



Exmouth
Community
College

Belonging · Ambition · Responsibility

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Headteacher: T. W. Inman BSc, PGCE, NPQH, MTeach

27th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

It has been a really positive half term in many ways, with many significant achievements in the classroom, on stage on the sports field, on trips and visits and in many other ways. The positivity, commitment and kindness of students speaks volumes of them – it has been a really good half term and we are really proud of the young adults that they are becoming. Please find below a number of updates on the following:

- Tesco Golden Grant Offer
- Taking care if driving at the end of the school day
- Parent Governor opportunity
- Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11th November
- Odd Sock Day – Friday 14th November
- Equity and Inclusion Survey feedback
- Mary Poppins Production – Tickets on Sale
- Return to school – Monday 10th November

Tesco Golden Grant Offer

Earlier this term we were the lucky recipients of a £5,000 Tesco Golden Grant to support our Tutor Reading Programme. We'd like to thank all those in the community who supported this initiative.

Taking care if driving at the end of the school day

Please could we ask parents and cares to be really careful if driving near the school at the end of the school day, especially along Gipsy Lane and Green Close. We have had a number of 'near misses' in recent weeks, with cars driving at unreasonable speeds, especially as students leave school around 3pm.



Exmouth Community College is part of the Ted Wragg Trust

Registered Address: Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust, Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter EX2 7NL. Company Registered No: 08545109

Parent Governor Opportunity

We would welcome expressions of interest for a vacancy as a 'Parent Governor' on our Governing Board. Please see the attached poster for more information.

Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11th November

We will be marking Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11th November by holding the traditional minute's silence. There will also be a small memorial service in the memorial garden held for those that wish to attend from the local cadet groups. Cadets are invited to wear their cadet uniform for the day at school.

Odd Sock Day – Friday 14th November

To mark anti-bullying week we will be holding 'Odd Sock' day on Friday 14th November. Students will be welcome to wear odd socks in support of the initiative.

Equity and Inclusion Survey feedback

Thank you to all of you who completed the Equity and Inclusion survey last month. It was heartening to share with the wider staff all the kind and enthusiastic comments you made about ECC and those who work here; thank you. We also appreciate every piece of feedback and we have been working hard to put into action the points you raised.

Please see 'Our Families Said...We Have/Will' which outlines the feedback given and how we are making changes to make things better for our students and families.

Also included are guidance documents referenced in the 'Our Families Said' feedback, outlining how to support your child and their learning at home in core subjects: KS3 and KS4 Maths support, KS3 English support, KS4 English support and Literacy Support. If you have any questions regarding these, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Rebecca Gee, Head of Maths Faculty or Ms Hayley Williams and Ms Lydia Vowden, Joint Acting Heads of English Faculty.

We will continue to seek parental feedback as the year goes on. Thank you again for your kindness and honesty.

As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd rather more contact than less so that we can resolve any worries before they grow.



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Mary Poppins – Tickets on sale

We are really looking forward to our whole school production of Mary Poppins, running in the first week of December. Staff and students have been working incredibly hard on what we know is going to be an amazing show. Tickets are on sale now – please do purchase yours soon to avoid disappointment – the final evening is already sold out.

Return to school – Monday 10th November

This is the first year that we are holding a two week half term for students. Teaching staff return on Wednesday 5th November for three valuable days of staff training.

Wishing you a very happy half term break.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Inman
Headteacher



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22nd October 2025

Literacy at ECC: what you need to know

What do we do at ECC?

Sparx Reader

- If your child is in KS3, support us by ensuring that they complete their 300 Sparx Reader Points each week for their literacy homework.
- If your child is in KS4, encourage them to also access Sparx Reader as they can access some of the texts they are studying in English.
- If your child is an avid reader, they may be invited to be part of our Sparx Golden Reader book club, where they can go to the library each week to talk about the wonderful books they have been reading.

NGRT (reading tests)

- If your child is in Year 7-11, they will have completed a reading test, which allows us to see where each child is currently at with their reading ability.
- Teachers will have access to this information and will support and challenge as needed.
- Show an interest with your child and ask what texts they have been reading in lessons.
- Subjects other than English will inevitably read texts and extracts as part of the learning.
- The reading tests tell us which students might need further reading intervention.
- The reading tests also tell us which students would benefit from further challenge and extension with reading.

