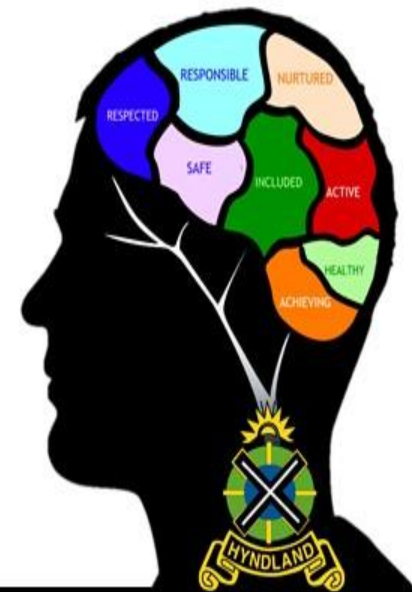


S5 & S6 – September 2026

How to be successful in S5 & S6



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I NEVER
DREAMED
ABOUT
SUCCESS.
I WORKED
FOR IT.

- Estée Lauder

There are no secrets
to success. It is the
result of preparation,
hard work, and
learning from failure.

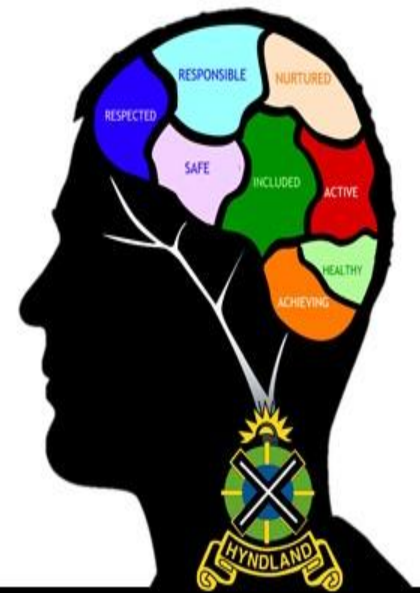
- Colin Powell

Double Quotes
doublequotes.net

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Achieving @ Hyndland – the Senior Phase

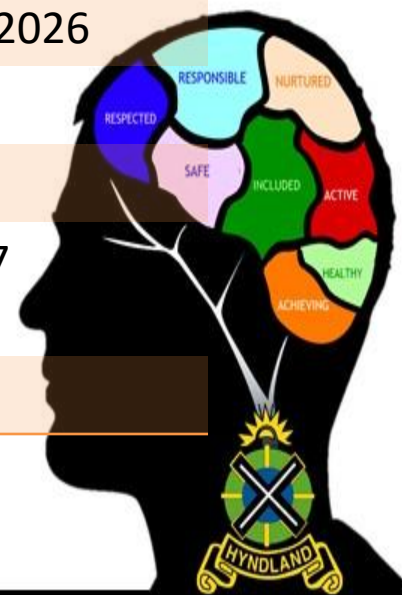
- Firstly, we would like to acknowledge how proud we are of our S5 learners for their hard work and achievements last session:
 - **139** young people achieved **5 or more** L5 qualifications
 - **99** young people achieved **8 or more** Level 5 qualifications
 - **37** young people achieved *at least 8As* at National 5
- Now we are looking to very much build upon this success and ensure we start the S5 journey in a positive way.



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Tracking Reports and Parents' Meetings

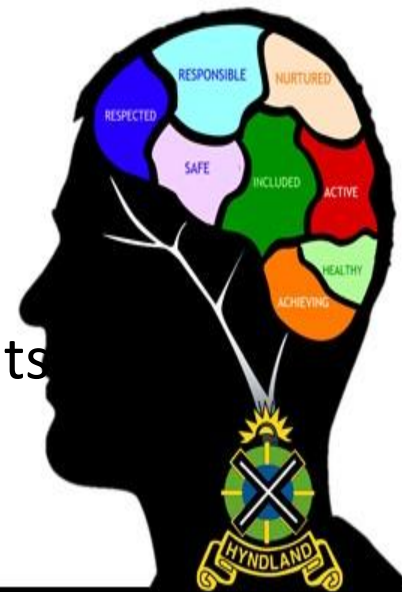
Exam Success Session for Families	Wednesday 23 rd September 2026
Track Report 1	Week Beginning 5 th October 2026
Prelim Exams	No Formal Diet of Exams – Assessments will be completed in class P1 & 2
Track Report 2	Week Beginning 23 rd November 2026
Parents Evening	26 th November 2026
Senior Support Evening	11 th Feb 2027
S5 & S6 Final Working Grade issued via email	Week Beginning 29 th March 2027
Qualification Scotland Exams Start	Monday 26 th April 2027



