Year 7 Parents' Information Evening

Thursday 24th September 2026

Mrs Holmes - Assistant Head Teacher
mholmes@testwoodschool.co.uk

Mr Ainsworth - Head of Year
nainsworth@testwoodschool.co.uk

Positive Start

- So many positive comments from teachers
- Excellent attendance
- Forming good routines
- Punctuality to school and lessons is key to a positive start
- Remember: each lesson is an opportunity
- Always be polite – to everyone!
- Complete homework on time
- Tutor/Teachers - let someone know if there are any concerns

Equipment Check

Pen

Green Pen

Pencil

Ruler

Scientific Calculator

Sharpener

Planner

Reading Book

Compass

Protractor

Eraser

Attendance Matters

Attendance during one school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately	Which means the number of lessons missed
Just 9 days of absence can affect a student's attainment by half a grade			
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	285 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	335 lessons

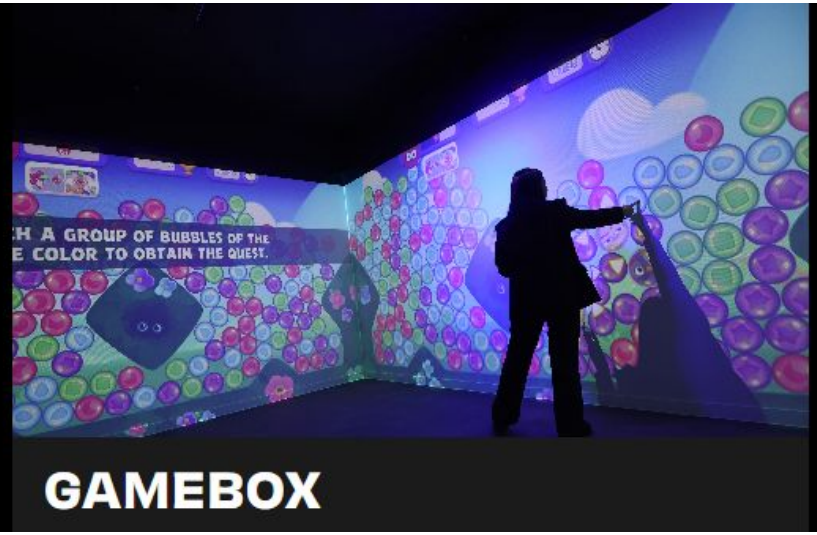
The impact of attendance on attainment at Testwood School.

Attendance	Average grades achieved in their 9 subjects									Overall impact
95%+	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	Great grades
90-94.99%	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	16 grades lower
85-89.99%	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	25 grades lower
<85%	1	1	1	1	1	1	U	U	U	38 grades lower

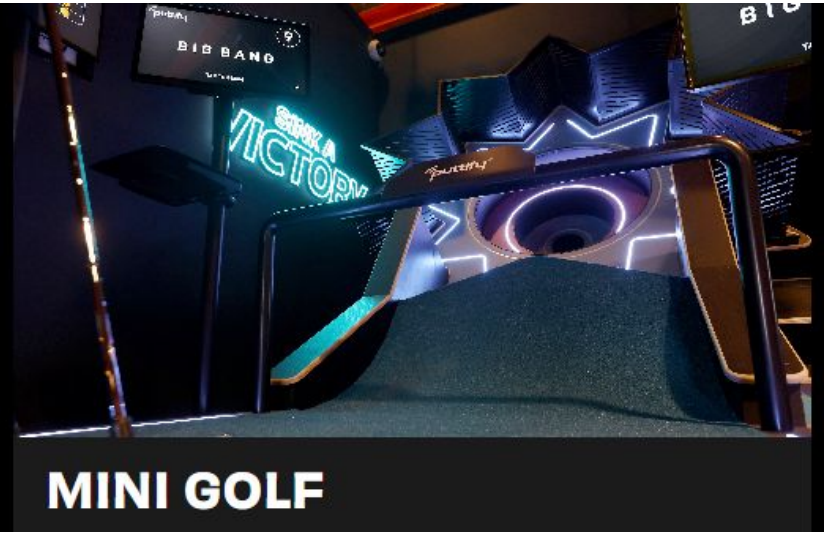
Based on the GCSE results achieved by Testwood students in summer 2026 and their attendance during Year 11.