The Tutor Reading Programme

- If your child is in Year 7-10, they will be reading twice a week during tutor time.
- The tutor reads aloud for up to 30 minutes whilst tutees track along with their own copy of the book.
- Show an interest in this by talking to your child about what they are reading.
- The programme has been designed to promote reading for pleasure, a raised awareness of vocabulary and grammatical structures and to provoke thought and understanding of key issues in the world around us.
- During this time, a small number of students might receive reading intervention or take part in our library reading club.
- If you have any further questions around this, please refer to a previous parent and carer update that detailed key information around the programme.

The Library

- We have an incredible library at the heart of our school with over 4000 books for students to choose from.
- The library organises an incredible range of author visits and writer workshops throughout the year.
- There are reading competitions where students can win prizes for reading books.
- There are also weekly themes that see the library transformed.
- Theme weeks include quizzes, writing competitions and challenges that are, again, rewarded with prizes.
- Participation in library events is celebrated on a weekly basis in the school broadcast.
- Students can also sign up to be library monitors.
- As well as offering a calm space for quiet reading, it also offers a number of computers for students to use to complete homework.
- During registration, some students will be invited to attend the library if they are part of our library reading club.
- During registration, some students will receive reading intervention where needed.

The Bridging Pathway

- The Bridging Pathway curriculum supports English and literacy development, predominantly for readers who need the most support or mostly have SEND needs linked to learning.
- The specific teaching of reading using the Lexia online reading program is used with these students.
- Some of the students also take part in the Literacy Development Program which uses a specific reading scheme to teach reading in small groups of four.

What can you do at home to support your child?

- Support your child to develop and maintain a healthy relationship with reading.
- Students need to be able to read well in all subjects – this means being able to read fluently, understanding what they are reading and for an extended amount of time.
- People who read for pleasure, develop a thirst for knowledge and learning.
- Read books and texts (novels, magazines, newspapers, etc) yourself. Let them see you doing this!
- Encourage your child to read physical books and use the library.
- Remember, not all books are fiction and fantasy. The library has all sorts of real-world factual books to choose from.
- Talk about books.
- Be positive about reading and books.
- Set time aside to read together.
- Literacy isn't just about **reading**. You can also support by **writing** together and **talking** together.
- If you are concerned about your child's **handwriting**, there are lots of online resources that you can use at home to support with handwriting.

Why is reading so important?

- Academic Excellend: Reading improves comprehension and analytical skills, leading to better academic performance.

- Enhanced Communication Skills: It enriches vocabulary and grammar, improving language proficiency.
- Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving: Regular reading fosters critical thinking and enhances problem-solving abilities.
- Emotional and Social Development: Reading helps in emotional growth and understanding social contexts.
- Creativity and Imagination: Exposure to different narratives boosts creativity and imaginative thinking.
- Stress Relief and Mental Well-Being: Reading can serve as a form of relaxation and stress relief.
- Lifelong Learning: It encourages a love for learning and personal growth.

These benefits contribute significantly to a student's overall development and success.

Key Contacts

For Literacy queries*, please email Hayley.williams@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

For SEND queries, please email heather.lee-joy@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

For Bridging Pathway queries, please email jane.lucas@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

For library queries, please email lisa.hatchard@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