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(SQA now known as) QS Timeline

- End of September – we will register you for your exams with **Qualification Scotland (formerly SQA)**
- August – February – coursework tasks overtaken.
- S5/6 assessment tasks throughout the session.
- End of Feb – uplift of N5 Coursework
- End of March – QS Estimates (working grades)
- End of March – uplift of Higher/AH coursework
- Subject specific dates will be shared by departments

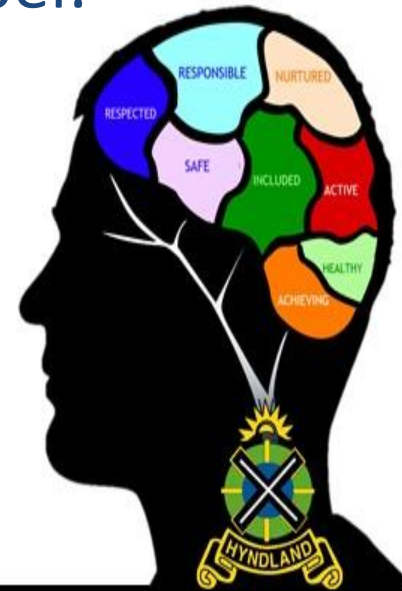


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Achieving @ Hyndland – the Senior Phase

Similar to S4, departments will decide upon your QS presentation level this year (i.e. N5/Higher/Higher Units) based upon:

- Class assessments from September to December.
- Prelim Results – January/February 2027
- Classwork undertaken
- Unit assessments and class test scores



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Achieving @ Hyndland – QS Exams

- Schools are required by QS to enter Final Working Grades for each student based on EVIDENCE gathered during the year for each young person.
- Staff refer to tracking data gathered throughout the session when deriving the final QS working grades.
- We will share these grades on the final report in March 2027 .



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Assessment Calendar

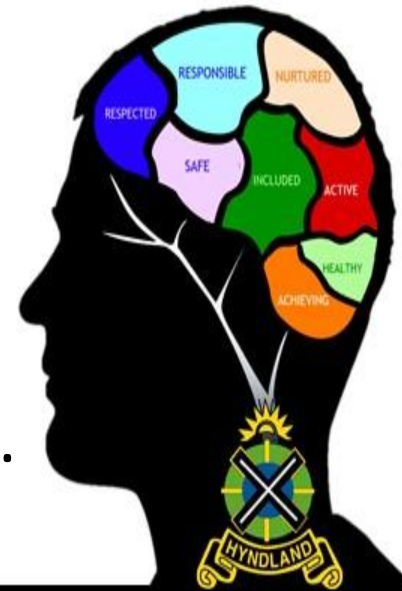
- Assignments, projects and portfolio work which is completed in school and sent to QS for marking is planned and dates are in the assessment calendar.
- There will be **NO** formal prelim diet for S5/6 in January
- Assessments will usually take place during **P1&2** throughout the year at the most appropriate time for each subject.
- S5/6 will only have 1 assessment in a day



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Evidence Gathering

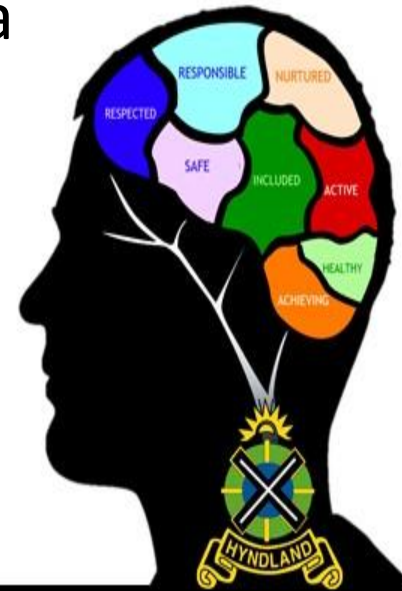
- Assessments will take place in classrooms
- Assessments will start promptly at 8.45am
- You will not receive extra time if you are late.
- If you need to use your iPad for exam.net, you should bring it fully charged to each assessment.
- There **will be** a formal Maths prelim in the last week of December 2026 in the Games Hall
- Evidence will be used in the event you are unable to attend on the day of your QS Exam.