Attendance Matters...

CLAYSHOT



GAMEBOX



MINI GOLF

Level 1 Reward Event - Thursday 17th December 2026

- 95% Attendance
- Excellent behaviour
- Good punctuality

safe@testwoodschool.co.uk **theabc@testwoodschool.co.uk**

Reward Day - Monday 19th July

PAULTONS PARK

Enrichment Opportunities

Autumn Term Extra-Curricular Activities 26/27

Club	Day	Time	Week	Staff	Where
What on Earth? (Geography Club)	Monday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	GRa	G2
Art Club (all years)	Monday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	AG	A2
Photography Club (all years)	Monday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	RH	A4
Netball	Monday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	KBa	Sports Hall
Rugby	Monday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	CMA & SB	Sports Hall
Production (Frozen)	Monday	3pm - 4:15pm	A & B	CBy & TH	Drama Studio
Chess Club (All years)	Tuesday	Lunchtime	A & B	JBl & JH	LRC
Testwood Ukulele Jam	Tuesday	Lunchtime	A & B	CBy	MU1
Y9-11 Textiles	Wednesday	3pm- 4pm	A & B	RB	T6
Book Club (All years)	Wednesday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	JBl & DT	LRC
Basketball	Wednesday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	SB	Sports Hall
GCSE PE / Dance Catch Up	Wednesday	3pm - 4pm	A & B	KBa	PE1
Psychology Club	Wednesday	3pm - 4pm	A	CBy	MU1
Production (Frozen)	Wednesday	3pm - 4:15pm	A & B	ABa & TH	Drama Studio
Wellbeing Group	Wednesday	Lunchtime	A & B	SL & YFM	PE1

House Competitions

Testwood House Competition Calendar 26-27

Testwood School

Month	House Competition	When (Tutor, lunch, afterschool club, home project, lesson)	Dates (start/length of competition)	Department
September	House Scriptwriting Competition	Afterschool / Home project	Launch Au1 - Deadline: 16th October	Drama
	Basketball	Afterschool club	WB 28th September - 16th October	PE
	Psychology	Home project	Launch Au1 - Deadline Half-term	Psychology
	Fantasy Premier League	Home	Sept- July	JLO
	'Making a Difference' Campaign Poster	Afterschool / Home project	w/b Mon 7th September - Fri 25th September	Sustainability / Geog
October	Winter Showcase Front-Cover design	Afterschool / Home project	Launch October Deadline: Half-term	Music
November	Dodgeball	Lessons	WB 9th November	PE
December	Christmas Decoration	Afterschool 3-4 Weds/ Home project	Deadline: 11th Dec	Textiles

House Competitions include

- Premier League fantasy football
- Halloween script writing
- Sustainability project
- Nature v Nurture Psychology project
- Dodgeball / Basketball
- Designing front cover of the Winter Showcase
- Christmas decorations

Mobile Phones

- No phone school - phones must be turned off in the students phone lockers.
- Department for Education stated there would be a ban for under 16s on Social Media from Spring 2027.
- Aim is to reducing harm, improving wellbeing and give young people more time for a healthier childhood.
- Whatsapp/ Signal to not be included, however as parents please be vigilant about what your child is doing online.

Pastoral Support

- Children with good physical and mental health perform better at school and will achieve more academically

- Any concerns, please discuss with:
  - Tutor
  - Year Leader
  - Pastoral Support Workers
  - External agencies: Young Carers, the Mental Health Support Team, and Youth & Families Matter

Wellbeing Fayre

- Thursday 26th November 2026

- Opportunity to meet your child's tutor to discuss how your child has settled in
- Opportunity to look at your child's learning
- Several external agencies will be attending, to include: Mental Health Support Team (MHST), Youth and Family Matters (YFM), Willow/Catch 22, School Nursing Team, Stop Domestic Abuse, Police and Testwood Pastoral Team

Format of the Evening

- English - Miss Snook (KS3 leader of English)
  - bsnook@testwoodschool.co.uk
- Maths - Mr Terblanche (Head of Maths)
  - aterblanche@testwoodschool.co.uk
- Google Classroom - Mr Lockyer
  - jlockyer@testwoodschool.co.uk

English

Miss Snook - KS3 coordinator

Our English Curriculum

AUTUMN TERM

- Villains in Literature and Film
- Ethical Issues
- Novel Study: 'The Wolf Trials' by Kiran Milwood Hargrave

SPRING TERM

- Gothic Story Writing
- Shakespeare's Outsiders

SUMMER TERM

- Novel Study: '*The Island at the End of Everything*' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- Imagine Narrative Poetry

What does English look like in Year 7?

