

Year 11 team



Mrs Thurland-Smith - Director of Upper School

Miss Connolly - Head of Year 11

Mrs Giannasi - Welfare Manager (M/T)

Mrs Daly - Welfare Manager (W/Th/F)

year11team@hccs.info

Learning - We learn together

Belonging - We belong to this community

Pride - We are proud of ourselves and each other

Ambition - We have consistently high expectations



Year 11 Tutors

Group	Tutor	Room
11RG	Rebecca Gudgion: rebecca.gudgion@hccs.info	MFL3
11IW	Isobel Lawrence: isobel.lawrence@hccs.info	H6
11IL	Izabela Laskowska: izabela.laskowska@hccs.info	M2
11GB	George Bell: george.bell@hccs.info	S3
11LB	Liam Beard: liam.beard@hccs.info	S11
11DD	Deleasa Davis: deleasa.davis@hccs.info	TE4
11LJ	Lucy Jones: lucy.jones@hccs.info	S10
11AW	Amanda Watmough: amanda.watmough@hccs.info	M6
11KM	Kate Martin & Vicky Byng: kate.martin@hccs.info or vicky.byng@hccs.info	S6

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Year 11 Parent Information Evening



In summer 2026, our year 11 students achieved:

- More 7 - 9s than any year group since covid
- More strong passes (5) in English & maths
- Boys outperformed girls

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Year 11 Information Evening



- Overview of year 11
- Mock exams
- Expectations in the classroom
- Revision & resources
- Exam pressure and support
- Interventions
- Study leave
- Next steps
- Prom
- Other useful resources

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Year 11 Key Dates & Milestones

Autumn Term

Late October 2026
Interim 1 Report

1st December

Mock Exams Begin

Duration: up to 3 weeks!

Spring Term

14th January
Mock Results Evening

11th February
Parents' Evening

22nd March
Interim 2 Report

19th August
Results Day

Summer Term

End of April
End of Content Teaching

10th May
Start of Exams

Mid/End of May
Study Leave

Week of July
or 11 Prom



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Mock Exams



Tuesday
1st December

1. Core Papers First

English, maths and all science papers start first.

2. Option Subjects

Followed by options.



Duration

1.5 - 2 Hours
Average Paper Length

Afternoon Sessions

Please note that afternoon exams may run past the normal school day.

Expected End Time

Some sessions may go past 3:15 PM.



Instructions

Student Actions

Verify Timetables

Check your timetable carefully for end of day timings and assigned seats.

Spot an Issue?

Contact the exams team ASAP if you notice any issues.



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Expectation: working harder in lessons

3 key changes

DO NOW tasks at the start

Mini-whiteboards in all lessons

THINK HARDER tasks

Double lessons



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Extended writing challenge

Expect to be set more written work for practice

- in lessons and homework

If this is at home, AI is only going hinder progress!

Need to replicate exam conditions:

- to be effective for revision
- for feedback



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Punctuality Matters

Turning up on time is an expectation, not an option

Lateness leads to missed teaching time, reduced focus on your work, **gaps in knowledge** which grow larger over time, all of which can lead to lower grades in the end.

It can also affect your motivation, confidence, and relationships with teachers and peers.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

MINUTES LATE PER DAY	EQUIVALENT OF MISSING	HOW MANY LESSONS THIS IS MISSED
5 MINUTES	3.4 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	17 LESSONS
10 MINUTES	6.9 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	35 LESSONS
15 MINUTES	10.3 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	51 LESSONS
20 MINUTES	13.8 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	69 LESSONS
30 MINUTES	20.7 SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR	104 LESSONS



