**Script for Y10&Y11 Attitude to Learning Video – November 2023**

**Slide 1**

Hello. Welcome to this short presentation which explains the importance of Attitude to Learning at High Storrs School especially for students in Y10 and Y11

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During Y10 and Y11, attention rightly turns towards GCSE examinations and it is of course important that all students work hard to achieve their full potential in each subject. But success at GCSE is not just about passing exams – it is also about developing as a student, and developing the skills required not only to succeed in Y10 and Y11, but beyond that into A-Levels, college, apprenticeships or whatever comes next. As our ethos states, “We are here to learn, succeed and thrive”.

It absolutely clear that students with the best learning behaviours and attitude to learning succeeded most in their GCSE. These students are ultimately the most prepared to succeed. But positive learning habits cannot be switched on and off – Like any other skill, they have to be practiced every day if a student (or indeed an adult) is going to improve and do better. As Aristotle once stated “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence therefore is not an act, but a habit”.

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It is important that students and families understand what we mean by Attitude to Learning – it is about really engaging in learning to developing the skills required to succeed both at GCSE and beyond.

As shown here, Attitude to Learning is a continuation of the journey which starts in Y7, develops through GCSE and builds further into Y12 and Y13. Attitude to Learning at KS4 is entitled “Developing Great Learning Habits” specifically because it is part of this ongoing journey. The descriptors used in Y10 and Y11 are the same as those used in Y9, so you should see progression in exam subjects as students move from Y9 into Y10. Regardless of their academic ability, our most successful students are those who really focus on their own attitude to learning. Studies show that students who are confident in their own learning ability find learning more enjoyable and ultimately, do better in tests and external examinations.

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To help students understand what areas they need to develop, we have broken Attitude to Learning at KS4 down in 5 key strands:

1. **Behaviour for Learning** is not just about sitting still and being quiet! For GCSE, our most successful students are consistently curious about each subject, ask questions and take a full part in lessons. They act as role models for others in the class and always remain positive and try their best, even when the work is really hard or when there is lots of it! Their behaviour allows them to learn.
2. In terms of **Engagement for Learning** students who are highly engaged are on time for every lesson – they are there and ready to learn! They maintain their concentration across a series of lessons and will contribute to class discussions, paired work and group work by asking questions and helping move the learning forward. They learn from others in the class, as well as sharing their own knowledge and understanding. They do not just sit back and let the lesson happen around them.
3. **Responsibility for Learning** – covers aspects of personal organisation – **always** having the correct equipment, **always** bringing the right book and **always** completing homework on time. The most successful students take responsibility for themselves, and don’t wait for someone to do it for them. However, this also includes completing work to the very best standard possible, not rushing “just to get it done” and always trying to do that little bit extra to extend their own knowledge, which makes a good piece of work a great piece of work! Students like this always push themselves to do their best.
4. **Feedback for Learning** is of critical importance. Often students will correct or reflect on work when told to do so by a member of staff. Our most engaged students **always** value and act on feedback, even without being directed to do so. They will know by listening to their teacher exactly what they need to do to improve and do better – specific goals – not just “revise more” or “work harder”. **Importantly**, they will take feedback and change how they work, how they answer questions or how they revise for future assessments, in order to do even better.
5. Finally, to be succeessful, students must learn to work independently. Doing what you are told will only take you so far. Students with a positive Attitude to Learning meet all deadlines, and their notes are always copied up and up to date (even if they have missed a lesson). Independence involves students looking for ways to improve and deepen their understanding of a subject – reading books, websites or newspapers, to find out extra knowledge beyond what is discussed or taught in class. And of course, independent learners can revise independently – and not waste their time pretending that they are working hard.

As you can see, our expectations for attitude to learning are very high, and not something that a student can just do sometimes – We are what we repeatedly do!

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So practically, how does this work. Attitude to Learning is shared via trackers throughout the year, alongside estimated grades and barriers to learning, and teachers will always be willing to share steps and strategies for students to move on and up in their approach to work.

When a tracker is published, we would always recommend that students and families sit down to discuss the information that has been shared. The KS4 Attitude to Learning grid shown is available on our website, and students should take time to really think about how they are working in each subject and what they need to do to become a better learner. It is at this point that some students show they really do not understand attitude to learning at all. Mistakenly, they will think “Because I did well in that test, my teacher has given me a good Attitude to Learning score”. This is entirely wrong and totally backwards. Actually, it is “Because I listen carefully in class, I use feedback to improve my work, I take time and care with my homework, because I have a positive attitude to learning … that is the **REASON** I got a good mark in my test”. There is a clear connection between those students who are on or above target in each subject, and those students who are really working to the very best of their ability to improve every day. Success at GCSE (and life) is not luck, but practice every day. Excellence is not an act, but a habit.

**Slide 6**

It is also important that students understand **WHY** Attitude to Learning is important. Put simply, GCSEs are hard. There is lots of work to revise and go over and students who leave their revision too late end up being stressed and underprepared for their exams. In Y11, most students will have at least 7, if not 8 or even 9 subjects to revise for. Short term revision and cramming does not work, which is what this diagram shows. Something that is revised once is quickly forgotten. The more times a topic is reviewed and revisited, the more the information sticks. But this sort of dedication is not easy – it requires practice, resilience and perseverance. And this is what Attitude to Learning is really all about. It is not a quick fix … it is about being a better learner.

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So, what can Y10 and Y11 students do to find help and advice on how to improve their Attitude to Learning. Firstly, it is important that they really read each descriptor properly, and really think about what has been shared via trackers. The A2L grade is not important – it is what the descriptor says about a student’s approach to learning that really matters and as always, the key question is “How can I improve this”. Secondly, student should ask their teachers if they are unsure as to how to improve. Teachers are there to help and we are always delighted to see students really taking responsibility for their own learning.

House teams and SSAs are always available for advice, and there are lots of great revision tips and guides on the internet to help students organise their revision. If you do have any questions about attitude to learning, please do get in touch.