



GCSE Ready - Summer Challenge 2026 (year 9 into year 10)

Year 9, as you prepare to move into Year 10, this is your chance to make the summer count. The 'GCSE Ready' Summer Challenge has been designed to help you build confidence, independence and new skills while also enjoying your holidays. Choose the challenges that interest you, complete the activities, and upload some simple evidence (photos, videos, screenshots, short reflections or checklists) to Google Classroom as you go.

Every challenge you complete earns you progress towards Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum recognition in September. You do not need to complete all 25 challenges—just challenge yourself to try new things, stay active, learn something interesting and make yourself proud. I am really looking forward to seeing what you achieve over the summer and celebrating your efforts when we return in September. Good luck, and enjoy the challenge!

Rewards



Rewards

Recognition in September.

Award

Requirement

Bronze = Complete 5 challenges based on the required criteria for each

Silver = Complete 10 challenges based on the required criteria for each

Gold = Complete 15 challenges based on the required criteria for each

Platinum = Complete 20+ challenges including at least one from each of the following categories (Educational, Active, Creative, Practical and Community)

"Summer Challenge Champion" award to one learner!! – Could this be you?

Challenges



1. Read for 600 Minutes

Read anything you enjoy (novels, magazines, biographies, news articles, comics).

Evidence:

- Reading log
 - Book review
 - Selfie with your book
 - Favourite quote
-

2. Get Moving Challenge

Complete 30 minutes of exercise on at least 20 days over the summer.

Ideas:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Football
- Netball
- Gym
- Swimming
- Running
- Dance

Evidence:

- Screenshots from Strava/Fitbit
 - Photos
 - Short diary
-

3. Become a Chef

Cook or bake at least 3 different meals.

Bonus:

Cook one meal completely by yourself.

Evidence

- Photos
 - Recipe
 - Family review
-

4. Summer Photography Challenge

Take photos that match themes:

- Nature
- Summer
- Architecture
- Wildlife
- Reflection
- Action
- Colour

Choose your best five.

5. Explore Somewhere New

Visit somewhere you've never been.

Examples:

- Beach
- Castle
- Museum
- Walking trail
- Country park

Evidence

Photo + explain why you chose it.

6. Money Matters

Find ways to save £20 or earn some money.

Ideas:

- Car washing
- Gardening
- Babysitting
- Selling unwanted items

Explain what you learned about money.

7. Create Something

Produce something you're proud of.

Examples:

- Drawing
 - Painting
 - LEGO build
 - Sewing
 - Crochet
 - Model making
 - Digital art
-

8. Learn a New Skill

Spend at least 5 hours learning something new.

Examples:

- Guitar
- Coding
- Sign language
- Juggling
- Origami
- Rubik's Cube
- Chess

Upload a before and after video.

9. Kindness Challenge

Carry out five random acts of kindness.

Ideas:

- Help at home
- Volunteer
- Help a neighbour
- Write thank-you cards

Reflect on how it felt.

10. GCSE Ready Challenge

Choose one subject you'll study in Year 10.

Learn something beyond what you've already done.

Examples:

- Watch a documentary
 - Read an article
 - Try GCSE questions
 - Research a topic
-



11. Documentary Night

Watch three educational documentaries.

Suggestions:

- Planet Earth
- The Rescue
- Our Planet
- 24 Hours in A&E
- Explained (Netflix)

Write three interesting facts.



12. Grow Something

Grow:

- Herbs
- Flowers
- Tomatoes
- Sunflowers

Upload weekly progress photos.



13. Journal Challenge

Write a short journal entry every week.

Prompts:

- Best moment
- Biggest challenge

- Something new I learned
 - Something I'm grateful for
-

14. Digital Detox

Spend one full day with no social media.

Reflect:

- What was difficult?
 - What did you do instead?
-

15. Brain Builder

Complete:

- Sudoku
- Crossword
- Chess puzzles
- Logic puzzles

At least 10 over the summer.

16. Help at Home

Complete 10 household jobs.

Examples:

- Hoovering
- Cooking
- Washing up
- Gardening
- Cleaning

Create a checklist.

17. Make a Video

Create a 2-minute video about your summer.

Could be:

- Vlog
 - Sports highlights
 - Holiday memories
 - Funny moments
-

18. Learn 50 New Words

Choose:

- Welsh
- French
- Spanish
- British Sign Language

Record yourself using them.

19. Walk Wales Challenge

Walk 25 miles during the holidays.

Can include:

- Family walks
- Beaches
- Parks
- Mountains

Track with Google Maps or a fitness app.

20. Invention Challenge

Design something that solves a real-life problem.

Include:

- Sketch
 - Explanation
 - How it works
-



21. 30-Day Habit Challenge

Choose one positive habit.

Examples:

- Drink more water
- Read daily
- Exercise
- Wake up earlier
- Practise mindfulness

Keep a tracker.



22. Random Fact Challenge

Learn one interesting fact every day.

Create e.g:

- Poster
 - Slides
 - Video
 - Quiz
-



23. Local History Explorer

Research somewhere local in South Wales.

Ideas:

- Local landmark
- Historic building
- Famous Welsh person
- Local sporting history

Present what you found.



24. Olympic Challenge

Choose an Olympic sport.

Try it or learn about it.

Examples:

- Athletics
 - Archery
 - Canoeing
 - Tennis
 - Cycling
-

25. Family Games Challenge

Play five different board or card games.

Reflect:

- Strategy used
 - Favourite game
 - Skills developed
-

Bonus Challenges (worth double points)

- Read 3 books
 - Complete Couch to 5K
 - Raise money for charity
 - Learn to solve a Rubik's Cube
 - Learn CPR (with an adult or recognised course)
 - Complete the Bronze section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award skills or physical activity if you're participating
 - Create a business idea and design a logo
 - Build a website
 - Learn basic coding
-

Uploading to Google Classroom

You can upload:

-  Photos
-  Videos
-  PDFs
-  Short reflections (50–100 words)

-  Posters
 -  Slides
 -  Audio recordings
 -  Screenshots
 -  Checklists
-