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Malpractice

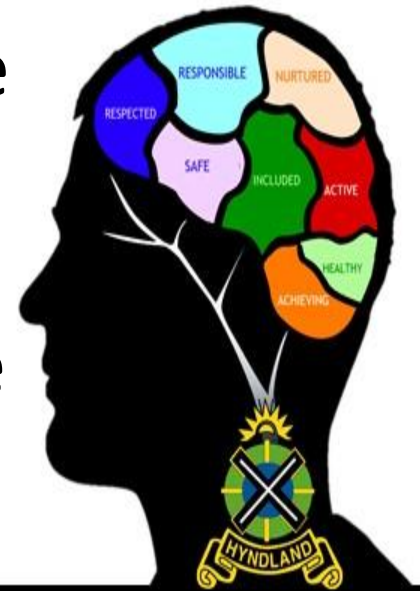
- This is when you do something wrong!
- It gives you an unfair advantage.
- We need integrity in our Exam system to ensure fairness and equity.
- If you do something wrong, you can expect a Malpractice Investigation.
- If we **suspect** Malpractice, we cannot send your work to QS without investigating.
- QS will make the final decision following any investigation



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Malpractice Investigations

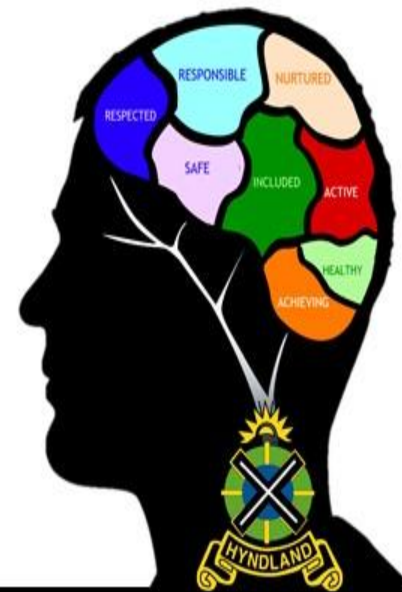
- Using AI for a Portfolio or Assignment
- Copying from another candidate during an assignment write up
- Using AI to translate
- Using another candidate's data because you missed an experiment – both candidates investigated
- Copying or paraphrasing from an online source and presenting as own work



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QS Assembly and Declaration

- Young people will have an QS/SQA Assembly to outline expectations and set ground rules for completion of coursework.
- Coursework must be the individual work of each candidate.
- Young people should expect to have a learner conversation about their ideas, sources of information etc. This is part of our verification process.
- Young people should have confidence in their own ideas and not be tempted to take short-cuts using AI.
- Deadlines are in place to support – please make sure you are aware of departmental deadlines and encourage young people to work to the dates given.
- We will share an Assessment Calendar next week.



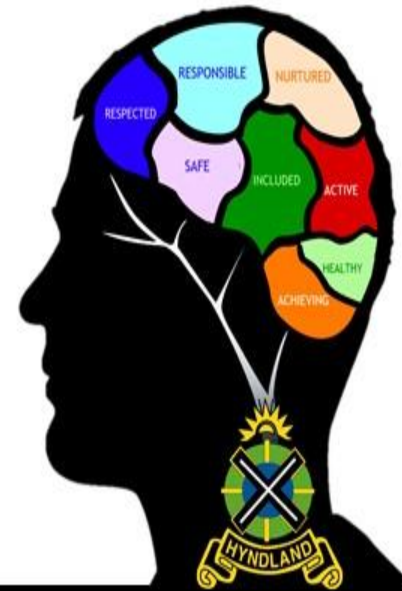
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Exceptional Circumstances

- If you are unable to sit a QS Exam you will need to produce a medical certificate.
- If you do sit the exam but are affected by recent
 - Bereavement
 - Medical condition
 - Domestic circumstance
 - Exceptional absence

You *may* be eligible to access the Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service.