*Sparx Reader, NGRTs, the Tutor

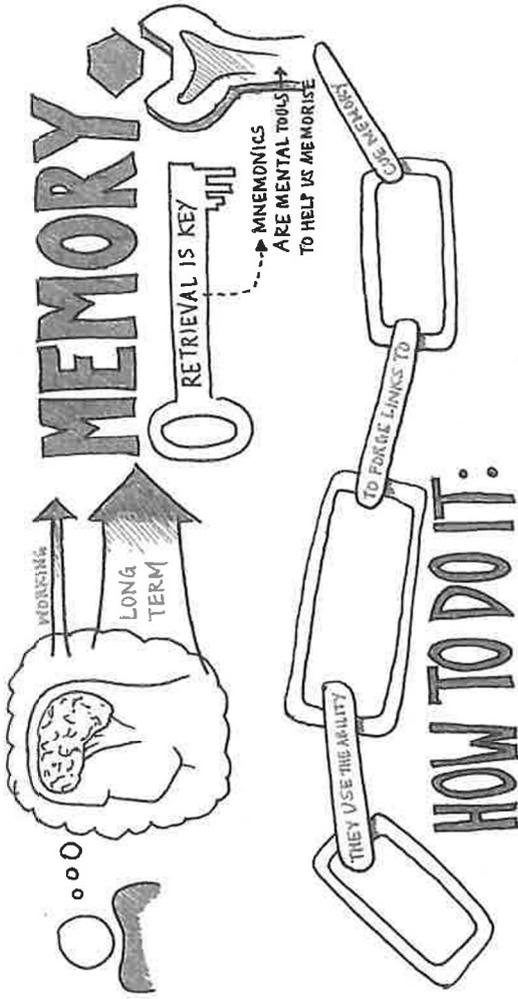


KS4 English Support

ENGLISH LITERATURE		
PAPER 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel – 1hr 45mins (105 mins)		
Question	Marks available	Timing
(Reading extracts)	-	(10 minutes)
Section A: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	30 (+4 for SPaG)	45 minutes
Section B: <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	30	45 minutes
(Check through)	-	(5 minutes)
PAPER 2: Modern Texts and Poetry – 2hrs 15mins (135 mins)		
Question	Marks available	Timing
Section A: <i>An Inspector Calls</i>	30 (+4 for SPaG)	45 minutes
Section B: Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology	30	45 minutes
Section C: Unseen Poetry		
First question (one poem)	24	30 minutes
Second question (comparison of two poems)	8	10 minutes
(Check through)	-	(5 minutes)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE		
PAPER 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 1hr 45mins (105 mins)		
Question	Marks available	Timing
(Reading insert and questions)	-	(10 minutes)
Section A: Reading		
Question 1 (multiple choice)	4 marks	5 minutes
Question 2 (language analysis)	8 marks	10 minutes
Question 3 (structure analysis)	8 marks	10 minutes
Question 4 (statement evaluation)	20 marks	20 minutes
Section B: Creative writing – descriptive or narrative	40 marks	45 minutes
(Check through)	-	(5 minutes)
PAPER 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1hr 45mins (105 mins)		
Question	Marks available	Timing
(Reading inserts and questions)	-	(10 minutes)
Section A: Reading		
Question 1 (4 true statements)	4 marks	5 minutes
Question 2 (summarising and synthesising)	8 marks	10 minutes
Question 3 (language analysis)	12 marks	10 minutes
Question 4 (comparison of sources)	16 marks	20 minutes
Section B: Non-fiction writing	40	45 minutes
(Check through)	-	(5 minutes)

MNEMONICS #1



HOW TO DO IT:

TRIGGER WORD | MEMORABLE PHRASE

Eg. FAST TO REMEMBER THE SIGNS OF A STROKE
ACT FAST

- LOOK AT THE KEYELEMENTS YOU NEED TO REMEMBER
- ON A
- LIST AND
- ONE LETTERS
- THEY BEGIN WITH
- THEN TRY AND ORGANISE THEM INTO A WORD OR A FEW WORDS THAT MAKE SENSE AS A TRIGGER WORD
- Eg. TILT



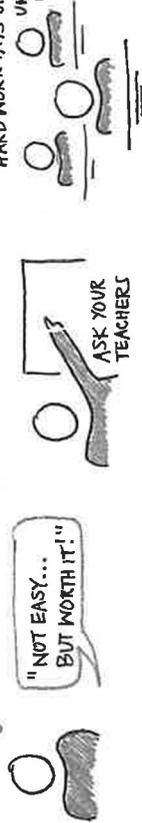
- LOOK AT THE KEY ELEMENTS YOU NEED TO REMEMBER
- IN A
- LIST AND
- THE LETTERS
- THEY BEGIN WITH

• THEN TRY TO THINK OF A PHRASE THAT IS EASY TO REMEMBER THAT USES THE SAME LETTERS
Eg. I LIKE TO TRAVEL

FOR BOTH

THE MORE THEY MAKE SENSE AND LINK TO THE MEANING OF THE CONTENT THE MORE EFFECTIVE THE MEMORY CUE WILL BE

HARD WORK PAYS OFF WHEN UNDER PRESSURE.