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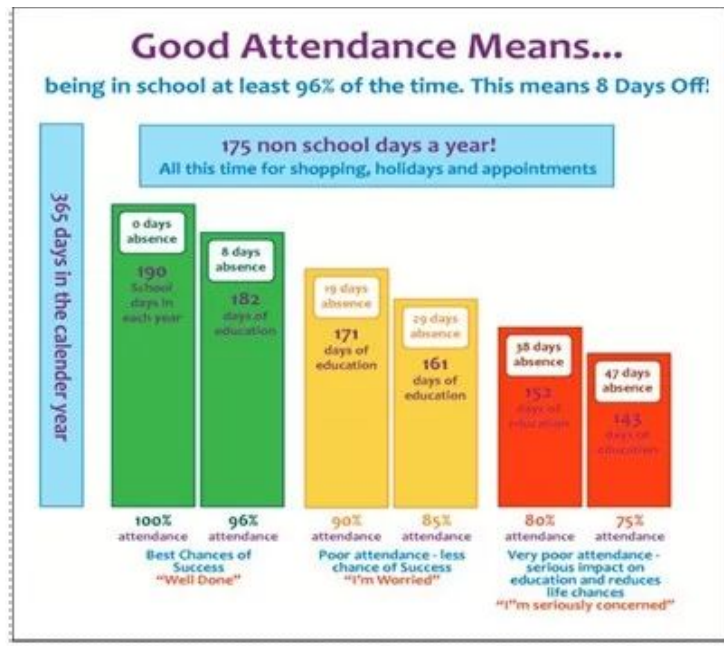
Attendance Matters

96%+

Twice as likely to achieve Grade 5 or above than 90-95%

Only 36%

Of Persistently Absent Pupils (10%+) achieve 9-4 in Maths & English



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Revision

Revision Methods:

- Flash cards
- Knowledge recall
- Quiz websites
- Revision guides
- Practice Exams
- Videos

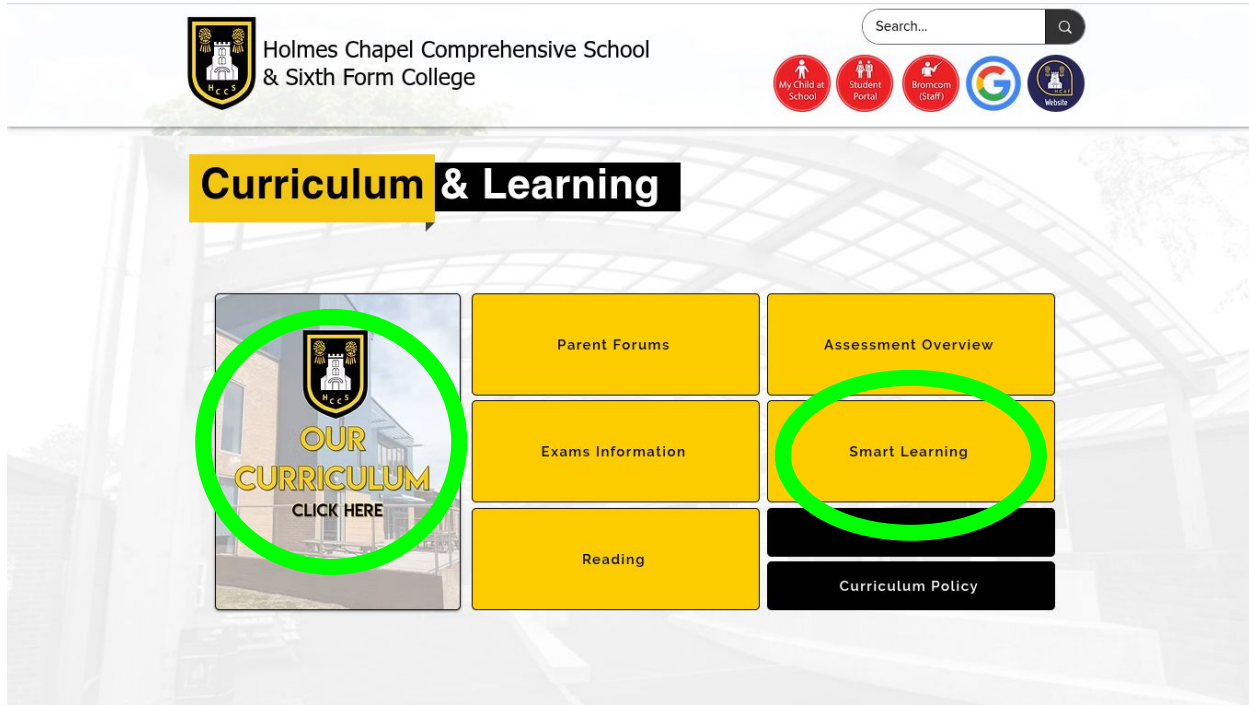
Useful Website Links:

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
<https://sparxmaths.com>
<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
<https://www.linguascope.com/>
<https://www.sparknotes.com>

Example Revision Timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		Saturday	Sunday
Session 1 (4:00 - 5:00)	Chemistry	Swing band	Physics	Biology		Session 1 (10:00 - 12:00)	Maths	English literature
Session 2 (6:00 - 7:00)	Geography	Business	Computer Science	Football		Session 2 (1:00 - 3:00)	English Language	Further Maths

Curriculum information



The screenshot shows the website of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College. At the top, the school's crest is on the left, followed by the name "Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College". To the right is a search bar and a row of five circular icons: "My Child at School", "Student Portal", "Bromcom (Staff)", "Google", and "Website". Below the header is a large banner with the text "Curriculum & Learning" in white on a black background. Underneath the banner is a grid of links. On the left is a large image of the school building with the text "OUR CURRICULUM" and "CLICK HERE" overlaid, circled in green. To the right of this image is a grid of six yellow rectangular buttons: "Parent Forums", "Assessment Overview", "Exams Information", "Smart Learning" (circled in green), "Reading", and "Curriculum Policy".

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College

Search...

My Child at School Student Portal Bromcom (Staff) Google Website

Curriculum & Learning

OUR CURRICULUM
CLICK HERE

Parent Forums Assessment Overview

Exams Information Smart Learning

Reading Curriculum Policy



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Revision guides

[List](#) with links to specific resources - updated September 25.

How to use a revision guide - lessons/tutor time/PD/revision zone



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Understanding Exam Pressure

Sources of Exam Pressure

Fear of Failure

High self-expectations or fear of disappointing family and teachers can create overwhelming anxiety and perfectionism.

Workload Overload

Balancing multiple subjects, coursework deadlines, and revision schedules can leave students feeling paralyingly behind.

Peer Comparison

Constant comparison on social media regarding revision hours and grades increases stress and reduces self-confidence.

1 in 4 Students experience heightened anxiety during exam years.

Spotting the Signs of Stress

Changes in Sleep Patterns: Difficulty falling asleep, persistent exhaustion or late-night studying.

Mood & Behaviour Shifts: Increased irritability, sudden emotional outbursts or withdrawing.

Avoidance & Procrastination: Feeling overwhelmed leading to total task paralysis or avoiding study.

Physical Complaints: Frequent headaches, stomach aches, or changes in appetite.

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How we can all help

Support at Home

Provide Structure & Environment

Help set up a quiet, distraction-free study space with clear start and end times.

Encourage Genuine Rest

Remind them that breaks, sports, hobbies and social time are vital for mental recovery.

Listen Without Judgment

Offer a calm sounding board. Validate their stress rather than immediately trying to fix everything.

Keep Perspective

Reassure them that GCSEs are important but their worth and future are never defined by grades alone.

Support at School

Dedicated Pastoral Team

Year Team and Tutors providing daily check-ins and moral support.

On-Site Counselling

Access to qualified mental health counsellors

Academic Interventions

Small-group subject mentoring and exam strategy workshops.

Drop-In Revision Clinics

After-school subject support sessions to clarify difficult topics.

