# SB Parent Academic Handbook

SAFA COMMUNIT SCHOOL

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2024-2025



As teachers, we are repeatedly asked

## "What can I do to support my child at home?"

so we have created a guide that is based on current educational research and best practice.

SECTION 1: Meet the Team SECTION 2: Study Skills and Techniques SECTION 3: Online Platforms and Websites SECTION 4: Curriculum Maps SECTION 5: Departmental Topic Guide SECTION 6: Exam Technique SECTION 7: Inclusion

# **SECTION 1**

## MEET THE TEAM





Deputy Headteacher Head of Middle School Mr. Mathew Ashton mashton@safacommunityschool.com



Assistant Headteacher Head of Key Stage 3 Ms. Kirsty Valentine

kvalentine@safacommunityschool.com



Head of Year 7 Ms. Finola Mulvey fmulvey@safacommunityschool.com



Deputy Head of Year 7 Mr. Steven Geaney sgeaney@safacommunityschool.com



Head of Year 8 Ms. Hannah Skidmore hskidmore@safacommunityschool.com



Deputy Head of Year 8 Ms Alexandra Hay ahay@safacommunityschool.com



Head of Year 9 Ms. Charlotte Jones cjones@safacommunityschool.com



Deputy Head of Year 9 Mr Stephen Edwards

sedwards@safacommunityschool.com



Head of Whole School Islamic Mr Feras Al Tahaineh faltahaineh@safacommunityschool.com



Head of Whole School Arabic Ms Rehab Khalifa rkhalifa@safacommunityschool.com



# **Award Winning School**



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2023 - 2024

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# **SECTION 2**

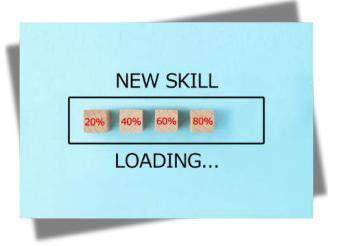


## Study skills and techniques



## Planning (spacing)

Your children will learn more if their practice with the material they encounter at school is spaced out over time. Repetition is essential, but repetition is most effective when the presentation of information is spaced out over time. Therefore, students need to revisit older information and review the most recently learned information.



Another way to think about this is that spacing out studying is more efficient. When your children cram, they may be wasting their time doing something that will not help their learning in the long run. We all know that time is limited, and the amount children need to learn is great. Short periods of practice at home can help children learn a great deal.

So, parents, here are some simple ways you can encourage your children to learn more by spacing their practice:

#### Help your child plan out a study schedule, and stick to it

At the beginning of the school year or each term, please help your child plan out a study schedule, and help them stick to it throughout the year. Explain to them why they need to space their studying. What your child should do during the scheduled time will depend on what they are doing in school and their age. For example, younger children can spend time reading or doing activities from school, while older children might self-direct review the material presented during school to reinforce their learning. If children get used to a routine of revisiting schoolwork for at least a little bit each day at home, it will likely be easier for them when they have a teacher- assigned homework or need to study for upcoming tests.

#### Encourage your child to revisit old topics

Repetition is essential, but repetition is most effective when the presentation of information is spaced out over time. Therefore, your child needs to revisit older information and review the most recently learned information. When your child is doing their homework, ask them how they are learning now related to what they learned earlier in the school year (or even in previous years!) Doing this also encourages interleaving, which is also helpful for learning. Interleaving ideas (going back and forth between them) encourages students to see the similarities and differences between pictures.

#### Take advantage of homework

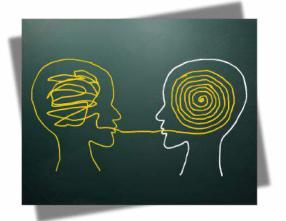


Spaced practice is one of the reasons why homework can be so important to encourage longterm learning in our kids. Ideally, homework should allow your children to practice what they have learned at school. As such, the goal should not necessarily be to "get everything right" but to make an effort to attempt the task at hand. Then, children should obtain feedback (either from you or their teacher) and try to understand where they went wrong. If you give feedback on your child's homework attempts, try to make it about the content of the homework rather than how much of it they did correctly. That is: focus on how to turn mistakes into learning experiences rather than punishments.



# Developing understanding

You can help develop your children's understanding of the world by combining the following elements into your conversations and activities. These activities do not always need to be academic – you can also help your child learn more effectively while playing or just spending time with them.



#### **Elaboration**

Encourage your child to elaborate by asking them how what they learned in school applies to their everyday experiences. Find opportunities to ask "how" and "why" questions about the way things around you work. It's ok if you don't know the answer yourself – you can explore this with your child. But make sure to look up the correct answer so you can both learn it! If your child is working on a problem-solving task, such as in math or science, ask them to describe what they are doing on each step – quite literally, what is going through their minds as they try to solve the problem. This can help you see where they are going wrong, but more importantly, it will help them understand the process better.

#### **Concrete examples**

Point out concrete examples in your environment that might relate to what your child is studying at school. For younger children, you should obtain a weekly curriculum where you can find the themes and topics your child is learning about at school; these are a reasonable basis for the concrete examples you point out. For older children, don't worry if you don't have access to their class materials – they're old enough to tell you what they are learning, which will help them because they'll be engaging in retrieval practice while telling you! See below for more about that.

#### **Dual coding**

Please help your child visually and verbally represent their learning concepts using simple sketches and explanations. With younger children, this might be something you are already doing naturally when you read to your child, and they are looking at the pictures in the book while you read. Your child might spontaneously point things out in the pictures as the words you are reading describe them, or you can stop reading and make a deliberate effort to explain how the image relates to the terms. With older children, you can still look at pictures or visuals that represent the concepts they are learning at school. If you find an image relevant to their studies, save it, and discuss it with your child. Demonstrate to your children that artistic proficiency is optional for visually depicting ideas; show them how a quick, rough sketch can illustrate a concept. You can take turns drawing and describing concepts with your child, making it into a game!

#### **Reinforcement (retrieval practice)**

Practising retrieval at home can be as simple as asking children at some point after school what they learned that day. It is ok if you don't know much about the material they are describing – just let them do most of the talking! If you can encourage your child to describe and explain the information from their memory, then you are helping them practice retrieval and reinforcement of what they've learned.

