

HOW TO...

A PARENTS GUIDE TO STUDY AND REVISION FOR GCSE SUCCESS

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

When speaking to parents about revision we often hear "It's all completely different from when I was at school!" The reality is, however, you don't have to be an expert in any of the subjects your child chooses to make a real difference. You just need to know how best to spend the time you do have to support your child. This is particularly vital given that parental support is one of the most important factors in a child's success.

WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED TO REVISE?

Your child may be studying 8 or more GCSEs. Each syllabus will cover a wide range of complex information, concepts and skills and all of these need to be mastered. Regular revision is the key to success as it allows your child to build up a depth of knowledge and conceptual understanding, as well as help them to prioritise their learning and manage their own time.

REVISION PITALLS

If not organised properly, valuable revision opportunities can be wasted. As such, there is a need to avoid some of the traps associated with poor revision. Some of the main issues linked to this are outlined below:

- Leaving revision to the last minute
- Not creating a revision plan
- Not being sure what to revise
- Not using a range of suitable revision strategies to help meaningful revision
- Being unrealistic about what can be achieved in the time available
- Not taking the opportunity to be involved in after school interventions

POSITIVE APPROACHES TO REVISION

As parents we know you want to do what is best for your child. Below are some of the ways in which you can support with the revision process:

- Ensure your child produces a weekly revision plan. Blank templates are available from Mrs Hughes (Senior Director of Upper School) and Miss Chambers (Head of Year 11).
- Plan the revision of topics based on priorities. For example, in English, what specific question does your child need to prioritise to ensure maximum improvement?
- Ensure homework is completed as part of the revision process. You can now track what homework is set and check deadlines through Go4schools (please refer to your separate information sheet).
- Monitor that your child is undertaking revision not just spending time organising their revision material
- Ensure your child revises little but regularly, avoiding any last minute panic revision
- Ensure there is a quiet space suitable for revision. If this is not always possible, encourage your child to use the academy facilities for independent study from 3.15pm Monday to Friday, or encourage them to access subject specific intervention. A copy of the current intervention calendar is attached. Furthermore, quiet revision space can be accessed in the academy as part of our Saturday school programme which runs weekly between 9am-1pm.
- Encourage a mobile phone/social media ban when revising. These are distractions and significantly hinder the revision process.

USEFUL REVISION STRATEGIES

There is not a 'one size fits all' approach to revision. What works for one student in one subject area may not work for the same student in a different subject. Below are some possible revision strategies that your child could be encouraged to employ:

- Use mind maps to organise and link ideas for specific topics
- Make revision cards that prioritise the key areas of focus for a specific subject/topic
- Use revision books to help consolidate learning. For all core subjects, these can be purchased at a discounted price from our academy shop
- Use voice memos to record key ideas/quotes/phrases
- Use Youtube to access relevant revision videos. Encourage your child to speak to their teachers in order to identify the most useful and relevant videos available.
- Use memory aides like mnemonics to help organise ideas and assist in the development of responses.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.swbacademy.co.uk

For general school updates and exam information

www.go4schools.co.uk

For tracking progress, sanctions, rewards and homework

www.bbc.co.uk/education

For generic revision information for all subjects

www.mymaths.co.uk

For maths revision topics

<https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

For Maths support videos

How you approach the next few months can have a real impact on your child's future. As an academy we are here to support both you and your child so that they secure success and exceed their potential. If you have any questions or queries, or if there is any other way we can support your child further, please let us know.

Mrs D Bailey- Raising standards Vice Principal

Mrs D Hughes – Senior Director of Upper School

Miss A Chambers – Head of Year 11

Mr K Williams – Deputy Head of Year 11

**'IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO BE WHAT YOU
MIGHT HAVE BEEN'
GEORGE ELIOT**