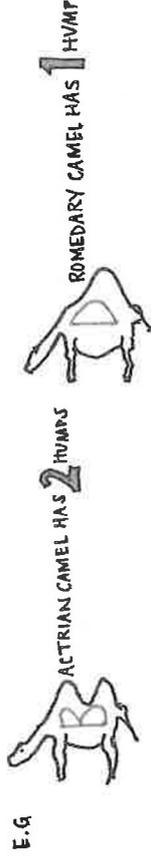


MNEMONICS #2



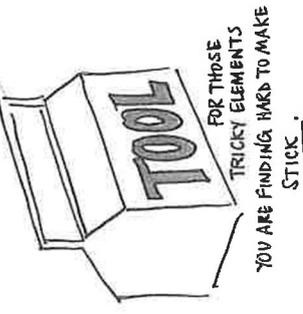
HOW TO DO IT:

• TAKE WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER AND MENTALLY 'PEG' OR LINK IT TO AN IMAGE OR PART OF A PICTURE.

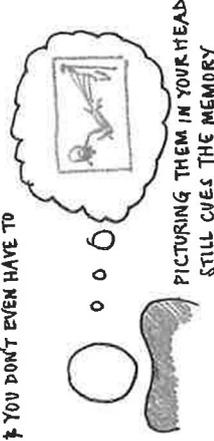


• OR TO REMEMBER A SEQUENCE, FIND A WAY TO USE THE ORDER IN YOUR IMAGE.

E.g. CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF SOCIALIST KEY THINKERS... KARL MARX, BEATRICE WEBB, ROSA LUXEMBURG



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ARTISTIC TO CREATE THESE IMAGES & YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO DRAW THEM.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE REVISION

Question Focus	Preparation Task
Reading Focus: 'List 4 things' question	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle this question. Read <i>The Cruel</i> extract (pages 3-4 of your booklet). Watch the Mr Bruff video on <i>The Cruel</i> on how to answer this question: AQA English Language Paper 1 Question 1 (2024 onwards) – YouTube
Reading Focus: 'How does the writer use language?' question	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle this question. Watch the Mr Bruff video on <i>The Cruel</i> on how to answer this question: AQA English Language Paper 1 Question 2 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com)
Reading Focus: 'How does the writer structure the text?' question	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle this question. Watch the Mr Bruff video on <i>The Cruel</i> on how to answer this question: AQA English Language Paper 1 Question 3 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com)
Reading Focus: 'To what extent...' evaluation question	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle this question. Watch the Mr Bruff video on <i>The Cruel</i> on how to answer this question: AQA English Language Paper 1 Question 4 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com)
Writing Focus: Writing a description	Read through the writing section of your knowledge organiser to refresh yourself on the content and structure of description. AQA English Language Paper 1 Question 5 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com) Plan the descriptive or story piece in your homework booklet.
Writing Focus: Writing a description	Read through the writing section of your knowledge organiser to refresh yourself on the content and structure of a story.
Reading Focus: Question 1 (select 4 true statements) Question 2 (write a summary of differences)	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle these questions. Watch the following clips: AQA English Language Paper 2 Question 1 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com) AQA English Language Paper 2 Question 2 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com)
Reading Focus: Question 3 (How has the writer used language to describe...?)	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle these questions. Watch the following clip: AQA English Language Paper 2 Question 3 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com)
Reading Focus: Question 4 (Comparing attitudes and perspectives across both texts)	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle these questions. Watch the following clip: AQA English Language Paper 2 Question 4 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com)
Reading Focus: Question 4 (Comparing attitudes and perspectives across both texts)	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle these questions. Re-watch last week's clip: AQA English Language Paper 2 Question 4 (2024 onwards) (youtube.com)
Writing Focus: Writing a letter	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle writing a letter. Watch the following clips: GCSE English Language: Writing A Letter (youtube.com)
Writing Focus: Writing an article	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle writing an article. Watch the following clip: GCSE English Language: Writing An Article (youtube.com)
Writing Focus: Writing a speech	Read through the knowledge organiser section that explains how to tackle writing a speech. Watch the following clip: GCSE English Language: Writing A Speech (youtube.com)

How can I revise?

