Atlantic Academy Portland
an Aspirations Academy

YEAR 11 RAISING ACHIEVEMENT EVENING



Tuesday 13 October 2026
5.00–7.00pm (approx.)

Working together to support your child through their final GCSE year.

SELF WORTH
Feel supported.
Build confidence.

ENGAGEMENT
Get involved.
Find what works.

PURPOSE
Set goals.
Take action.

5.00pm | Dining Hall

WORKSHOPS & INFORMATION DROP-IN
Choose from four sessions to prioritise the support your child needs.

- English and Maths drop-ins
- Assistant Principals: pastoral and academic questions
- Mr Clark, Inclusion Lead: SEND queries

6.00pm | Theatre

PRESENTATION
A short presentation from Miss Heppell and Mrs Biddle, outlining key priorities and practical advice for the year ahead.

Students are warmly encouraged to attend with their parents/carers.

MOCK EXAMS BEGIN MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2026

ASPIRATIONS

WELCOME

Year 11: The Final Countdown

Miss Heppell
Principal

Mrs Biddle
Vice Principal

Atlantic Academy Portland

Year 11: The Final Countdown

What are our top Raising Achievement strategies?

01 **Quality First Teaching**
Delivered in every lesson

02 **Raising Achievement Sessions**
Targeted academic intervention

03 **Effective Revision Hubs**
Google Classrooms resources

04 **Learning Checklists (PLCs)**
Personalised progress tracking

05 **Mock Exams & Assessments**
Formal examination practice

06 **Effective Revision Homework**
Consolidated independent study

Key Ethos

‘Study Stay’ not ‘Study Leave’

Maximising structured support and guided preparation in school right up to final exams.

Learning Lab Sessions

AM Learning Labs

1.5 additional hours of subject tuition per week

Students targeted by subject based on most recent assessment data and projected grades

English, Maths and Science are the half termly focus ready for Mock 2

Evening Learning Labs

Every week, 3-4pm

Open for all students along with those targeted for support

Holiday Learning Labs

February half term

Easter holiday

2 hour long sessions built into subject countdown plans

Mock Exams and Assessments

- 2 x High-stakes Mock Examination weeks for all GCSEs.
- Students sit exams in the assessment room with invigilators following full examination regulations. Regulations will be shared with students in advance.
- We will report on mock grades and target grades.
- We expect that students will be at least within one whole grade of their targets. Students will retake exams if they don't meet their target.
- Grades will determine set changes in core subjects.
- The grades that students achieve, will be the grades that we use on any Sixth Form and College application forms - these outcomes impact futures.

Mock 1 Examinations
9th - 20th November 2026

Mock 2 Examinations
8th Feb - 26th Feb 2027

‘Study Stay’ not ‘Study Leave’

- ‘Study Stay’ provision that aims to maximise the time students spend with their teachers leading up to each exam.
- Students will remain on the academy site, following a bespoke study stay timetable, until the end of the exam season.
- Each study stay week, students will receive their bespoke timetable for the following week.



Normal timetabled lessons - subject specific revision focus using PLCs and countdown plans



Evening Learning Lab Sessions - strategically placed before a particular exam



Pre-exam Learning Lab sessions that replace a normal timetabled lesson during the academy day



Examination – students return to lessons directly after an exam unless it leads into break/lunch time or it is the end of the academy day

Prom — Thursday 24th June 2027

Prom Key Details

- Prom committee have met with Miss Smith to discuss venue, food and theme.

Important Rule

If a student is suspended they will not be allowed to go to prom.

Prom Criteria (B.E.G.I.N.S N.O.W)

B. Believe in myself = Keeping earning positive points
E. Effective time management = Zero truancies
G. Growth Mindset = Attend RA & parents evenings
I. Innovation = Attend intervention sessions
N. Not comparing myself = Working at or above my target level
S. Study hard = Attend every mock and exam
N. Not holding back = improvements in three or more subjects since mock one
O. Opportunity = 92% attendance or above unless extenuating circumstances
W. Want to do well = attending Learning Labs



Welcome

Atlantic Alumni- Molly, Emily and Ava

FINAL COUNTDOWN

Effective Exam Techniques

for Exam Success

Key Focus Areas:

- Question Analysis & Trigger Words
- Strategic Time & Mark Allocation
- Structured Answer Execution



Read the Question

Read it – then read it again!

One of the biggest mistakes students make is to charge in and answer the question they think is being asked, and not the question that is actually being asked.

'How to' Question Analysis – Highlight, underline, or circle these in every question:

TRIGGER WORD

Syllabus Focus

Tells you **what part of the syllabus** you are being questioned on.

Identifies the core topic, theory, or subject knowledge required.

COMMAND WORD

Action Required

Tells you **what the question is asking you to do**.

i.e. list, name, describe, explain, give examples, evaluate, analyse, compare/contrast, advantages/disadvantages.