Aspect	Year 6	Year 7
Curriculum focus	Emphasis on grammar, spelling, punctuation (SPaG); narrative writing; preparation for SATs.	Broader literature studies (novels, poetry, drama); deeper textual analysis; focus on writing for different purposes.
Texts studied	Mostly age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction.	Wider range of in-depth study of texts including Shakespeare, classic novels, modern poetry, media texts.
Analytical skills	Inference and retrieval; some exploration of language features.	Introduction to literary techniques; exploring writer's intentions, audience, effect.
Writing expectations	Structured writing with focus on grammar, sentence variety, paragraphs.	More creative; focus on developing a voice.
Reading comprehension	Literal and basic inferential questions; SATs-style questions.	Deeper interpretation; analysis of structure, tone, context, and themes.
Assessment style	Heavily SATs-focused; marked against set writing criteria.	Varied: essays, creative writing, unseen analysis; focus on argument, structure, evidence.
Teaching approach	Often literacy lessons are integrated into a general classroom setting.	Taught by subject specialists; more formal structure and academic expectations.
Vocabulary	Development of tier 1–2 vocabulary (every-day to academic).	Stronger push into tier 2–3 vocabulary (subject-specific, analytical).
Homework and independence	Limited homework; mainly reading.	Retrieval quiz based homework linked to classwork; expectations for self-management and reading outside class.

Opportunities to read…

- Students have one 'Reading Hour' lesson a fortnight in the library.
- Students in Year 7 follow the 'faster read' text at the start of every English Lesson and 20 minutes in 1 tutor time.
- Students are expected to change books at break and lunch time.
- Upcoming - students are expected to fill out a reading log for x 4 home reads.

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Why bother?

- According to research, children who read at least 20 minutes a day make the most improvement in all subjects.
- Faster reads - promotes enjoyment and engagement with reading
- Encourage your child to plan for at least 20 minutes set aside for reading a day.
- If a students' reading age improves ALL of their learning improves!
- The GCSE exams are harder- average reading age is 16 for the texts.

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Not just books:

- Subtitles on the television.
- Listening to audio books.
- Magazines and newspapers.
- Comics / graphic novels.
- Gaming books.
- Recipes.
- Reading to siblings.
- Appropriate television programs/films (for plot and character).

Helping your child succeed in English:

- Encourage and support the with their reading HWK- ask questions about what they have read and listen to them read aloud.
- Test them on spellings, if set by their class teacher as an additional HWK.
- Discuss world issues to help them understand ethics and different cultures.
- Contact us if you have any concerns about how your child is doing- we are available by email or phone call.

How can you get in touch?

Email is best…

- **co-Curriculum Leader for English- Mrs V Ukahi** **vukahi@testwoodschool.co.uk**
- **Co-Curriculum Leader for English– Mrs M Fox** **mfox@testwoodschool.co.uk**
- **KS3 Co-ordinator for English – Miss B Snook** **bsnook@testwoodschool.co.uk**

School Number: 02380 862146

Maths

Mr Terblanche - Curriculum Lead

What Maths Looks Like in Year 7

- Building on primary knowledge: fractions, decimals, percentages
- Introduction to algebra and equations
- Developing problem-solving and reasoning skills
- Focus on fluency, reasoning, and problem solving

What learning looks like in class

- Mix of individual, paired, and group work
- Use of visual models, diagrams, and manipulatives
- Regular practice and low-stakes quizzes
- Encouragement of discussion and explaining reasoning

How you can support at home

- Encourage regular practice of times tables and mental maths
- Talk through maths problems in everyday life (shopping, cooking, travel)
- Support homework routines
- Promote a positive attitude towards maths