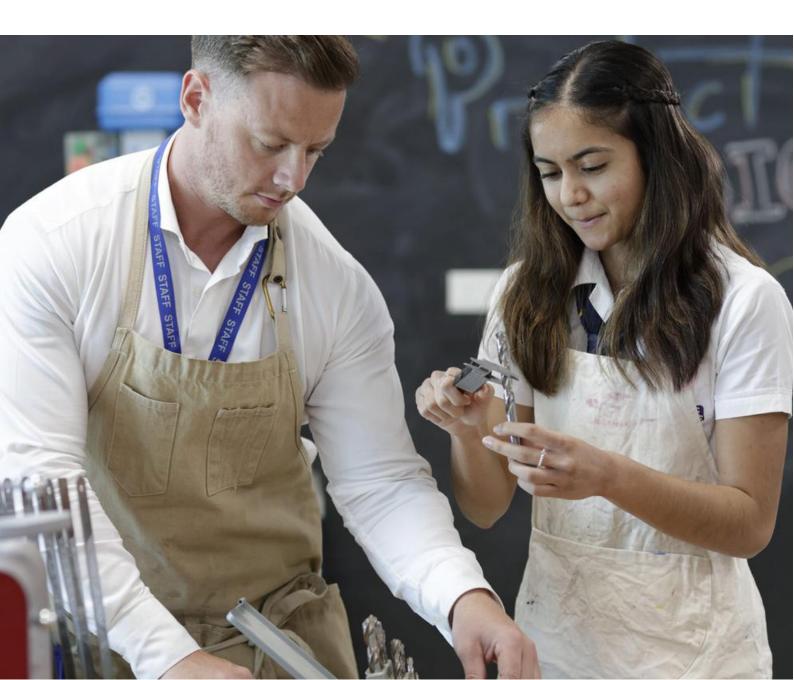


If you're having trouble encouraging your child to practice spaced retrieval through the homework they are already getting, you can encourage them to write out what they know on a blank sheet of paper, help them make flashcards, or help them make their questions for retrieval practice. Just make sure your child actively brings the information they have learned to memory. The activity may need to be adjusted if it is too easy or difficult for your child. In addition, you could even ask your child's teacher for resources that your child can use for additional retrieval practice.

## Final tip: Make sure your child gets enough sleep! ... Z



Even the best learning strategies become less effective when children need more sleep. Sleep is essential for consolidating or reinforcing what has been learned. Rest will make your child's spaced practice more beneficial. Importantly, spacing practice out across the week (rather than cramming practice right before tests) can help alleviate the need for students to stay up very late studying before tests. So, spacing out practice helps your children get to sleep, and sleeping more makes the spaced practice even more effective! Research shows that when students get a good night's sleep, they will remember more of the material they studied, and they will be able to relearn anything they forgot more quickly and efficiently.



# **SECTION 3**



## **Online Platforms and Websites**

At SCS we have invested in a number of online platforms to support learning. These include:



Google Classroom is our primary online Teaching and Learning platform. Individual teachers set up individual classes and can issue classwork and homework as assignments. Students will be given a class code to join their respective classes.

#### **Student dashboard**

This will be the student dashboard where they can see all of the classes that they have been added too.

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#### **Marks and feedback**

Under the 'Marks' section in Google Classroom, students can see their marked work and teacher feedback.

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#### Student classwork tab

Under the student classwork tab in each individual classroom is where your child will see all of their classwork, topics, assignments and homework.

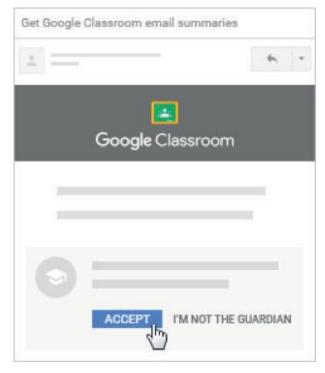
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## Google Guardian

The Google Guardian was set up for each year group. You will receive an email asking you to accept the invitation. Which looks like this:



Once you accept, you will be given the option to opt for daily or weekly summaries for your child. You will receive the daily summaries at midnight at the end of each day or on a Friday if selected weekly.

## **Education Perfect**

Education Perfect is a cloud-based online learning platform, combining a full bank of curriculum-aligned resources with tools for differentiation, marking, feedback and reporting. The platform was created by a team of learning designers and teachers who are employed to design best-in-class lessons and assessments.

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	2nd	AB	Alan B					49	41 pts	
15 pts	3ed	A8.	Archer B					Yout	15 pts	
Yearly score +	sth	JA	Jenny A					4	0 pts	
3 rd	5th	75	Timmy S					41	0 pts	
School	6th	мк	Michael K					41	0 pts.	
All subjects 💌	7th	AT	Alex T					3	0 pts	

Education Perfect provides the right balance between challenge and support through personalised, adaptive learning. The platform empowers your childten with automated differentiation and creative, engaging classroom activities.





#### Seneca

Seneca is a free revision for your GCSE & A Level exams, as well as Key Stage 3 material.

Students can join over 6.5 million students learning 2x faster across 250+ exam board specific A Level, GCSE & KS3 Courses.



#### **GCSE Pod**

GCSE POD is an online platform that allows for an exam-mapped curriculum through flipped learning experiences in the classroom and at home. It will enable teachers to set video pods for various subjects and allow students to study topics at their own pace independently.

The web address for GCSE POD is: https://www.gcsepod.com/



Students in Year 9 will have been issued with login details from their teachers. If there are any activities that the teacher is asking for, they will permanently be assigned through Google Classroom so that students have all of their assignments in one central place.





#### Language Gym



The Language Gym website was created in the belief that language learning is very much like building strength, flexibility, endurance, muscles and speed in gym sports such as, for example boxing, gymnastics and crossfit.

The Language Gym offer French, Spanish, Italian and German. Students in Key Stage 3 are set work by their teacher to complete on The Language Gym as part of their homework.

#### **BBC Bitesize**

Accessible via Google with no login required, the BBC Bitesize website breaks learning down into bitesize chunks.

On this website, you are looking for

England- KS3.

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GCSE	>	GCSE	*	4th level	>	К53	5
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				Nàiseanta S	>	GCSE	>
				National 4	>	TGAU	2
				National 5	>	WBQ	. 7
				Ård Ire	>	Coreers	>
				Minhar	-		

#### **SPARX Maths**

Sparx Maths is a complete solution that improves students' progress in maths through personalised learning and reduces teacher workload.

