



14th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the Bournemouth University revision session held back in February, I have been working alongside subject leaders to produce some information for you with regards to effective revision tips and techniques for each individual subject. Attached to this letter, I have provided the information which subject leaders have given for your perusal.

Where applicable, each subject leader has provided information on: recommended revision guides; revision sessions that are being offered by teachers; effective strategies for revising each individual subject; important dates and deadlines for their individual subjects.

I hope you find the information we have provided of benefit and it allows you to further support your child in the crucial time between now and their final exams. If you have any further questions please do get in contact with individual teachers, subject leaders, tutors or myself.

I'd like to take this time to thank you for your continued support of the school in the lead up to the GCSE exam period.

Miss K Hodder
Head of Year 11

English

Students often ask how they can revise for English. Here are some ways they can help themselves and slowly, but surely, build confidence. You may think of other strategies. Little and often is the key.

- Set books and poetry for English Literature are not allowed in the exams so students need to learn quotations by keeping flash cards, posters and maybe PowerPoint displays. Students should be creative in the way they present information in order to learn and many enjoy visual clues.
- Encourage your son/daughter to keep detailed notes (mind maps) on the events, characters, themes and use of language in the set texts, including the poems. Display these at home, perhaps one at a time and discuss them with your son/daughter.
- Read a newspaper article together on a controversial topic and discuss the views of the writer.
- Teachers will highlight spelling mistakes in exercise books. Help students to learn these at home.
- Teachers will also highlight grammatical errors. If you or someone at home feels able to, choose a good moment to talk to your son/daughter about how to correct these.
- Students will be set English homework every week which should take at least 1 hour.
- English teachers will provide students with past paper questions and students will also sit two mock exams this year.
- In addition to the timetable, we run revision sessions on Tuesday after school (unless teachers have agreed on a different night with their class). Students can attend sessions with other teachers if they are unable to attend on a certain night.
- Ms Mottaghi runs an English Clinic in E3 every Friday lunchtime and this is open to all year 11 students who would like support or a quiet space to work.
- Finally, please feel free to contact Ms Mottaghi in the English department if you would like more information.

Recommended websites: for English revision

- https://padlet.com/SLee_1718/Bookmarks (our English revision site for St Edward's students.
- <http://www.shakespeare-navigators.com/macbeth/>
- www.gcsebitesize.com

If you do choose to buy revision guides for English Language and English Literature, ensure that they are for the AQA exam board. We recommend the Collins revision guides. A letter will be coming home about these shortly.

Ms J. Mottaghi

Head of English

Maths

Revision sessions

Maths revision takes place every Monday from 3:15pm until 4:15pm. It is important that each pupil is attending and participating in the sessions as they form a valuable part of the Maths studies at St Edwards.

Revision books

The vast majority of pupils have now purchased a GCSE Maths revision book. We have still got a number of these guides available if you were unable to purchase one the first time around. Please ask your class teacher for more information.

We have purchased a number of resources to help each pupil in their studies.

(1) MyMaths.co.uk

Each pupil has a unique login that allows them to complete and save their work.

(2) PiXL Maths app.

Each class has had a tutorial with each class on how to use this app, it is a great resource that should benefit every pupil at all levels of knowledge.

(3) Resource365

The site is full of useful resources that have been uploaded by the department including past and specimen papers. These should form a big part of your revision schedule.

Top tips for Maths revision!

1. Before you start revising, use your P.P.E Diagnostic sheets to cover the work that you need to practice.
2. Don't just read through the textbook, use step by step videos on Hegarty Maths or Youtube The only way to revise maths is to do maths. You will do much better spending 20 minutes attempting maths questions than spending two hours just reading a textbook
3. Make sure you ask for help. Again, once you are in the exam you are on your own, but during revision you are certainly not. If you are stuck on a topic or a question, then ask one of the people from your class, or your teacher, or someone at home, or look on the internet.
4. Practice doing questions under exam conditions. There are plenty of exam papers that you can practice with. Use the school site 'Resource365', give yourself a set time to complete the paper. Ask your teacher which papers you should be completing if you are not sure.
5. Practice using your calculator. 2 of the 3 GCSE papers are calculator papers. Make sure that you understand how to use your calculator and bring it to every lesson.

Good luck.

Mr J. Hulme

Head of Maths

Science

All students have revision guides issued to them. Students should complete the questions at the bottom of the page (answers in the back of the book) and the end of chapter questions. Students can purchase 10-minute test books (combined science only) and past paper packs from the finance office, each are priced at £3.00. Free resources can be found on the school OneDrive on the science SharePoint website. Students can access these using their Office365 account and go to Science--Yr11 Revision. Revision sessions take place after school every Thursday.

Mr S. Keene
Head of Science

RE

In RE, revision after school takes place each Thursday, with the topics for study published in the department. This is an excellent place to start revising. Students can also buy the Eduqas 'My Revision notes' RE revision guide from Amazon for £8.99. We have started to revise in lessons and students have all received a booklet which includes a checklist of what they need to know for the exam. This is an excellent resource for students to use as it will highlight gaps in their knowledge which we can then address. Any issues the student can talk to their class teacher or to Mr Duell as Head of RE.

Mr A. Duell
Head of RE

Business Studies

All GCSE Business students have been issued with a revision guide and revision workbook. In addition they will be provided with weekly revision tasks which will require the students to create Mindmaps.

Mr C. Kilpatrick
Head of Business Studies

History

The following is available for history, students who have ordered this will receive their copies in school. It is available as a book or in kindle version (which is cheaper):

<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product/9781510404045.aspx>

There is also a padlet available with SAM/SMS/sample answers and revision links, including the relevant courses on BBC bitesize:

https://padlet.com/sara_sinaguglia/sjokd5iaihhy

We will be running specific intervention sessions with students on a Thursday after school and in lunchtime/before school for targeted students, focusing on exam technique. Students will be informed of their groupings when we return after half-term.