Contacting your child's teacher…

aterblanche@testwoodschool.co.uk	Curriculum Leader of Maths
mstewart@testwoodschool.co.uk	Deputy Curriculum Leader of Maths
cball@testwoodschool.co.uk	Assistant Curriculum Leader of Maths
datkinson@testwoodschool.co.uk	Teacher of Maths
dclarke@testwoodschool.co.uk	Teacher of Maths
cjenkins@testwoodschool.co.uk	Teacher of Maths
nainsworth@testwoodschool.co.uk	Teacher of Maths

Testwood School

Google Classroom

Year 7 Information Evening

Caring | Inclusive | Ambitious

What is Google Classroom?

Testwood School

Home Learning Platform

Google Classroom is the primary platform we use at Testwood to set and monitor home learning for our students.

Guardian Summaries

Parents and carers have the ability to track this through reports provided by Google directly.

Our Computer Science Team

Testwood School

Support at School

The Computer Science team are here to support your children with accessing learning content at school.

Google Classroom

Please contact your child's teacher and/or tutor if you experience any issue with Google Classroom.

Staff Contact Details

Testwood School

Tutors

7E1 – Mrs. J. Boorman – jboorman@testwoodschool.co.uk
7G1 – Mrs. V. Scott – vscott@testwoodschool.co.uk
7B1 – Mrs. A. Barnes – abarnes@testwoodschool.co.uk
7L1 – Mr. J. Booker – jbooker@testwoodschool.co.uk
7EG – Mr. J. Rowlinson – jrowlinson@testwoodschool.co.uk
7BL – Mr. R. Jones – rhjones@testwoodschool.co.uk

Computer Science

Mr. J. Lockyer – jlockyer@testwoodschool.co.uk

Mrs. H. Haskell – hhaskell@testwoodschool.co.uk

Mrs. J. Boorman – jboorman@testwoodschool.co.uk

Accessing Google Classroom

Testwood School

At Home Access

Students have the ability to log onto Google's Cloud Services, including Google Classroom at home.

School Credentials

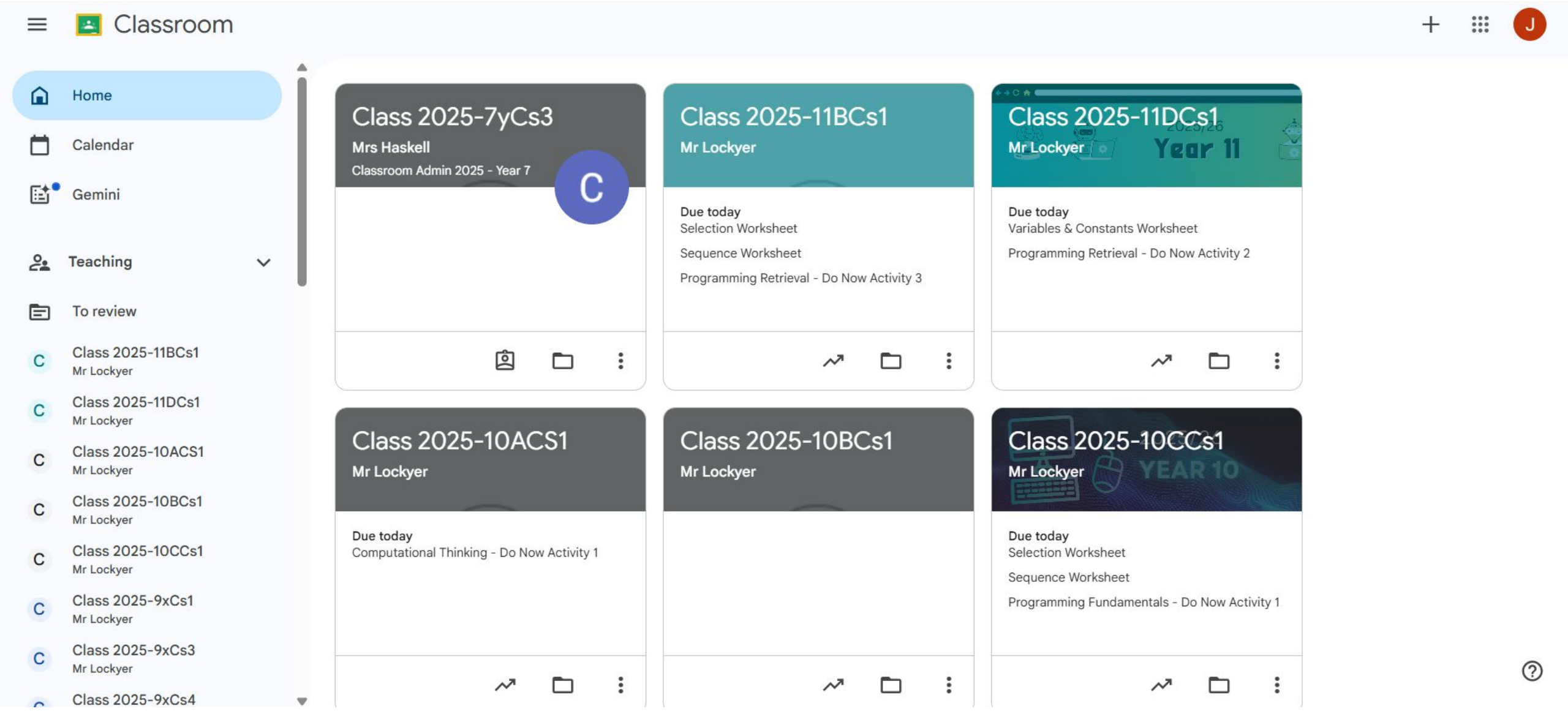
To do this, they use their school email address and school password.