Teachers receive fully resourced lessons, the ability to pause and progress students' tasks during the study and real-time insights into class and student progress. Sparx provides detailed lesson outlines, supported by thousands of carefully crafted questions and video tutorials that encourage independent learning, covering the KS3 and GCSE curricula. Students receive personalised homework, which is challenging but achievable for them.

# epraise

Epraise is an online platform for schools, that helps parents to engage more with their children's education.

At Safa Community School, we use Epraise to reward our students for all of the fantastic things they do on a daily basis.

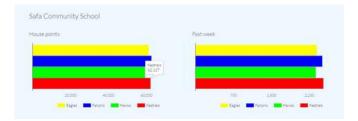
Not only that, it is used as a platform to record our House Competitions, with weekly, termly and annual rewards.

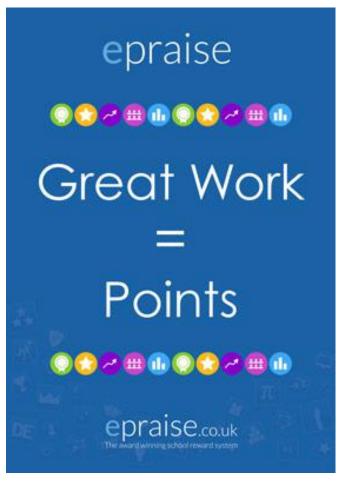
There is also a shop, with items created by students, that they can buy using the House Points they gain.

As a parent, you can use Epraise to see how and where your child is being rewarded. Please see the example below:









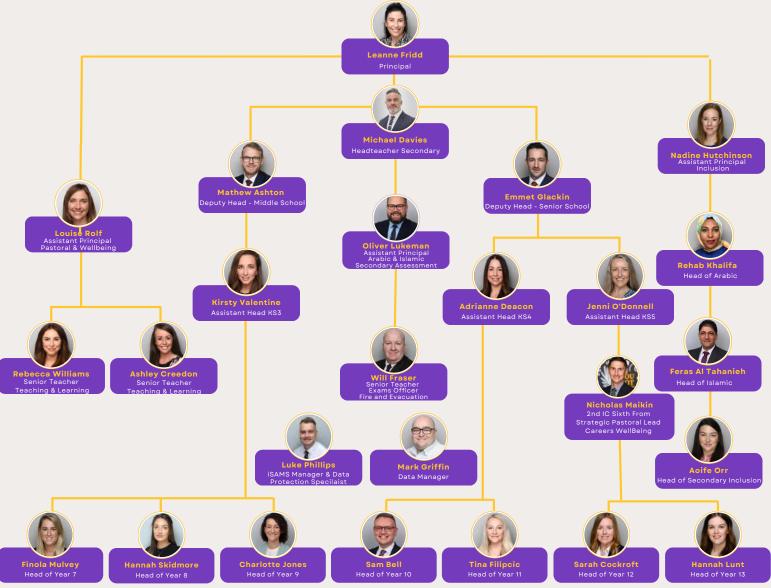
Furthermore, Epraise is used as a tool for booking appointments for our Parent Teacher Conference. A 'How to' Guide will be shared with you closer to your first session.

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16:00						
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# ORGANISATIONAL CHART



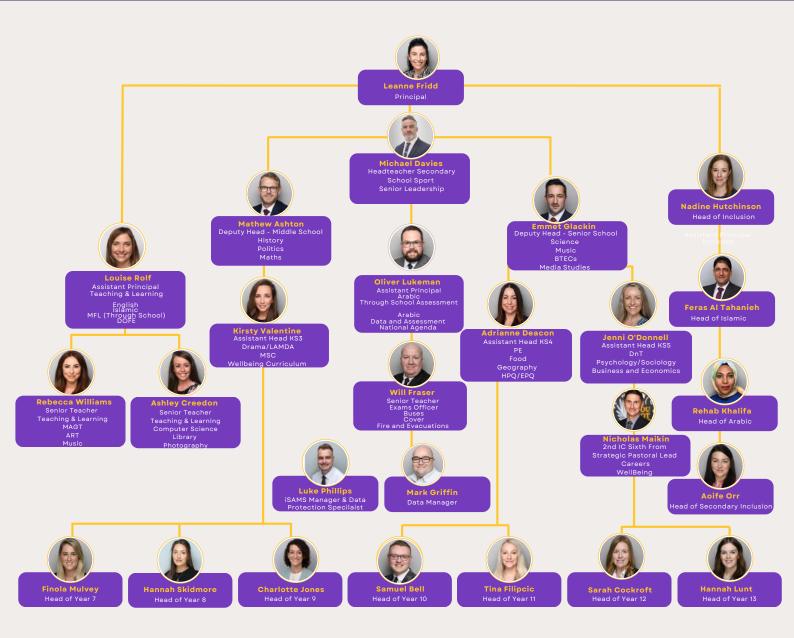
## Secondary 2024-2025





# LINE MANAGEMENT 2024/2025









# Subject Specific Platforms and Websites

#### Arabic A and Arabic B

http://www.arabalicious.com/index.html https://quizlet.com https://learnarabiconline.ksu.edu.sa/Default.aspx http://www.learningarabic.eu/course/ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUKDL2cuOjyvvCI3h1ocS3A http://arabicquick.com/essential-arabic-words https://www.wordreference.com/ https://www.interlingo.co.uk/

#### Art

https://www.pinterest.com/ https://artsandculture.google.com/ http://www.artcyclopedia.com/ https://www.saatchigallery.com/ https://www.saatchigallery.com/ https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/ https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/ https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/ https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/ https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/ https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/ https://www.nga.gov/ https://www.nga.gov/ https://www.colormatters.com/ http://studiochalkboard.evansville.edu/ http://www.freestockphotos.com/ https://www.deviantart.com/ https://www.1001fonts.com/

#### Computing

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#### Design and Technology

https://technologystudent.com/ https://www.instructables.com/ http://www.design-technology.info/home.htm https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zfr9wmn

#### Drama

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbckjxs https://www.youtube.com/user/ntdiscovertheatre https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdmPjhKMaXNNeCr1FjuMvag





English Online Poetry Sites https://www.poetryfoundation.org/

https://poets.org/ Reading Lists https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/ Non Fiction Reading - News Websites https://gulfnews.com/ https://www.theguardian.com/international

https://www.bbc.com/news https://edition.cnn.com/ https://news.sky.com/world

Literature and Language Revision https://mrbruff.com/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01drwny

#### Food Technology

https://www.ifst.org/lovefoodlovescience/resources https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/ https://www.bbcgoodfoodme.com/ https://www.leiths.com/

