

# Working Together for Success

---



**This year has seen a huge change in the way young people in the UK are examined and awarded their GCSEs. The format, time required and nature of the questions have all changed, adding an extra level of challenge for students and teachers alike.**

Meeting challenges head on is something Sittingbourne Community College does not shy away from, and developing new ways to ensure our students succeed has been a key component in their path to success. Sometimes, running intervention classes, after-school sessions, developing unique teaching and learning strategies in classes, and celebrating the achievements of our students (to name a few of the approaches the school uses) can still be improved upon. Therefore, SCC has been exploring 'collective learning.'

What does this term mean?

Simply put, the core subjects (English, maths and science) gathered together entire year groups into a single space and delivered crucial lessons on how to approach difficult exam questions. Mr Matt Lewis, Senior Deputy Head, delivered the first session to an attentive Year 11 group.

"Whilst our students benefit from excellent teaching in the classrooms," Mr Lewis explains, "gathering an entire cohort together to deliver a single, focused lesson enables teachers and students alike to access a shared understanding from which to build upon as we get closer to exam time."

But, it is useful in practice? Jack Summers, Year 11 student, said "I thought it was very helpful. We went through exactly what we need to do to succeed in the exam and I came away with a better understanding of what to do."

"We are always looking for innovative ways of improving the teaching and learning at SCC," continued Mr Lewis, "and, no doubt, there will be more examples of exciting teaching strategies within our classrooms and across the school as the pressure mounts in the final weeks before the exam season begins."

