm to 3.15pm at Christ Church CofE Primary School, Cressage

All our groups run for 10 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

SEND groups are for parents/carers of Children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups.

To book a place email
Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk
or call 01743 250950

Find more free online courses at:
inourplace.co.uk/shropshire

Find a list of
local groups
here



Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

01743 250950

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support.



Find out more here