#### Geography

https://www.geographypods.com/ https://www.geographyalltheway.com/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrw76sg https://senecalearning.com/ https://www.nationalgeographic.org/

#### History

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39 https://app.senecalearning.com/classroom/course/f3012969-6fda-4cb0-8de5-8ff738472ea1/section/5c2270b8-b8b9-4bad-a9fc-9894dcb513e7/session

#### Islamic A and Islamic B

https://www.quran411.com/ https://sunnah.com/ https://www.al-islam.org/stories-prophets/prophet-adam

#### Mathematics

https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/ https://www.mangahigh.com/en/ https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/ https://corbettmaths.com/





#### Modern Foreign Languages

https://www.memrise.com https://www.wordreference.com https://grammar.collinsdictionary.com https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english-thesaurus https://www.linguascope.com https://quizlet.com https://www.pleco.com https://www.thechairmansbao.com

#### Moral Education

https://moraleducation.ae/get-involved/#header

#### Music

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zpf3cdm https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmsvr82 https://www.musictheory.net/ https://oneminutemusiclesson.com/ https://www.youtube.com/c/JamesStevenson/videos https://www.musicalfutures.org/

#### PE

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB-yYmhoAieVxt046nG1XPQ

#### Science

https://www.kerboodle.com/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/ks3/ks3-science-syllabus https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/free-key-stage-3-sciencerevision/ http://www.docbrown.info/ks3science.htm https://phet.colorado.edu/ https://www.youtube.com/playlist? list=PLyf3QQ9ddzgngBzZiwWcEBuRoKUYaXS6N

#### **UAE Social Studies**

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39 https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/seneca-certifiedresources/geography-ks3-1/

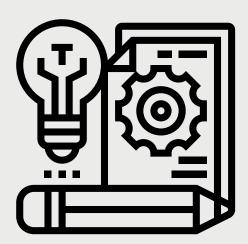


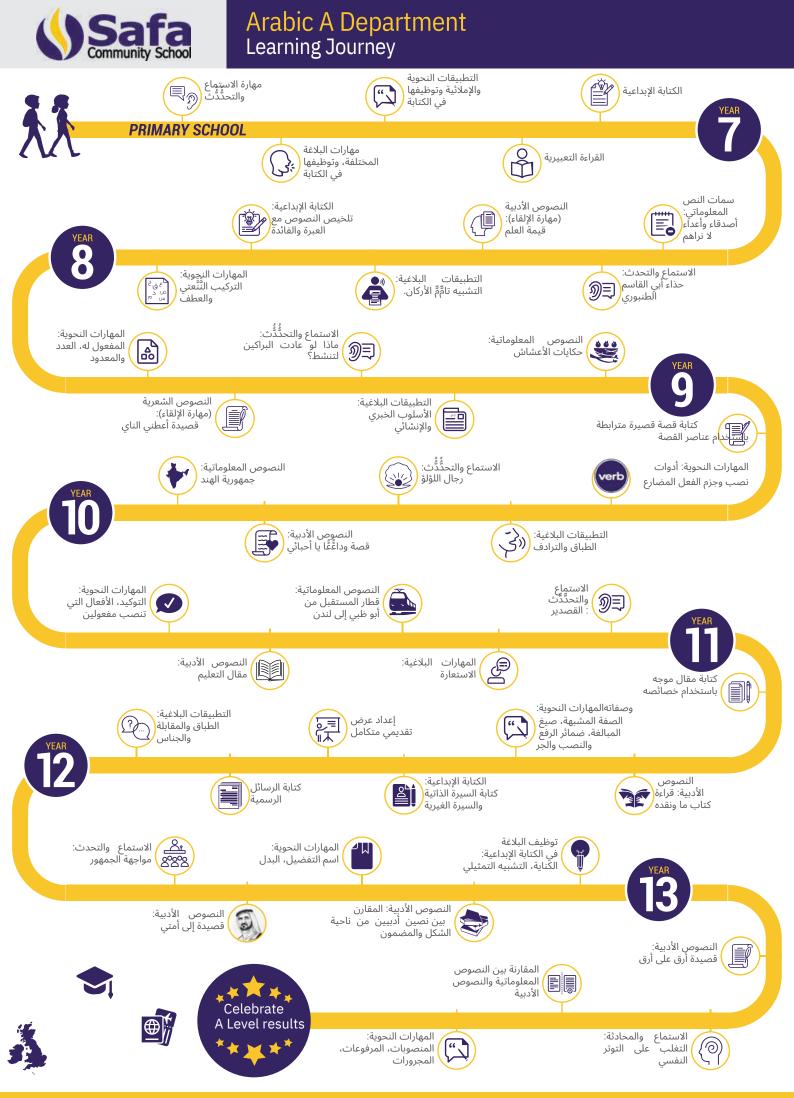


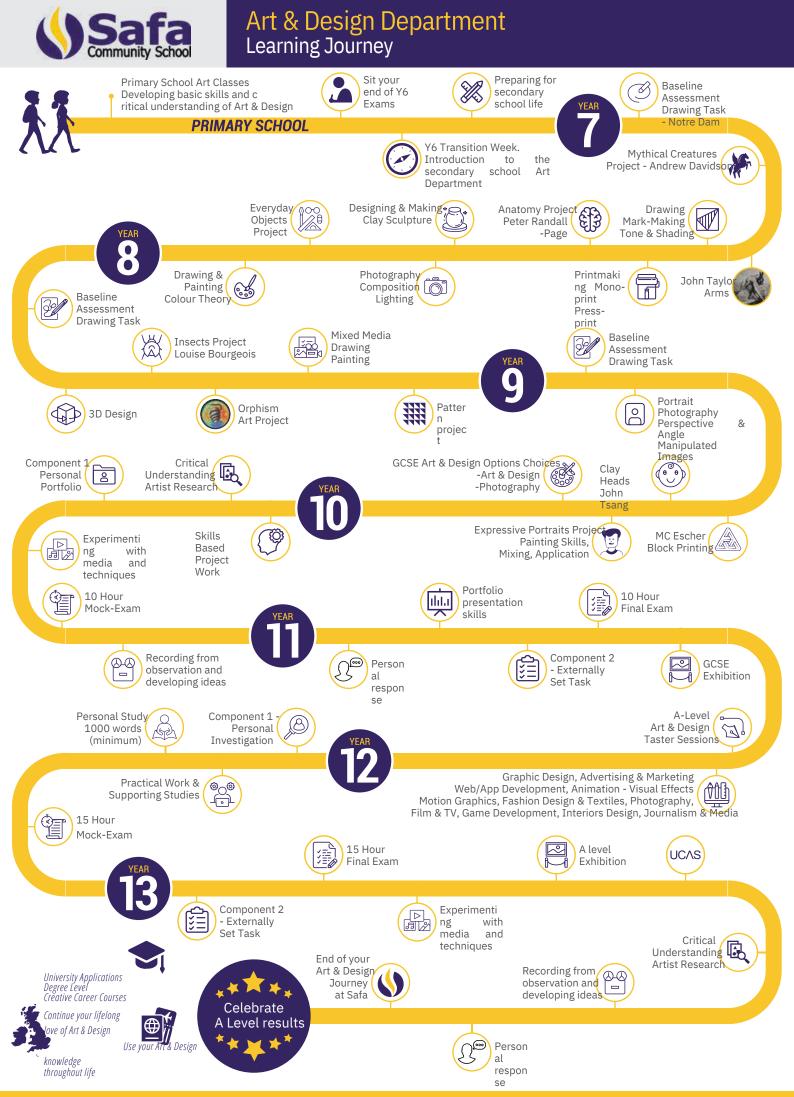
# WHAT WILL MY CHILD STUDY?