Prioritise marks per question

High Marks = High Priority

Identify the questions that are worth the most marks, and spend the most time on them. Spend less time on those questions worth fewer marks.

'How to' – Put this into practice:

STEP 01

Analyse Past Papers

Use past papers to identify which section of the exam has the questions with the most marks.

STEP 02

Rank Order Strategy

Try a few papers where you rank order the questions you are going to attempt first to last. See if this makes a difference to your timings and outcomes.



Comfortable questions

Start with your strength

Check and see if you can answer the questions out of order. If you can, then write the answer to the questions you are most comfortable with first, leaving your weakest answer until last where you could have more time to respond to it.

'How to' – Put this into practice:

STEP 01

Identify High-Mark Sections

Use past papers to identify which section of the exam has the questions with the most marks.

STEP 02

Rank Order Strategy

Try a few papers where you rank order the questions you are going to attempt first to last. See if this makes a difference to your time management and outcomes.

Plan your answers

Write Brief Notes to Stay Focused

Plan your answers in advance. Write very brief notes to help you focus and ensure you don't forget anything vital.

'How to' – Put this into practice:

STEP 01

Exam Paper Space

Use available space on the paper to make a plan. Note: do not use the right-hand margin as it is used by the examiner.

STEP 02

Spare Paper

You can ask for a spare piece of paper from one of the invigilators if you need extra working room.

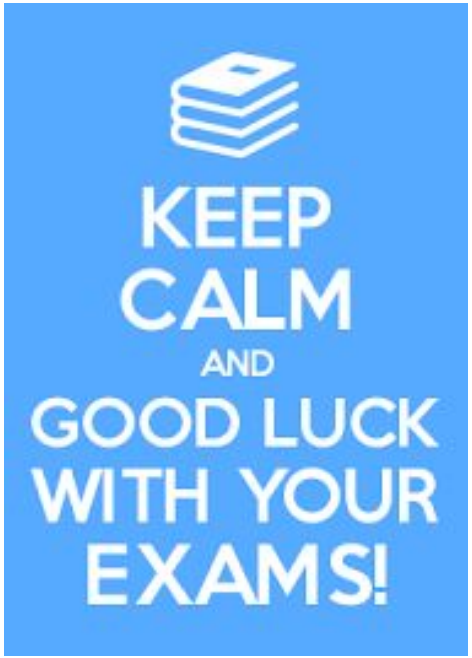
STEP 03

Keep It Short

Keep your plan short and use it as a signpost to keep on track, especially for longer answer questions.



Keep calm and carry on!



It's normal to feel nervous and it's easy to panic, especially when you first turn over the paper. If you feel yourself getting worked up then take a few deep breaths, think back to your hard work and revision and carry on.

'How to':

- Picking out the questions you feel most comfortable with will help you gain confidence at the start of the exam, and will help you stay calm throughout.
- Take regular deep breaths and ensure you have enough water to keep hydrated.

Time management

Running Low on Time?

If you are running out of time and have more than one question left to do, focus on strategies that maximize your overall marks.

'How to' – Exam room action plan:

TIP 01

Answer First Parts

Answer the first part of each remaining question. You will pick up more marks half-answering two questions than fully answering one.

TIP 02

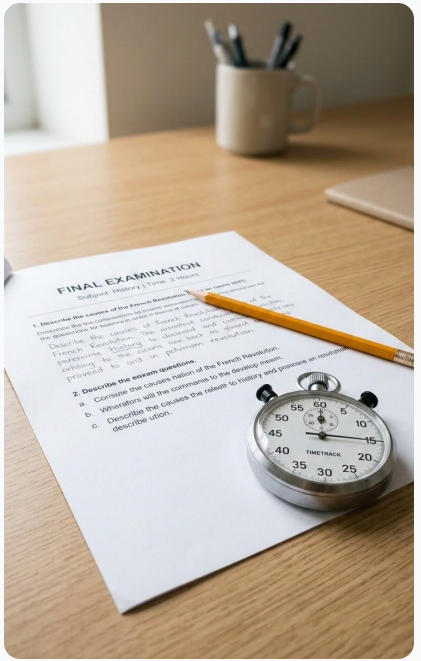
Use Bullet Points

Use bullet points to state key facts fast. Don't feel restricted to complete prose—the goal is to show knowledge.

TIP 03

Practice Timing

Practise past papers and keep strictly to time allocations to build speed for final exams.



Read your answers at the end

Verify Clarity and Completeness

Make sure what you have written is clear and you have included all the points you made in your planning notes.

'How to' – End-of-exam checklist:

TIP 01

Manage & Star

Manage time to leave room at the end. Star (*) questions as you go so you can easily locate and check them.

TIP 02

Check & Expand

Refer to planning notes. Use bullet points to quickly add missing details and showcase your knowledge.

TIP 03

Stay Full Time

Never leave early. There is always something you can review, refine, or clarify to gain extra marks.





Welcome

Year 11: Do Your Best