Support & Help

If you have any password specific issues, please contact your child's Tutor in the first instance.

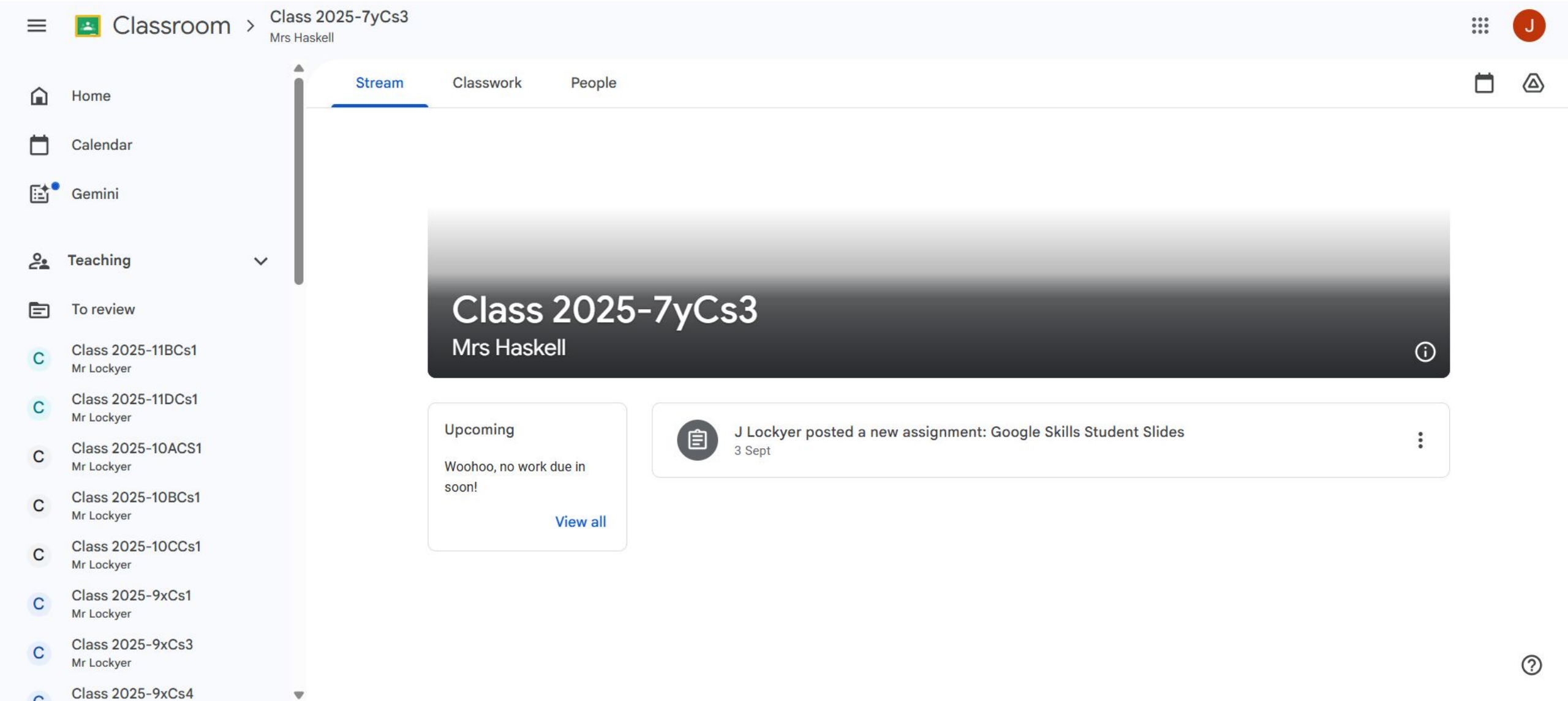
Entry Screen

Testwood School



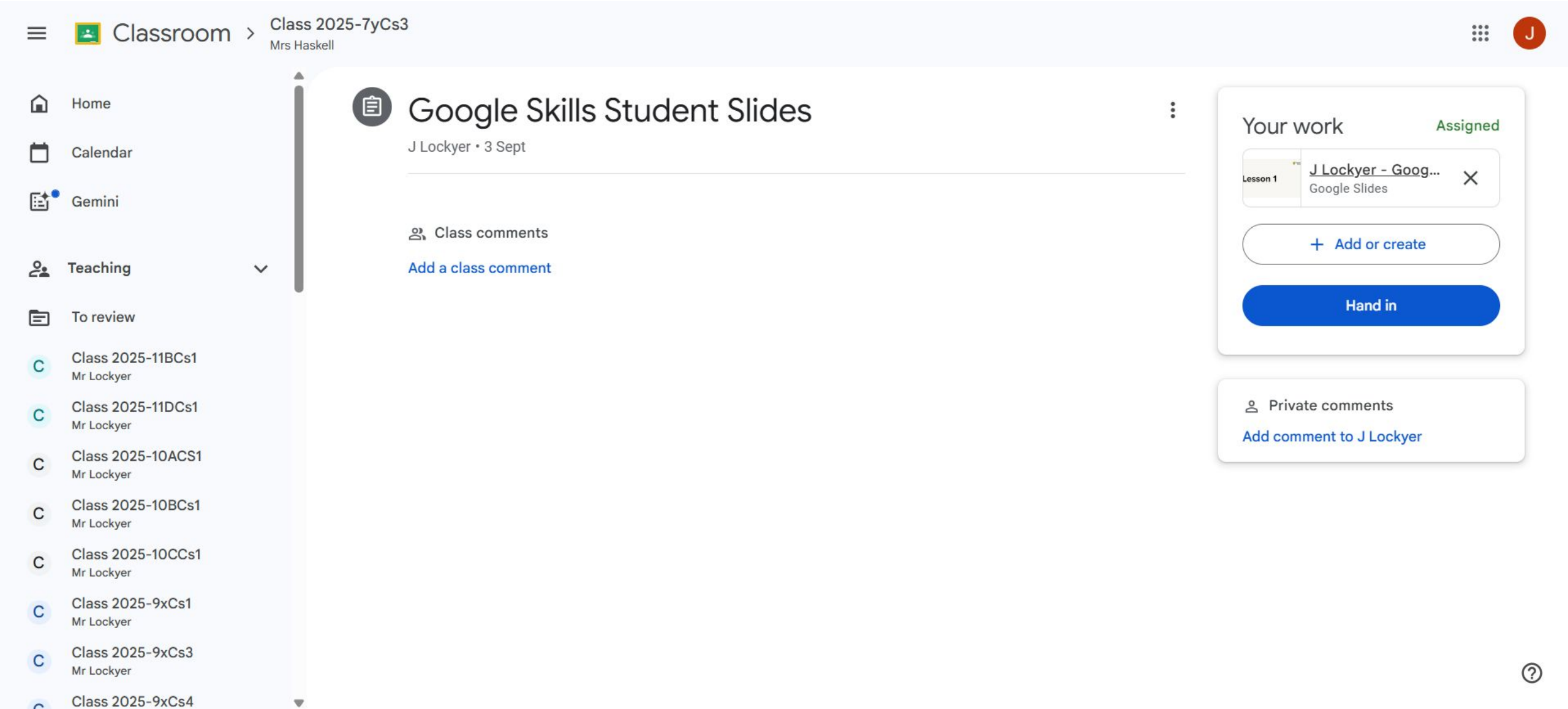