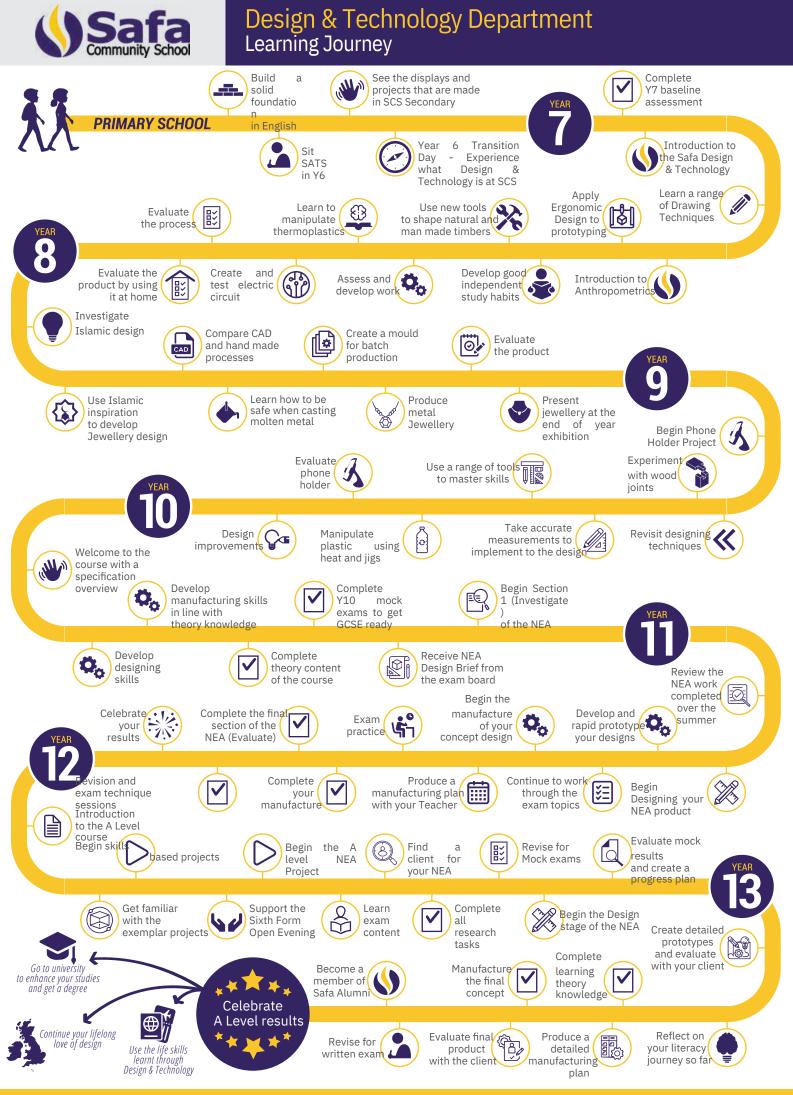
# HOW CAN WE SUPPORT AT HOME?



