



8th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum information

We are pleased to welcome back our Year 10 students to what is the start of a very important stage in their education. As they step up to Key Stage 4, this first term is critical in terms of establishing good habits and we will be emphasising to them the importance of making a positive start to their courses as I am sure you will be at home.

Throughout Year 10 and 11, all of the core subjects are taught in two year halves of broadly parallel bands. Levels of exam entry where relevant in the case of maths, science and French are determined by ability, to ensure that all students achieve the best possible results. There is no setting for option subjects and all of these courses are taught in mixed ability groups. Please find below the links to all the exam boards for your information and to be able to support your child.

The transition between Key Stage Three and Four is often underestimated by students. However, for some courses there will be assessments over the next few months that will directly influence the final grades they achieve at GCSE level, making this time a key milestone in their journey.

Year 10 students will receive a report w/c December 8th 2025 detailing their potential and current grades and how they have settled into their courses. If your child is finding the demands of KS4 challenging you can expect to hear from us before this date in order to put the appropriate intervention in place.

Our Heads of House oversee pastoral matters for Year 10 and support the transition into Key Stage 4 along with their Deputies. Tutors are always the first point of contact for any pastoral matters. Please keep the tutor informed of any issues outside of school that may impact upon a student's life in school.

## Attendance

We would like to reiterate to all parents and carers the importance of students attending school. Every missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn and can mean missing out on key building blocks of knowledge. This can have a detrimental impact on their future learning and final outcomes. High attendance is directly linked to improved exam performance, which in turn opens doors to future learning opportunities and better employment prospects. Attending school also helps students to develop friendships, social skills and cultural awareness. High attendance at school is not just valuable, it is fundamental to future success.

Evidence shows that when teachers, parents, and students work together in preparation for GCSE exams, outcomes are most likely to improve.

If you have any questions relating to the content of this letter, please contact the relevant member of staff from the list below.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Biddle  
Vice Principal



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

Maritime House  
Southwell Business Park  
Portland, Dorset, DT5 2NA

Tel: 01305 820262

Email: [atlanticoffice@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:atlanticoffice@atlantic-aspirations.org)

[www.atlantic-aspirations.org](http://www.atlantic-aspirations.org)

Mathematics – Mrs Alison Bird (Subject Leader for Mathematics) [abird@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:abird@atlantic-aspirations.org)

Science – Mrs Lisa Migliari (Director of Science)  
[lmigliari@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:lmigliari@atlantic-aspirations.org)

English – Mr Chris Wadley (Director of English)  
[cwadley@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:cwadley@atlantic-aspirations.org)

Option subjects – Ms Sophie Ives (Assistant Principal)  
[sives@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:sives@atlantic-aspirations.org)

Tutor – Mr P Salmon (Church Ope Cove)  
[psalmon@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:psalmon@atlantic-aspirations.org)

Tutor- Mr M David (Castle Cove)  
[mdavid@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:mdavid@atlantic-aspirations.org)

Tutor- Mr S Dalby (Chesil House)  
[sdalby@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:sdalby@atlantic-aspirations.org)



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

Maritime House  
Southwell Business Park  
Portland, Dorset, DT5 2NA

Tel: 01305 820262

Email: [atlanticoffice@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:atlanticoffice@atlantic-aspirations.org)

[www.atlantic-aspirations.org](http://www.atlantic-aspirations.org)

Subject	Exam Board	Specification
English Language	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/specification</a>
English Literature	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification</a>
Maths	Pearson	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/maths-2015.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/maths-2015.html</a>
Science	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/specification</a>
Geography	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification</a>
History	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/specification</a>
French	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652/specification</a>
RE	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification</a>
Music	eduqas	<a href="https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_keydocuments">https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-gcse/#tab_keydocuments</a>
Hospitality	WJEC	<a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/en/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab_keydocuments">https://www.wjec.co.uk/en/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab_keydocuments</a>
Sport	Cambridge Nationals	<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-j828/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-j828/</a>
Drama	BTEC TECH - Pearsons	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts-2022.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts-2022.html</a>
Art	AQA	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8202/specification">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8202/specification</a>
Health and Social	BTEC TECH - Pearsons	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care-2022.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care-2022.html</a>
Engineering	Cambridge Nationals	<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-j822/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-design-level-1-2-j822/</a>
Business	Pearson	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html</a>