- Attend Power Hour after-school sessions
- Use the activities in your study guides
- Create revision/quote cards/mindmaps in response to the criteria above
- Use Seneca to quiz and revise quotations
- Use your notes from class to mind map key ideas
- Use your flashcards to learn key quotations and methods
- Use your knowledge organisers for each unit to revise key knowledge
- Use the Mr Bruff videos on Youtube and other YT videos
- Use Sparknotes, Shmoop, York Notes, Genius.com, BBC Bitesize, etc
- Practise creating, planning and responding to exam-style questions under timed conditions

PRACTISE WHAT YOU CAN'T DO, NOT WHAT YOU CAN

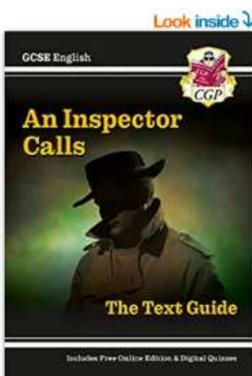
How do I prepare for my exams in English Literature and English Language?

1. Do you have the right revision tools?

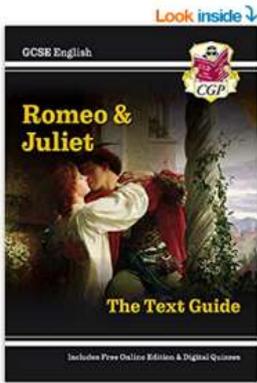
A pack of **highlighters** are essential and can be used for every subject.



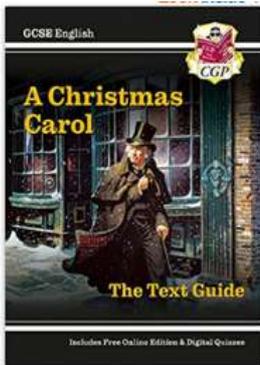
Revision guides can be a great help with reading at home or as great supports to use within lessons. They're all available on the Amazon website.



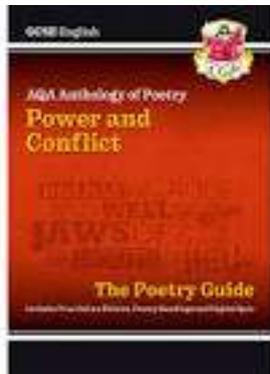
[GCSE English Text Guide - An Inspector Calls includes Online Edition & Quizzes: for the 2025 and 2026 exams \(CGP GCSE English Text Guides\): Amazon.co.uk: CGP Books, CGP Books: 9781841461151: Books](#)



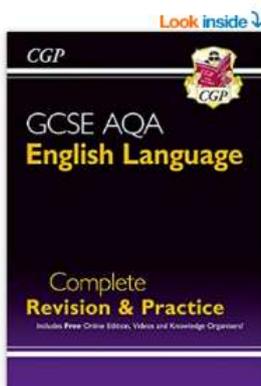
[New GCSE English Shakespeare Text Guide - Romeo & Juliet includes Online Edition & Quizzes: perfect for the 2023 and 2024 exams: Amazon.co.uk: CGP Books, CGP Books: 9781841461182: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781841461182)



[GCSE English Text Guide - A Christmas Carol includes Online Edition & Quizzes: perfect for the 2023 and 2024 exams \(CGP GCSE English Text Guides\): Amazon.co.uk: CGP Books, CGP Books: 9781782943099: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781782943099)



[GCSE English AQA Poetry Guide - Power & Conflict Anthology inc. Online Edition, Audio & Quizzes: for the 2025 and 2026 exams \(CGP AQA GCSE Poetry\): Amazon.co.uk: CGP Books, CGP Books: 9781782943617: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781782943617)



[New GCSE English Language AQA Complete Revision & Practice - includes Online Edition and Videos: perfect for the 2023 and 2024 exams \(CGP AQA GCSE English Language\): Amazon.co.uk: CGP Books, CGP Books: 9781782944140: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781782944140)



Ten Ways to Support Your KS3 Child in English

1. Encourage reading

Any kind of reading is brilliant! Novels are fantastic, but magazines, comics, and online articles all help too.

2. Reading reminders

Encourage your child to complete their **SPARX reading homework** and visit the **school library** to find something new to enjoy.

3. More reading!

Reading is the single best way to boost English skills. Non-fiction books, short stories, recipes, or news articles – anything that builds vocabulary and sparks curiosity.

4. Talk about their learning

Ask what they've been studying in English. Can they recall new words or explain a story they've read? Talking about it helps the learning stick.

5. Use the Knowledge Organisers

You can find these on the school website. Quiz your child on key ideas and vocabulary – a simple but powerful way to help them remember.