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Interventions

Study Base - after school in LRC:

Monday and Tuesday: School and subject leaders
Thursday - Miss Connolly

Starting Monday 28th
September

In school time:

Tutor time
PD
PE sessions

English
Maths
Science
Study skills
Ambitious Learning

Plus - subject specific small group support



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Study Leave

Exams start in May

Towards May half term, a date is set to allow students to study at home

School is still responsible for Year 11 students until end of June

Most core exams are in May



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Holmes Chapel 6th Form College

Your Sixth Form Application Journey

2026

Thursday 8th October: Sixth Form Open Evening. Applications Open.

Thursday 5th November: Sixth Form Taster Day 1 (Arley & Capesthorpe)

Friday 6th November: Sixth Form Taster Day 2 (Moreton and Tatton)

Friday 18th December: Sixth Form Application Deadline.

2027

March: HC6F Applicants Event

July: HC6F Enrolment- Appointment Booking System Opens

Thursday 19th August: GCSE results Day

Friday 20th August: HC6F Enrolment Day



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Next steps

Things to consider when choosing a Sixth Form

Facilities

Are the classrooms modern and well equipped?
Is there enough space for a full class of students?
Are the displays around the rooms and corridors up to date?
Is there a well-equipped library?
Are there computers available to students at any time?
What are the catering facilities? Can students access these at all times or only break/lunch?

Lessons

How many hours a week teaching are there?
How much study is expected on top of that?
How many students in a class?
Is there one teacher per class or is it split across 2 or more teachers?
How many free periods do you get? What is expected of students during that time?

Courses

What kind of activities are done in class?
What resources are there? Textbooks/revision guides/online access to resources/google classroom? Do they provide them or do you have to buy them?
What exam board do they use?
When are the exams? How long are they? What skills are tested?
What were the results like over the last two or three years?
Can I change course if I don't like it? (Is there a 'cooling-off' period?)

Extras

What enrichment opportunities are there?
Are there social clubs (sports/drama/charity work/DoE)?
Do they do work experience?
Do they do EPQ or other courses as extras?
Is there a form time?

Do they do PSHE?
Do you have to go to assemblies?
Are the term dates the same as other schools?
Is there a common room?
How many students drop out at the end of year 12?

University pathways

How many students generally go on to uni?
How many go to Russell Group or Oxbridge unis?
Is there a 'high achievers' course that prepares you for early entry/top end uni?
Is there support for UCAS applications and interview preparation?
Do any students take 4 A-Levels instead of 3?

Apprenticeship pathways

Does the sixth form/college support apprenticeship pathways?
Do they have students applying for graduate apprenticeships?

Staff and students

Are students welcoming and happy to talk to you?
Are they happy about their choice there?
Are staff helpful about courses and enthusiastic about them?
Do they speak positively about the students and course?
What support is there for mental health/exam stress/bullying/other issues?

Progress

How often are there exams/in-class assessments?
How are the target grades decided?
How often do teachers mark work?
Will I be given a folder/book or do I provide all my own materials?
How often is progress reported home? (Interims?)
How many parents evenings are there?
Can you be kicked off the course if you're not doing well?
What support is there for students who are struggling in class?

Questions you could be asking at open events



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Year 11 Prom

New venue

Dates TBC: usually first week of July

Poor behaviour this year can risk your place

Keep your options open if you don't fancy it right now



**Prom Committee: 5-10 students to help
with decision making & fund raising**

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Smart Learning



Holmes & Sixth Form



Holmes & Sixth Form



Holmes & Sixth Form

Week Beginning 01/



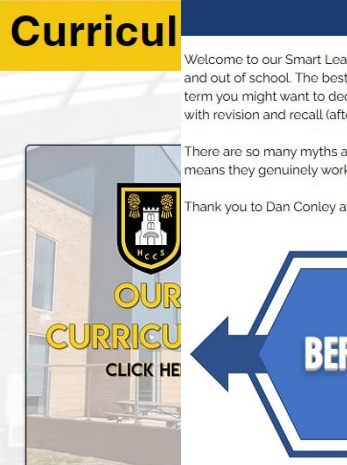
Our School



Parents



Year 6 Transition



DURING LEARNING REVISION & FOCUS APPS

There are plenty of apps available to help you revise and focus. Here are just three of the ones we recommend.