- We will send the evidence we hold to QS and they will use this to determine the final grade.

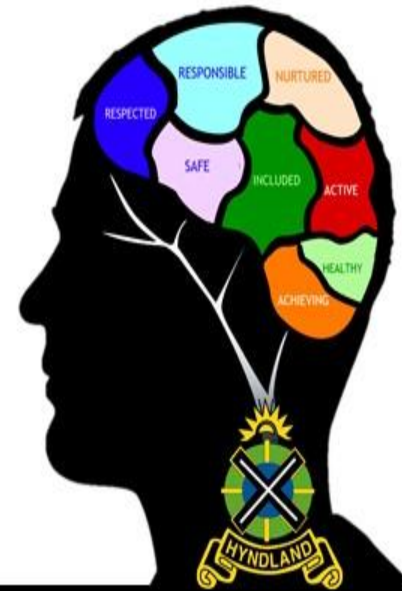


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Achieving @ Hyndland – The Reality of S5

S5 is very different to S4 for a number of reasons:

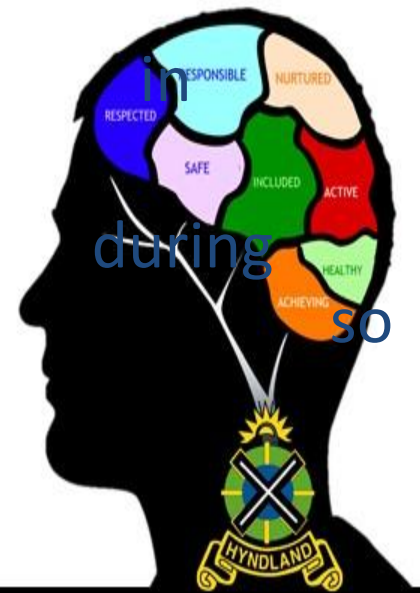
- You only study 5 subjects as opposed to 8.
- On your timetable you are allocated 6 periods (300 minutes) of learner per subject each week (as opposed to 150 minutes per subject in S4).
- This means the level of demand in your S5 courses will be much greater – this will often include longer assessments and SQA exams and more regular assessments.



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Achieving @ Hyndland – SQA Exams – what does this mean for me as an S5 learner?

- Teachers will assess progress throughout the year.
- Most Higher courses consist of 3 units and you can expect up to 3 class assessments per unit.
- This is in addition to homework tasks.
- There will **not** be a prelim diet with study leave January.
- Departments will run assessments in class double periods, P1&2 – Be punctual you get the full time allocated to the assessment



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Achieving @ Hyndland – The Reality of S5

S5 is very different to S4 for a number of reasons:

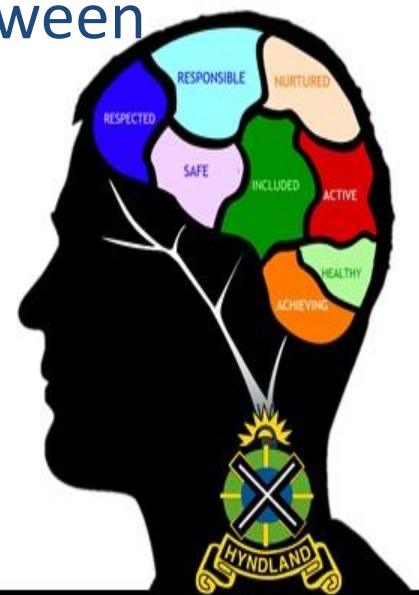
- Therefore it is VITAL that from early on that you are mindful of this jump in challenge and demand.
- Start your study programme now – **do not wait** until you have a big class assessment coming up!
- This will result in a greater chance of success in S5.