6. Encourage writing

Whether it's a story, diary entry, or film review, any writing helps your child express ideas clearly and creatively.

7. Share good language

Use interesting words at home and talk about what they mean. A love of language grows through everyday conversations.

8. Watch and listen together

Films, podcasts, news clips, and audiobooks all expose your child to different styles of English. Chat about what you've watched or heard.

9. Celebrate progress

Praise effort, imagination, and improvement. Confidence grows when children feel proud of their progress.

10. Stay connected

Keep in touch with your child's English teacher and look out for **reading lists**, **book fairs**, and **writing competitions**. Every bit of encouragement helps!



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Headteacher: Tom W. Inman BSc, PGCE, NPQH, MTeach

22nd October 2025

Supporting Your Child in Maths (Years 7-10)

As a department, our core platform for supporting independent learning in Maths is Sparx Maths. This is used to set personalised homework for all students in Years 7-10, helping them to build confidence and consolidate what they've learned in class.

How can you help as a parent?

We know it can be challenging to know the best way to support your child with their maths homework. The most effective support isn't giving them the answer, but helping them build resilience and use the help that is already built-in.

Check Completion: Sparx homework is set weekly and should take around 60 minutes. Please check with your child that they are completing 100% of their tasks each week.

Encourage Support Videos: If your child is stuck, every question has a unique support video. Please encourage them to watch this before asking for help.

Encourage Student Support: If they are still struggling, please remind them that they can get face-to-face help from a maths teacher at our Sparx drop-in sessions, which run every Tuesday and Friday lunchtime.

Talk About "Bookwork": Sparx requires students to write down their workings for specific questions, which is a vital skill for their GCSEs. Ask to see their "Bookwork" to show you're engaged in their process.

For more detailed guidance and answers to common questions, Sparx provides an excellent parent portal:

<https://sparxmaths.com/parents/>

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's success in Mathematics.

Our families said...	We will/have...
<i>'When a tutor is off for a prolonged period, this can really impact my child. I would like to prepare them for these events'</i>	We will write to families if your child's tutor/Head of House will be off for a period of longer than two weeks. We are also going to set up House email addresses, so families can be assured that their emails will be responded to within 72 hours from someone within the team. These will be communicated to families shortly.
<i>'I feel that getting in touch with the right people at school can be hard.'</i>	We want to make sure you are speaking to the right people. Email address for key staff can be found here: Exmouth Community College - Contact Us
<i>'We value the engagement score on the reports. However, some of the other elements are confusing and make discussing reports at home difficult.'</i>	We will be sharing videos to accompany the reports we send home for your children, which we hope will enable families to have great conversations regarding their child's progress. You can expect to see these videos after half term. Additionally, an explanation of the reports can also be found here: Exmouth Community College - Assessment & Reports
<i>'What is the Learning Support Base? What is the Study Hub?'</i>	The Learning Support Base is a dedicated place that provides targeted and specialist support for students with SEND needs. The Study Hub is a space that provides academic support for students who require intervention before making a smooth transition back into their full curriculum. Both spaces operate a referral process, with student being referred by their Heads of House.
<i>'Why specific Banner trousers that cost £20 a pair when we could buy 2 pairs of grey trousers from any supermarkets for less?'</i>	We will be reviewing our uniform policy in the next 12 months and this includes the supplier of our uniform. We also want to highlight to families that if financial support for uniform is required, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor and we will ensure you are fully supported.
<i>'How can I support my child towards better progress in their subjects?'</i>	For Maths, Year 11 students have a bespoke package interventions and information evenings; details will be communicated to parents before half term. In English, KS3 and KS4 guidance of how to support your child in this key subject is attached to this communication. Additionally, we want to make families aware that Homework Support Club runs Monday-Thursday 3-4pm. The club is ran by teaching staff, offering full IT support and biscuits are provided! If you would like your child to access this provision, please email homework.support@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk
<i>'I would like to feel that the students are really listened to and that their voices are heard'</i>	The Senior Leadership Team has conducted Student Voice this half term. Students were selected to give feedback on different Faculties across the school. A mixture of students were heard including all year groups, across the Houses, an even mix of girls and boys, EAL students, SEN students and students receiving Free School Meals. We will continue to hear Student Voice as the year progresses.