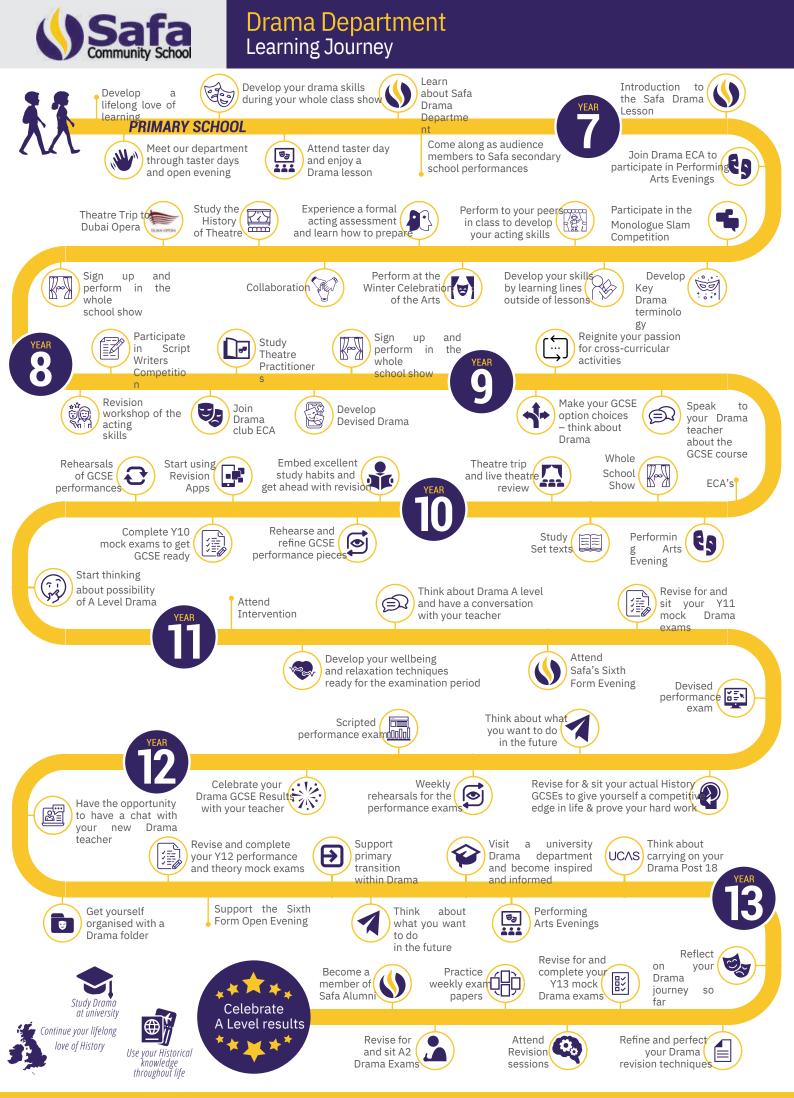




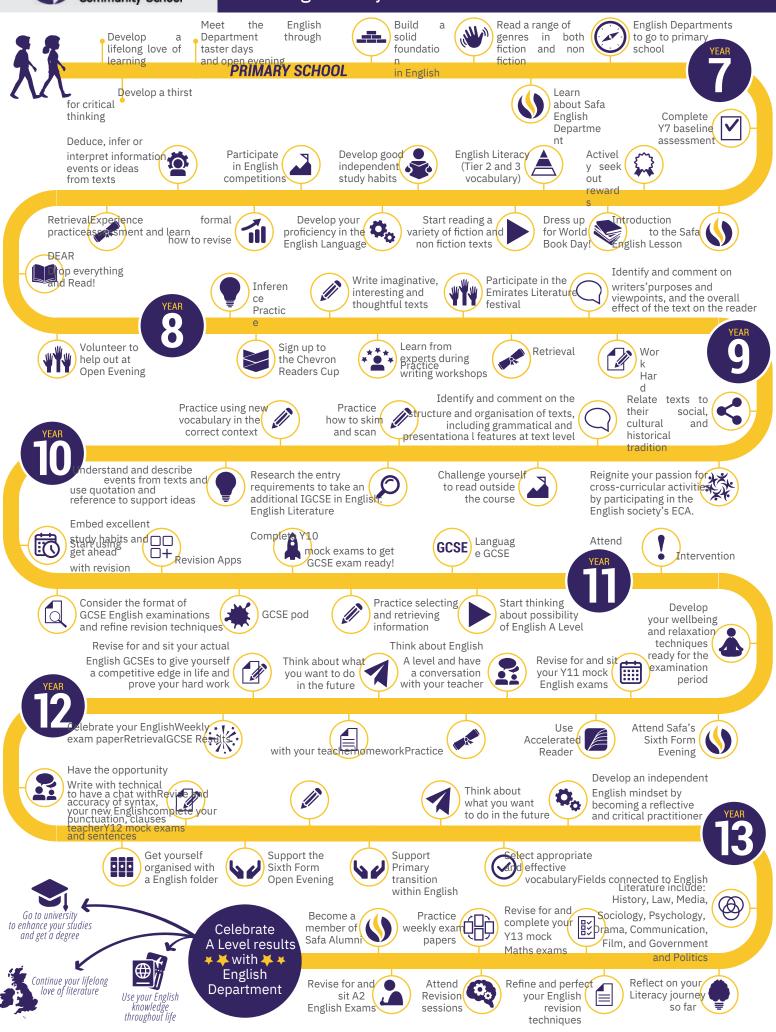




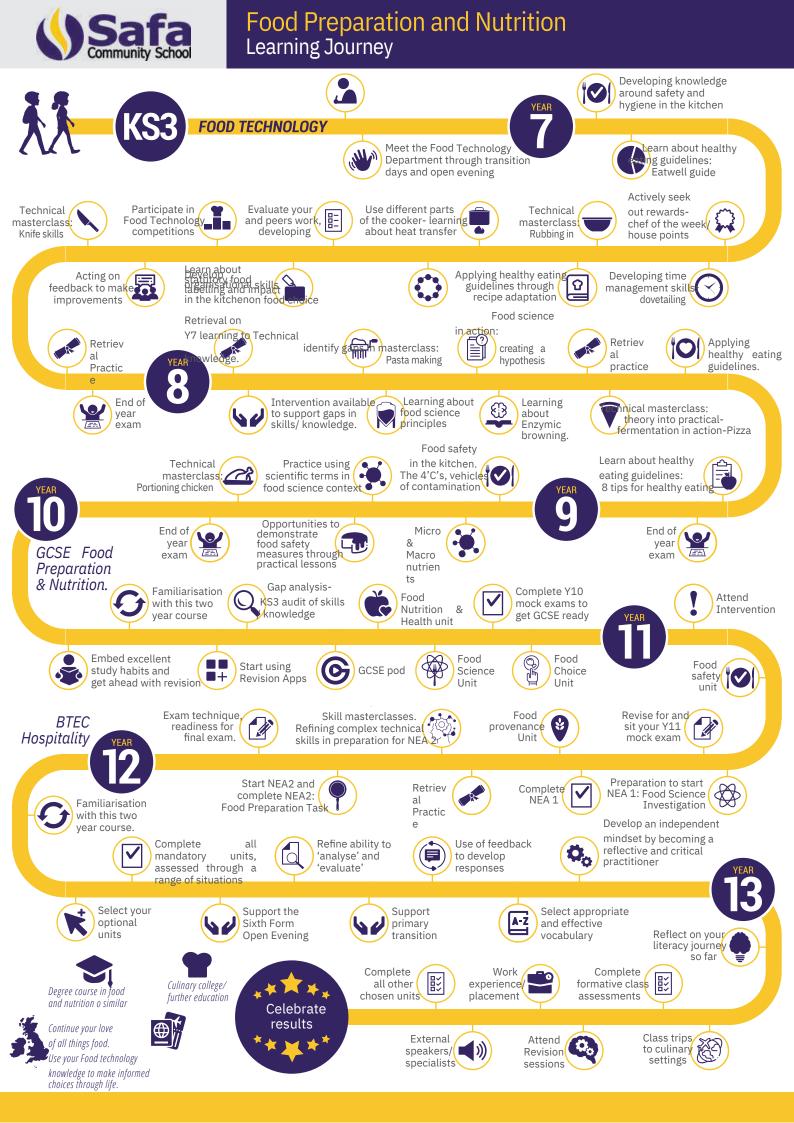
'I am fluent and confident in my reading, writing, speaking and listening'