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Achieving @ Hyndland – Attendance

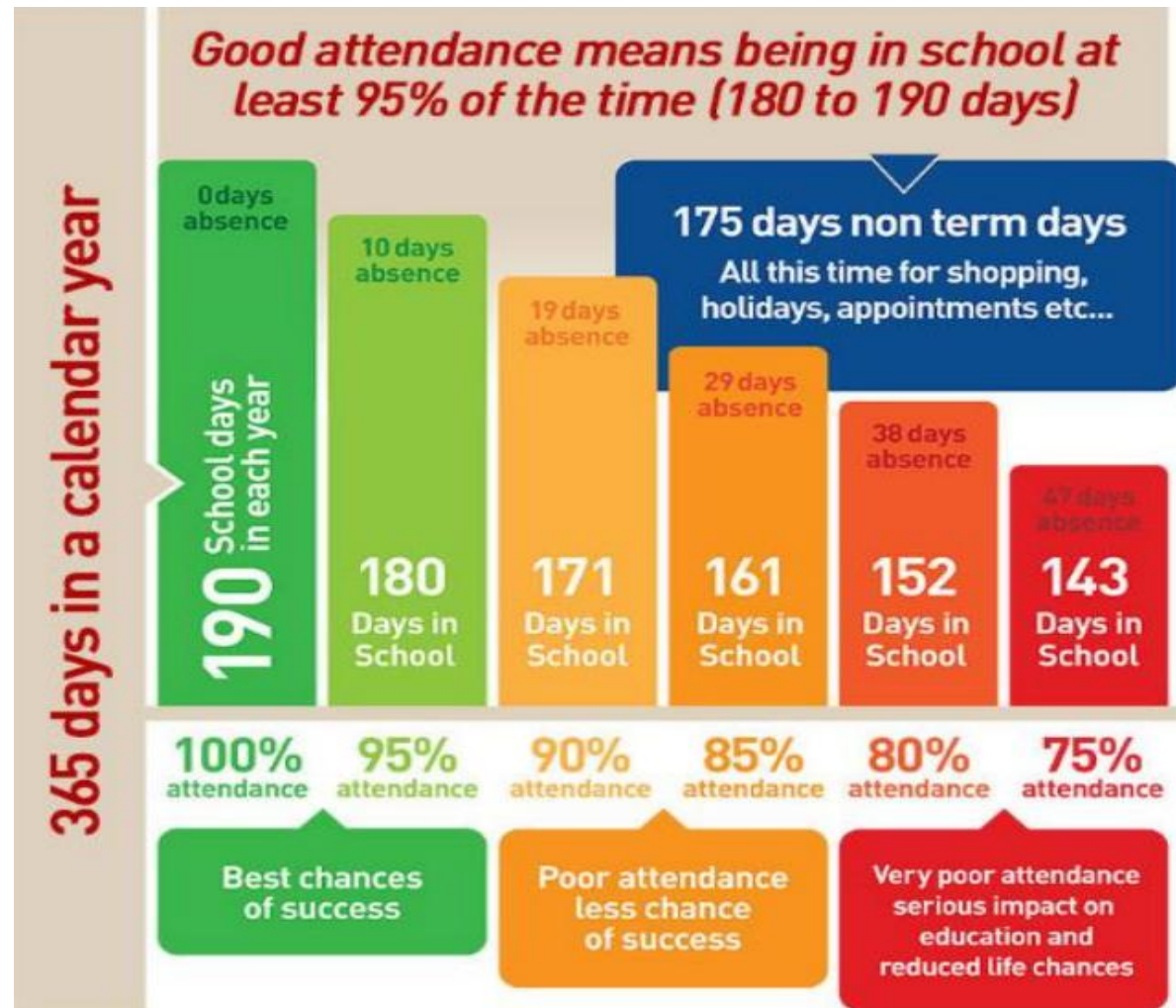
- We all know that attendance in the Senior Phase is vital if you are to achieve well.
- On average, our top performing 20% of S5 students had an average attendance of 97.49% whilst the bottom 20% had an average attendance of 73%.
- The figures do NOT lie! Even an attendance of between 90-95% can hugely impact on your attainment.
- Think how much learning you would miss by not attending even just one double period of an S5 subject – 1 hour and 40 minutes!!!
- One third of your learning takes place each double period!