Time for the main event - learning strategies, tips and techniques. This advice. It's worth the risk.



Revisely - This app will turn any notes, cue cards, PowerPoint presentations, or knowledge organisers into multiple choice questions in seconds. For example, you can upload a knowledge organiser from Firefly and it very cleverly generates a quiz based on the knowledge organiser. It is great for testing knowledge retrieval.

Flora - This app helps you to minimise distractions and focus more effectively. Students typically find it very difficult to maintain concentration, but Flora has been shown to help students remain on task whilst revising. If you are someone who struggles focusing, or likes to procrastinate, then this is a fantastic app.

Adapt - This app will generate a revision timetable for you based on your subjects and exam boards. All you need to do is type in your subjects and the exam board that you are with, and it will give you a personalised timetable that will help you balance your revision over the next few months. It is often very difficult to work out a balanced and effective timetable for all of your subjects, but Adapt will do all of the work for you. It then gives you a daily to-do list of topics to study.



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Interims - A Measure of Progress



Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form College



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Key Stage 4 Interim Glossary

Achievement Points

Awarded to students for demonstrating good and effective learning behaviour in lessons and around school.

Behaviour Points

These are sanctions put in place for when behaviour or learning is inappropriate or a student fails to meet expected standards.

Attendance Expectations

At HCCS we consider attendance of utmost importance and are currently working in partnership with Cheshire East Local Authority. All students have a minimum attendance target of 98%. It is a legal requirement for a child to be present in school. You may be prosecuted if you do not give your child an education. You will normally get warnings and offers of help from the local council first.

98 – 100% Attendance	No of weeks of lost learning	Excellent! Keep it up!
95 – 97% Attendance	1-10 days of lost learning	Good. Can you reach 98%?
90 – 94% Attendance	Between 2 and 4 weeks of lost learning	Becoming a cause for concern
85% Attendance	Almost 6 weeks of lost learning – 150 missed lessons	Poor attendance
80% Attendance	7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed – 200 lessons	Totally unacceptable. This is a serious concern.
75% Attendance	9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed – 250 missed lessons	This is a safeguarding concern - neglect

Approach to Learning

OUTSTANDING – when given the opportunity a student always demonstrates effective Learning.
VERY GOOD – when given the opportunity a student demonstrates effective learning most of the time.
GOOD – when given the opportunity a student frequently demonstrates effective learning.
VARIABLE – when given the opportunity a student inconsistently demonstrates effective learning.
POOR – when given the opportunity a student rarely demonstrates our effective learning.