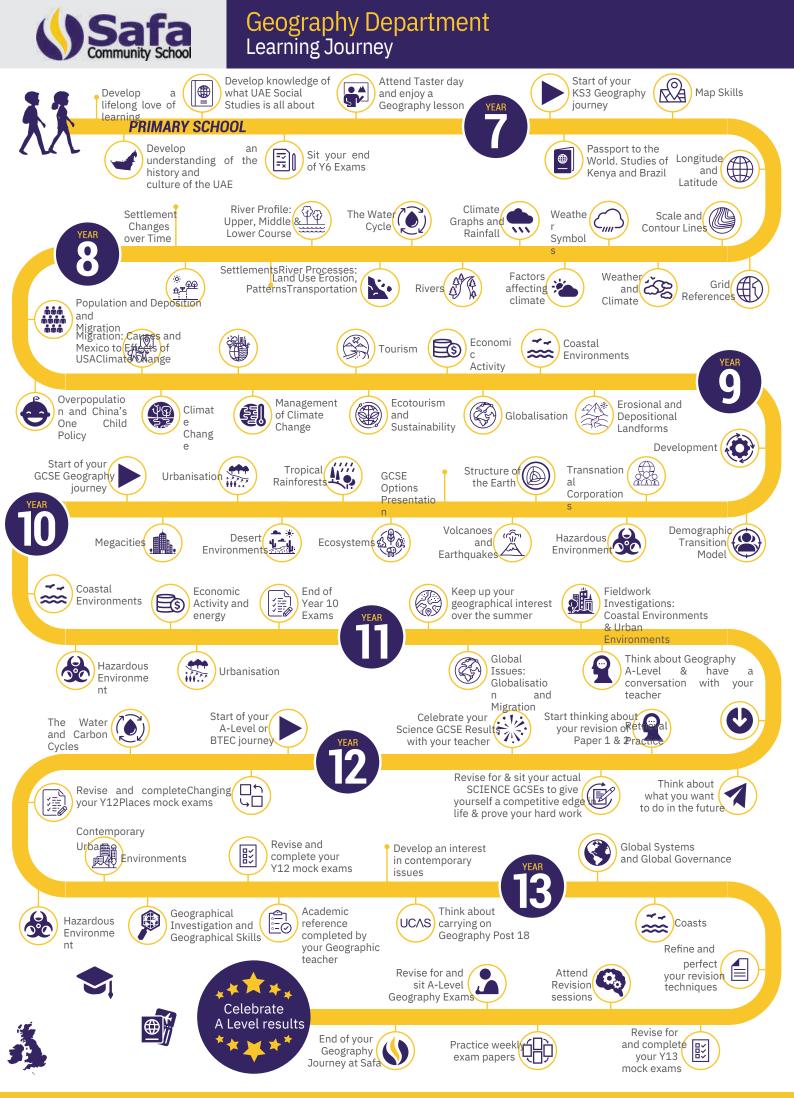


#### English Department Learning Journey

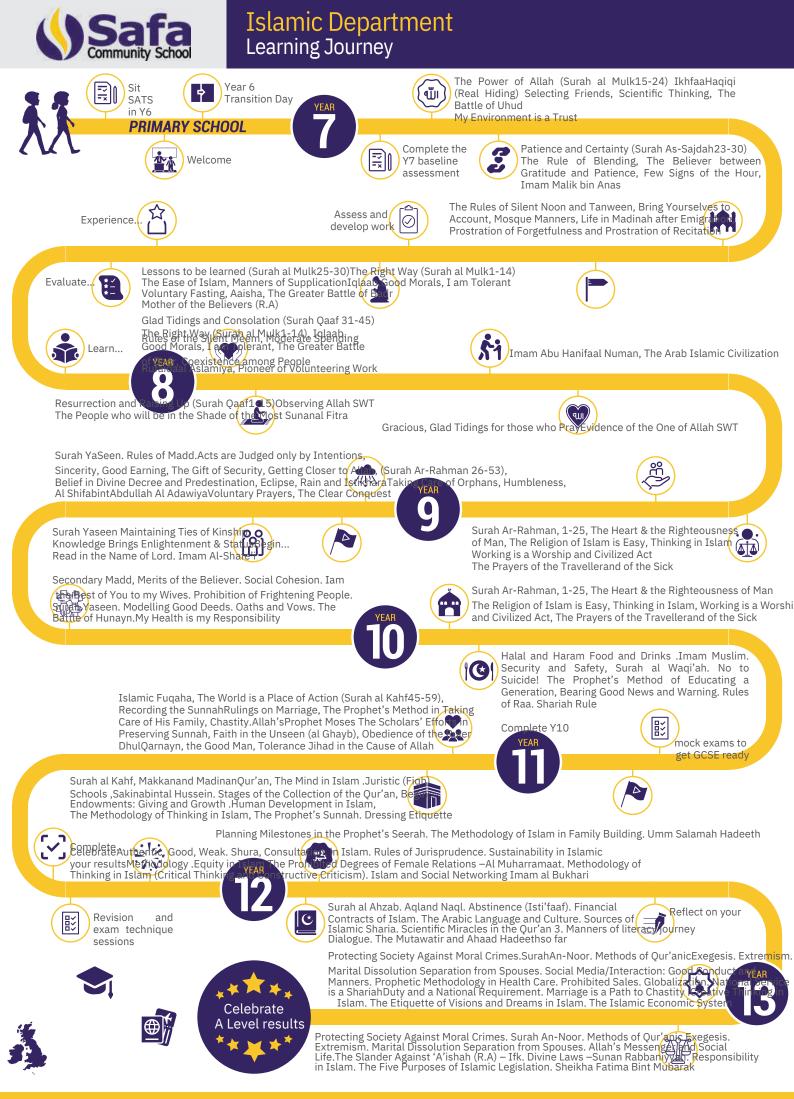


"I´m fluent and confident in my reading, writing, speaking and listening"