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Achieving @ Hyndland – Attendance

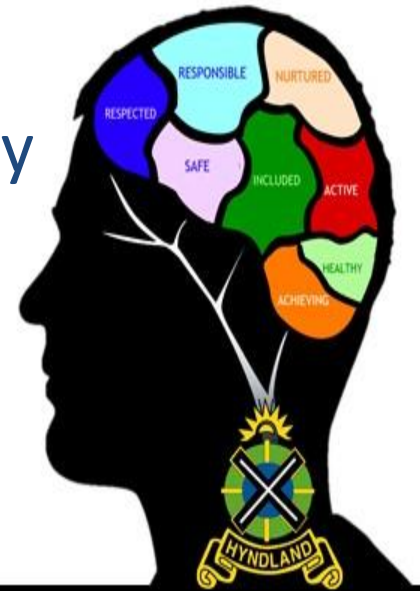
90%
attendance =
19 days of
school missed
in an academic
year!



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Achieving @ Hyndland – Timekeeping

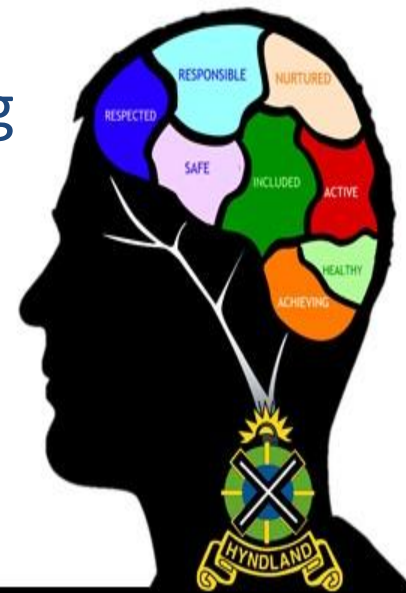
- As well as attendance, time keeping is just as important.
- Classes start promptly at 8.45am for S5 students.
Therefore, students should be in school for the walking bell at 8.40am in order that they can get to their class on time.
- If you have a class period 1 and are consistently late, this will have a HUGE impact on your chance of success in that subject.



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Achieving @ Hyndland – Homework / Exam Preparation

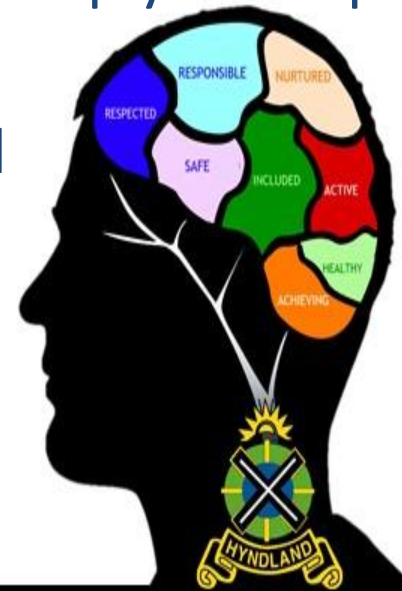
- Your iPad should be brought to school every day, kept safe and transported in a school bag. Both the iPad and the cover should be treated with care.
- Lost, or damaged iPads will not be replaced for possibly.....months!
- It is vital that all young people in S5 are continuing to engage with TEAMS. There is a TEAM for every class in every subject
 - Homework
 - Class notes
 - Practice questions etc



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Achieving @ Hyndland – Supported Study

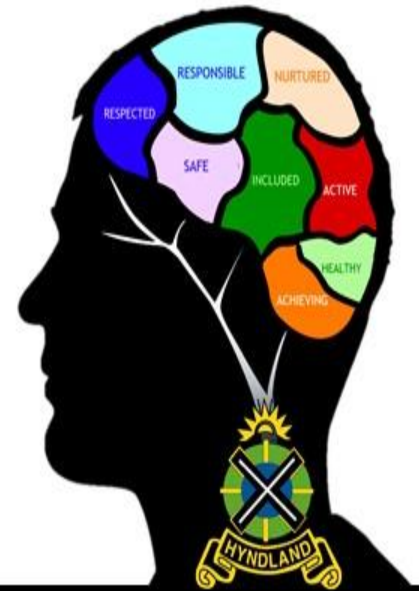
- Young people are very well supported in Hyndland
- There is an extensive supported study programme which targets support in the run up to prelims and final exams
- Use the knowledge you have from S4 Study Skills to help you keep on top of your learning and revision.
- Every Tuesday period 3, S5 learners have one period of core – this is either a brain break of PE or supervised private study – for those who struggle to study at home this is a good chance to undertake private supervised study each week.



