

Dear Parent/Carer,



In the run up to the summer examinations we thought that we would provide you with some information that you may find helpful over the next few weeks to ensure that your child achieves to the best of their ability. The better they do in these examinations the higher the set they will be

in next year.

Revision

Your child will be hearing about a variety of revision strategies in assembly and will be creating a revision timetable during tutor time. It would be useful to display this timetable at home so that the whole family can support your child over the next few weeks.

Please note that revision is separate to homework. They should be doing revision as well as the homework set by their teachers. An exemplar revision timetable is included. Currently pupils should be finding 2 hours per subject per week. Some subjects will require more time and others not so much. Any blank slots are the pupil's free time. They must create a timetable they are willing to stick to and that still allows time for their current commitments e.g. sports, scouts, mosque, etc.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
0700-0800	<h1>School</h1>							
0800-0900								English
0900-1000								English
1000-1100								
1100-1200								
1200-1300						Maths		
1300-1400						Maths		
1400-1500						Lunch		
1500-1600	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	RE		
1600-1700	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	RE		
1700-1800	<h1>Mosque</h1>					Chemistry		
1800-1900						Chemistry		
1900-2000								
2000-2100	Biology	Physics	History	Geography				
2100-2200	Biology	Physics	History	Geography				

We do recommend that your child factors in breaks and treats into their revision timetable as it is important for them to get some free time.

This is all possible if they stick to their revision timetable immediately.



“STUDY SMARTER,
NOT HARDER”

Many children like to convince their parents that they are revising on their computer when in fact they are being distracted by the likes of Facebook and Twitter! Although computers and iPads can have a very valuable use for revision we thought that we would write down exactly what you should be expecting your child to do when they say they are revising.

Your child will not learn anything by flicking through or reading an exercise or text book. Although their books are a valuable source of revision they must be making notes on what they are reading. They also need to practise questions. When they do this they should be able to produce something that is written on paper, even if the questions are online.

If your child can't produce these papers/notes then they have not been revising effectively!

FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 9 AND 10

They should **NOT** download past papers. There are limited past papers available and should only be done when the entire course has been complete in Year 11.

All students are provided with a school iPad to support their learning both in school and at home. As part of our revision strategy to support our students, we work with GCSEPod (www.gcsepod.com). The GCSEPod service provides high quality, focused learning in a unique 'Pod' format across 20 popular GCSE subjects, and filtered by exam boards.

The Pods are designed especially for mobile devices but can be watched on any computer, smart phone or tablet. Even better, they can be downloaded so your child can watch them online or offline. Wherever they go, GCSEPod goes with them. It's like they're carrying a whole world of knowledge and revision in their pockets. You can watch them with your child to support them with their revision.

For example, your child will select their subject area, the correct exam board and can set up their own area for each subject with all the resources they need. It is very user friendly as an online expert reads and explains everything clearly and precisely with all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams on screen.

Your child will not need to use GCSEPod for long before they feel the impact. Consistent use in just 10 minute chunks is proven to support achievement right up to A*

Other useful revision resources for all year groups

Exercise books – your child's books are full of notes and examples they can use.

iPads – there may be additional notes and questions on Showbie or Google Classrooms.

Websites – BBC Bitesize, Mathswatch and Kerboodle are amongst some of the popular websites recommended by the staff here.

If you are in doubt please contact your child's teacher or Head of Year.

During the exam season (May/June)

It is important that your son/daughter looks after themselves in the run up to their exams. Here are some useful tips that will help them be as focussed as can be on the day of the exam!

- 1) Eat properly – make sure that you have proper meals, including breakfast. Don't be eating lots of crisps/chocolate/takeaways etc.
- 2) Drink plenty – have a bottle of water to take into the exam (it must be see through and no labels are allowed on the bottle.) Avoid energy drinks – they do not help your brain!
- 3) Attend school – don't take time off! It has been proven that those who have a higher attendance achieve higher grades at GCSE.
- 4) Sleep – you need around 9 hours sleep each night, so if you get up at 7am you need to be in bed by 10pm. Don't stay up late cramming – get prepared!
- 5) Equipment – pack your bag the night before. You need to ensure that you have the following equipment in a clear pencil case:

Black pen x 2

Pencil x 2

Sharpener

Rubber

Ruler

Scientific calculator (no lids allowed)

Compass

Protractor