Inside a Google Classroom

Testwood School



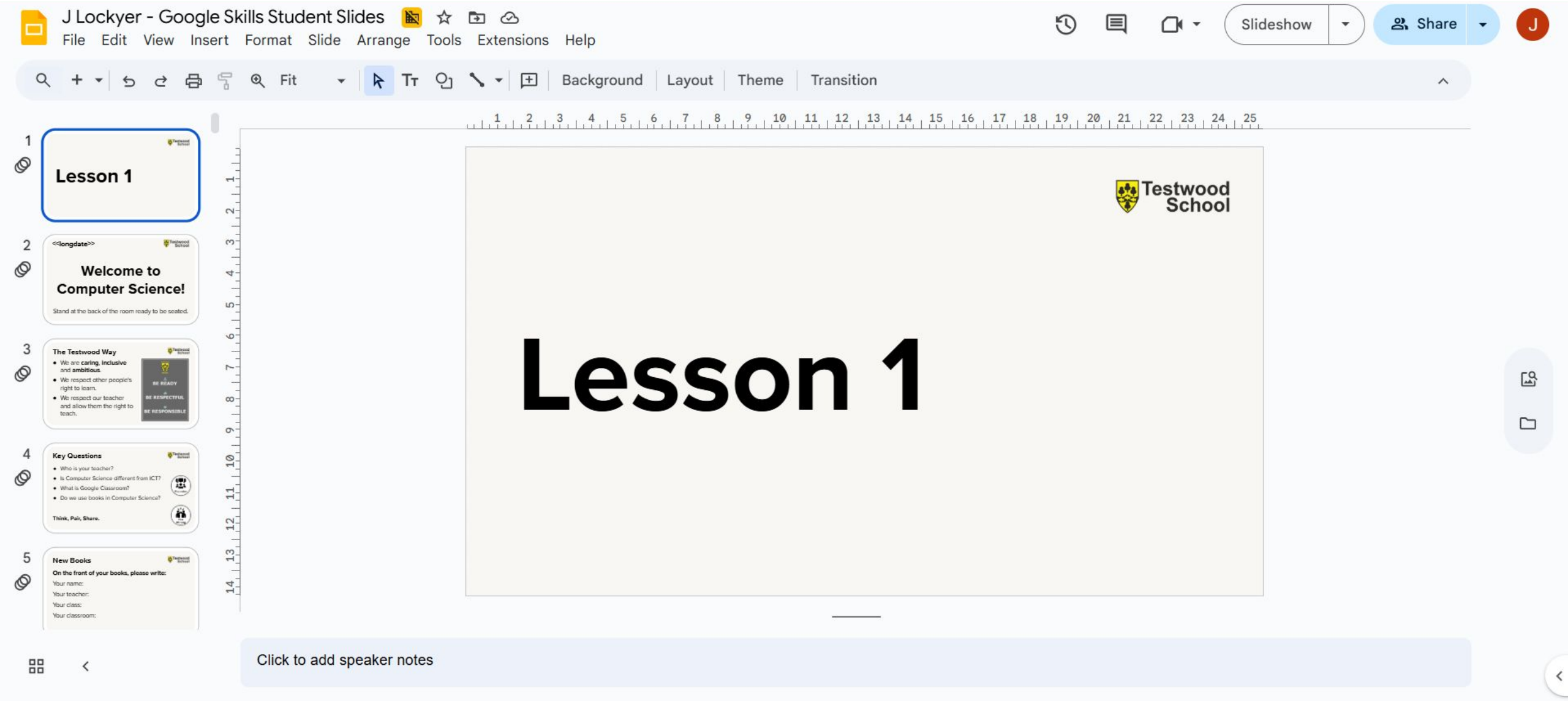
Viewing an Assignment

Testwood School



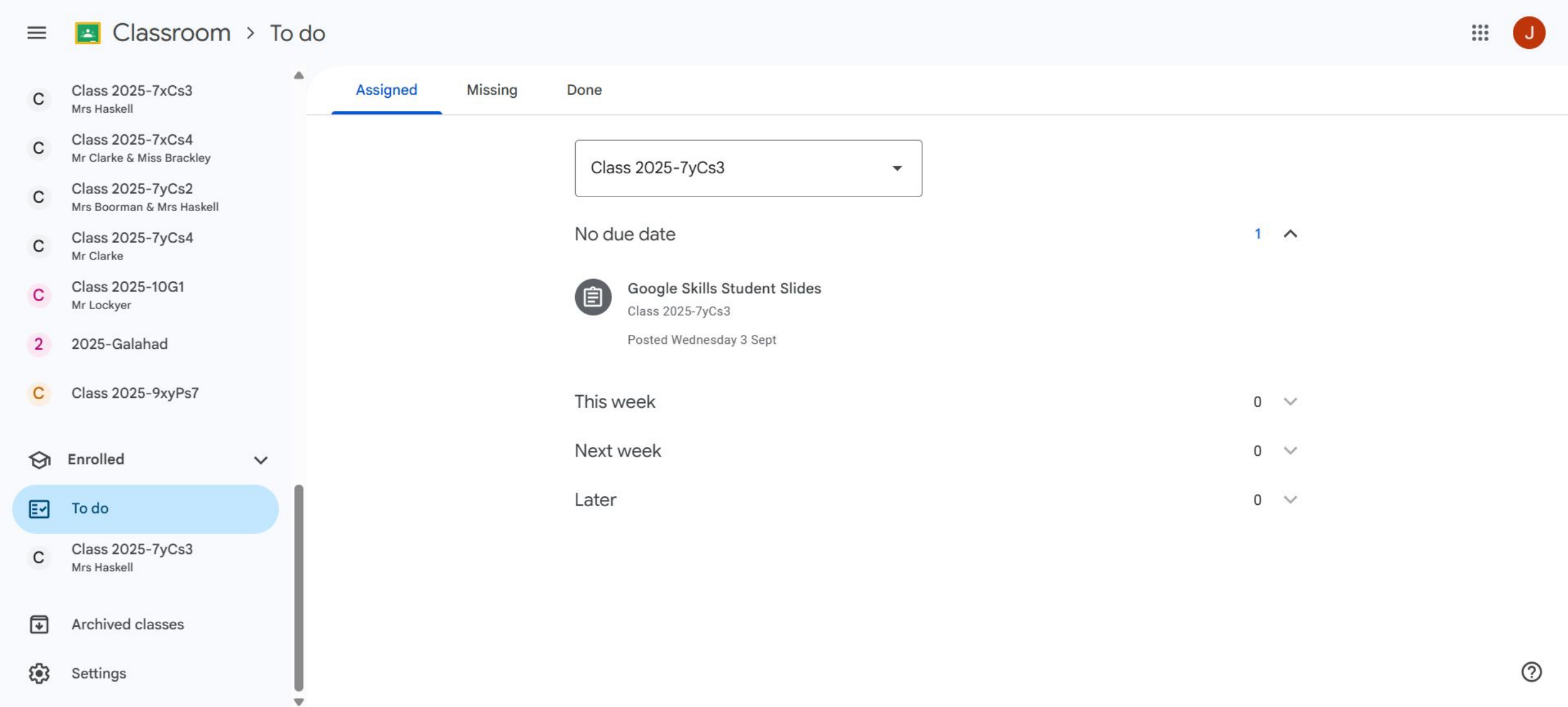
Opening an Presentation

Testwood School



To Do List

Testwood School



Summary

Testwood School

Computer Science

Computer Science is the only subject where students will have the lesson slides and/or worksheets attached.

Weekly Homework

Homework will be set by every subject weekly to be competed by a listed due date.

Due Dates

If you are unsure of when a due date is, please see your ‘To Do’ list.

Testwood School

Thank you.

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