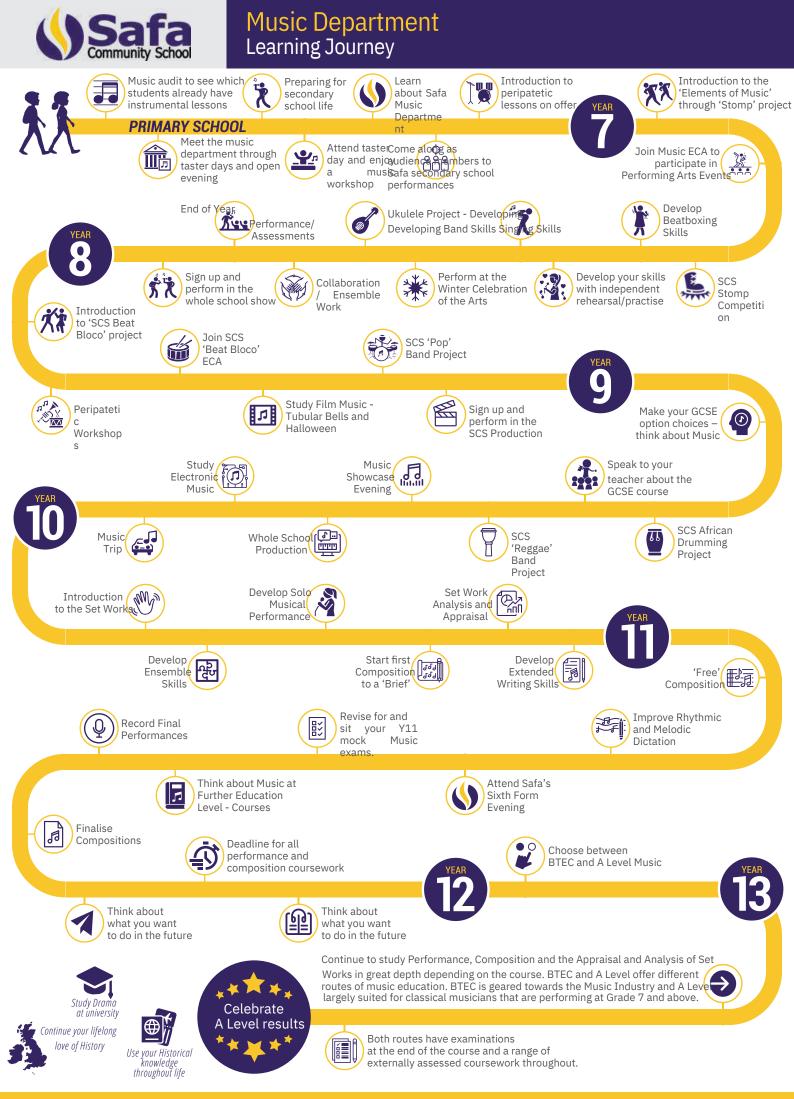






"I'm a fluent, confident mathematician who appreciates mathematics"











## PE at Safa Community School

#### Key Stage 3

Our broad and progressive curriculum ensures students experience challenge and competition while developing transferable skills and sport-specific fitness. The curriculum expectations ensure that all students, regardless of their starting point, can progress and be continuously challenged within all work units.

#### Students participate in two lessons of PE each week.

#### The units of work

- Invasion Games
- Striking and Fielding
- Parkourv
- Health related fitness
- Rocket sports
- > Water polo
- Swimming
- Athletics
- Volleyball

#### Things to look out for this year

- ECA Sports programme
- D of E
- Sports Days
- DASSA League fixtures / tournaments
- BSME Games
- Swimming galas
- Inter house competitions

Throughout the year, students across all key stages are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills within their curriculum lessons. The PE department offers a sports leadership pathway for students who enjoy this aspect of PE. Sports leaders will plan, lead and manage interhouse competitions, sports days, swimming galas, and annual events such as Dubai 30x30 and Health and fitness week.

#### Exam PE

At Safa as well as the fantastic opportunities on offer for students in their core PE curriculum and extra curricular sports programme we provide an examination pathway for those that would like to study this subject in a more academic context.

Key Stage 4			
GCSE	BTEC Level 2		
PE	edexcel		

Key Stage 5				
<mark>A Level PE</mark>	BTEC Level 3			
AQA	edexcel			

# **SECTION 8**

#### SAFA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## Inclusion

Meet the Team



Assistant Principal Inclusior

Mrs Nadine Hutchinson nhutchinson@safacommunityschool.com



#### Head of Secondary Inclusion

Mrs. Aoife Orr aorr@safacommunityschool.com

#### What is SEND?

Special Educational Needs and/or Disability can affect many children throughout their school experience and beyond. While disabilities generally affect children long term, not all SEN difficulties are 'lifelong'. Some children with SEND, also known as students of determination, require provision that is in addition to, or different to, the rest of the class. For example, they may have additional needs due to dyslexia, coordination difficulties, or social and emotional challenges. Many problems can form a barrier to learning, and each child is unique. At Safa, we offer a carefully planned, personalised approach and high-quality teaching to enable children to achieve as well as they can. Once we have a clear picture of individual needs, your child will be placed on the SEND register, and an

individualised education plan (IEP) will be agreed upon. If these needs are subsequently addressed and the issue has been resolved, the child will no longer be placed on the Inclusion register. The Inclusion register is a legal document required by KHDA.

#### Identification – how is my child assessed?

Identification of special education needs may have occurred before joining SCS, in which case the information relevant to the child must be passed to the school to enable the Inclusion Team and teachers to understand the child's needs before their start date. Alternatively, formal and informal assessments within the school, highlighting strengths and barriers to learning will enable teachers and inclusion staff to personalise learning through curriculum adaptions and targeted interventions to suit the individual learner's needs.

#### What additional provision is offered?

Each child with SEND is offered a personalised curriculum that, combined with a strong pastoral focus, delivers a high-quality provision within an ethos of care, support and understanding for students and families. We have a designated Inclusion Champion, Mrs Nadine Hutchinson, to oversee the provision for all children.

With additional needs throughout the school. At Safa Community School, we have a committed teaching team across all phases, focusing on solid quality first teaching and personalisation for all students. The school is passionate about delivering highly inclusive provisions for all its children.





How are Exam Access Arrangements applied for?

GCSE exam boards require assessment for exam access arrangements to begin in Year 9. Throughout In secondary School, the student's 'normal way of working' in class and in exams is recorded to provide evidence for the application. In some cases, external Educational Psychologists may be required to complete additional assessments to identify Special Educational Needs. The applications are submitted once evidence has been collected to support the JCQ application.

Policies and Framework:

Dubai Inclusion Framework

https://www.khda.gov.ae/cms/webparts/texteditor/documents/Education\_Policy\_En.pdf Directives and Guidelines for Inclusive Education https://www.khda.gov.ae/en/publications/article?id=10258 Home-School Provision during Distance Learning https://www.khda.gov.ae/en/publications/article?id=10259





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