We recommend maximum one hour revision blocks - identify an area of weakness e.g. The Pilgrimage of Grace, spend 30 minutes reviewing the content using a revision guide, apply this knowledge to an exam question - students can vary this between writing a plan selecting the relevant knowledge, writing part of the answer e.g. the judgement or completing an entire question in timed conditions. They can then review their answer against the mark scheme.

Mrs S. Sinaguglia

Head of History

Technology

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition - Use the online digital textbook (same username and password we use in school)

GCSE Textiles - CGP GCSE D&T Textiles Aqa Specification revision guide - You will be able to purchase the revision guide on Amazon or Ebay. There is also an exam practice workbook that is an excellent way of testing yourself. There is also a revision website which has lots of sources of information plus exam style questions: www.textiles4u.wikispaces.com.

GCSE Resistant Materials - Edexcel GCSE Design and Technology: Resistant Materials student Book - This book can be purchased online. There is a revision website called www.technologystudent.com which has lots of sources of information plus questions.

GCSE Graphics - There is a revision website called www.technologystudent.com which has lots of sources of information plus questions.

Miss K Dymond

Head of Design and Technology

Geography

All year 11 Geography students should now have revision guides, workbook and answer book for AQA GCSE Geography.

No. 1 Top tip –

1) Time management; spend more time revising the things you are less confident with:

This can be achieved by students first identifying areas of weakness using the PLCs (RAG) process, many of these have been completed by students using Google Forms. If they would like a copy of this they should ask their Geography teacher.

The student can then address this weakness by:

Producing flash cards from their revision guide or notes

Annotating A3 mind-maps for topics

Trying to show a process by forming an annotated diagram

Answering exam questions on this area by using their revision workbooks

Completing a Quizlet activity

Completing a Padlet activity

Work through the model answers from their mark scheme answer booklets

Approaching their teacher for assistance

Students are currently undertaking a fortnightly revision programme, focussed revision sessions are then being given to targeted students based on their needs, these are normally held after school each Wednesday and Thursday.

The key point is that students should also approach their teacher if they need additional help.

Mr C. Major

Head of Geography

GCSE French and German

It is very important that students prepare well for all **4 exams** they will sit this summer, and they have plenty of resources to assist them in doing so. They should already be working hard on their preparation, as spreading this over a long period of time is the best way to prepare. The principle resource we have provided is Kerboodle, an online resource for which all students have a log-in. Some students have also chosen to order the Vocabulary, Grammar and Translation workbook we wrote to you about last month and we do have spare versions in the department if any students would still like to purchase one. Revision and preparation support sessions run every Wednesday at 3:15 in L1. Top revision techniques for each skill are outlined below:

Speaking: Students were given booklets in December containing details of the exam and sample questions for the spontaneous open element. They should work on model answers, useful phrases and vocabulary, as well as practising for the role play and photo card elements using the sample materials on the AQA website and the test papers on Kerboodle. Students have been shown where to access all of this on numerous occasions in class.

Writing: Having completed a very thorough review of the December PPE papers students should be very knowledgeable with regard to the content of this paper. They must practise for the summer by planning and answering questions on the Kerboodle test papers and at the end of every 2 chapters in the student book (again, on Kerboodle). They should also work on use of tenses and useful phrases to use in their answers. Translation practice can be found both in Kerboodle, and the booklets mentioned above.

Listening: One of the key advantages of Kerboodle is that it offers students extensive access to listening exercises in a way that has not been possible in the past. They should practise extensively at home, completing test papers and then using the transcript and mark scheme to note vocabulary they didn't know. This will perfect their exam technique and enable construction of lists of common exam vocabulary.

Reading: Similarly to the listening paper, Kerboodle contains a huge amount of reading practice, and students have been shown the best places to find this. Exam technique is key so students must practise the exam-style questions in Kerboodle, again using mark schemes to note words they did not know. Of course preparation for these exams is all about knowing words so learning and revising vocab lists is a key exercise.

Mr M. Lenarduzzi

Head of MFL

PE

I am writing to inform you of the opportunities available for your son/daughter in order for them to achieve their full potential in GCSE Physical Education. We have put together a very extensive intervention plan, which is detailed below, and we hope that with the support from their teachers and yourself you son/daughter will access everything that is available for them to succeed.

Current Intervention

- Theory revision classes on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime – all can attend.
- Revision on a Wednesday afterschool – all can attend
- ACE Revision on a Friday morning – invitation only.
- Extra-curricular Friday afterschool sessions – focus on Badminton, Netball and Trampolining.
- Assessment target sheets – sent home at parents evening.
- One-to-one teacher student revision at lunchtimes and before school.
- Revision booklets given covering content from Year 10/11. Students to be completing weekly and handing into their class teacher.
- Sample 9 marker answers given to students to revise from.
- Past papers handed to students.

What can your son/daughter be doing at home?

- Completing their revision pack in their own time – approximately 2 hours a week and hand into their class teacher to be marked.
- Create flashcards of definitions, equations and key terms and either stick in their room or get tested on it weekly.
- Answering a past paper every fortnight and hand into their class teacher to be marked.
- Planning and answering 9 markers fortnightly from the 9 marker pack and hand in.
- If taking 800m or 1500m in athletics forwards they need to start running this distance weekly to improve for moderation.

Important Dates

- **Week Beginning – 19th March 2018 Practical Moderation (Final Exam).**
- **Week Beginning – 26th March 2018 Mock Exam Paper 1 & Paper 2.**

If you would like to discuss anything at all, please feel free to contact me on the school number or email me at hmccalister@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk.

Mrs H. McCalister
Assistant Subject Leader in PE