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Achieving @ Hyndland – Preparing for the Pre-prelims

- Plan your time – spend at least 2 hours each night on two subjects (45 minutes to 1 hour per subject) undertaking revision which may include;
- Reading over and summarising notes from classwork.
- Practice past paper questions.
- Making flash cards or mind maps of key work learned to date.



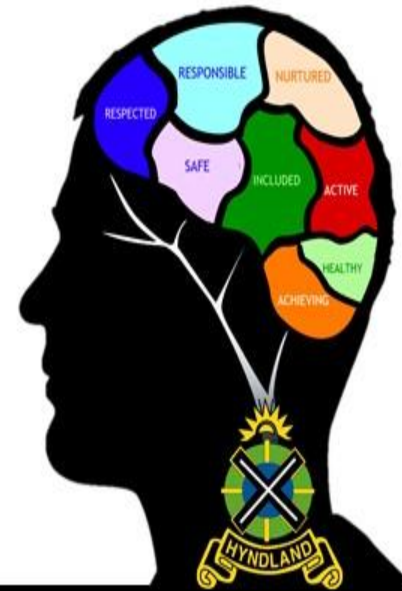
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Responsible @ Hyndland – Senior Phase Expectations

As a senior phase student at Hyndland Secondary School it is very important to remember that staff in the school will be writing references for college / university / employment applications for every student at this school.

We are asked to comment on the following:

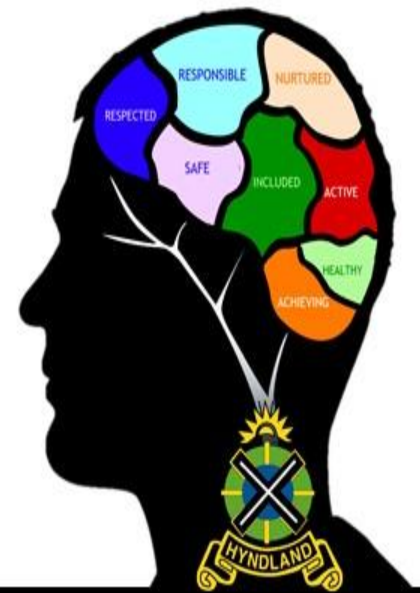
- Attendance, time-keeping and reliability
- Commitment to courses and work ethic
- Attitude towards others and whole school commitment.



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Our expectations of senior phase students:

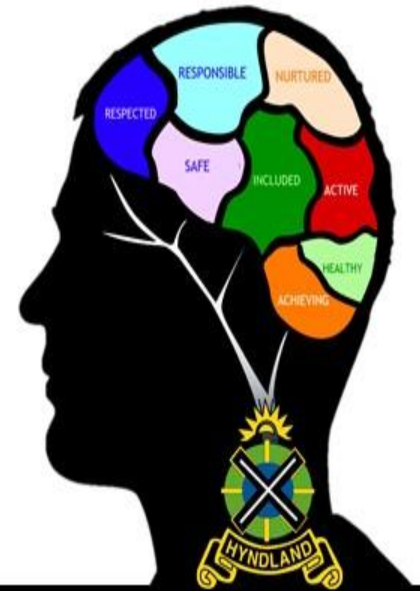
- Highest levels of attendance and time-keeping.
- Highest level of commitment to homework and classwork.
- Positive interactions with staff which is built upon respect.
- Positive ethos in the local community
 - we are all proud to be part of Hyndland.



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THE HARDER YOU **WORK**
FOR SOMETHING,
THE GREATER YOU'LL FEEL
WHEN YOU **ACHIEVE** IT.

• SCATTEREDQUOTES.COM •



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