Curriculum & Assessment



Key Assessment Dates

Click here to access information on our key assessment dates

Sixth Form Interim Glossary

Click here to view Form Interim Glossary

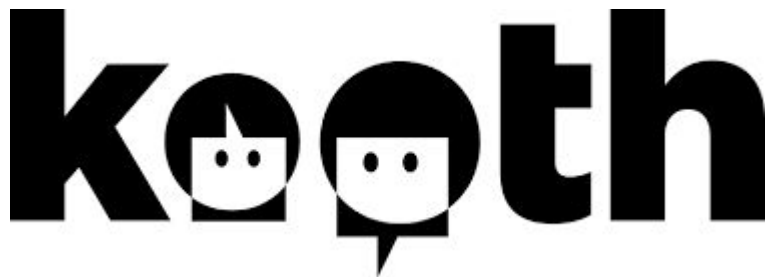


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Upper School

Supporting your child to reach their potential



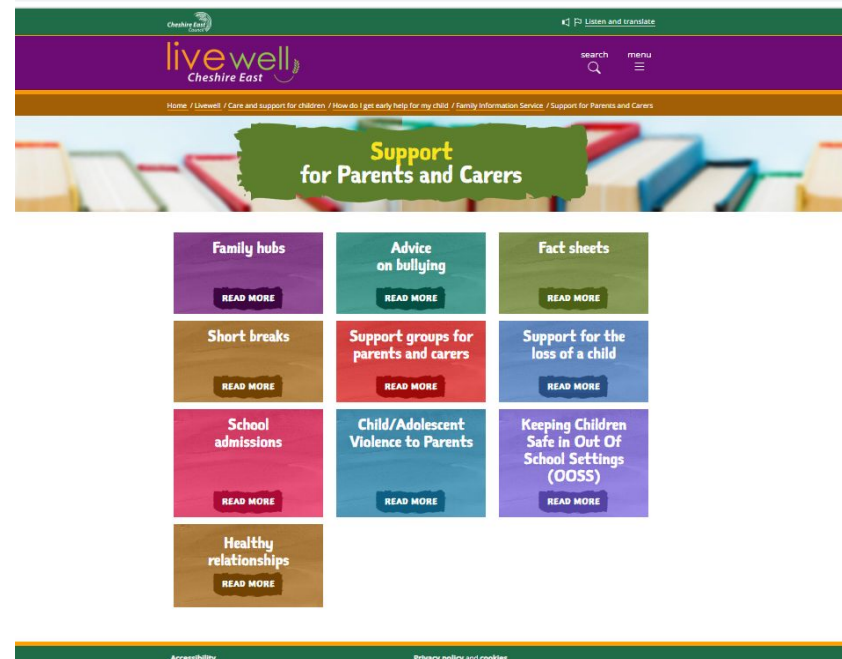
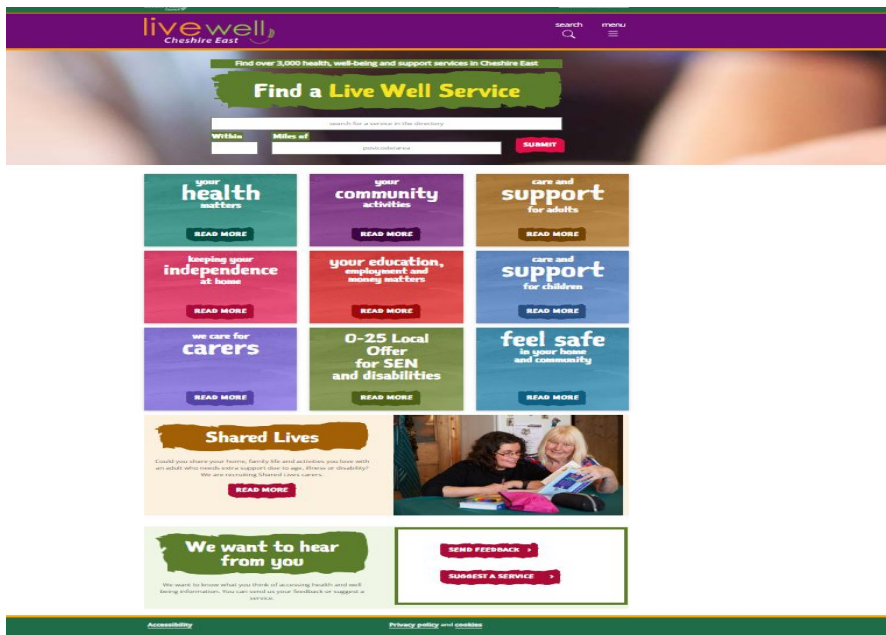
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Helpful Information



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Curriculum



Richard Sneddon (RSn)



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Thank you for coming

**Tutors are upstairs in study area
to answer questions**



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