

ASPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE



Prospect
School

Year 11 Information Evening

This booklet, together with the Key Stage 4 Handbook...

...is aimed at pupils and parents in the hope that it will stimulate **effective conversations** about revision.

... has been distributed because we think **parental support** is an essential factor in exam success.

... gives **practical suggestions** to support pupils and parents in the time leading up to GCSE examinations.

Are you 'Revision Ready'?

My child:

- knows about revision sessions for the subjects where they need to focus most;
- has a quiet, comfortable and distraction free work area (ideally at a desk or table;)
- has a revision timetable which is displayed prominently in the house;
- knows which exams they are sitting in which subjects;
- does not browse the internet or use social networking sites whilst studying;
- has practice questions / papers at home;
- has access to revision materials and equipment (including study guides where appropriate;)
- knows how to contact his/her teachers for feedback or guidance;
- has read through this booklet with me and discussed the contents.

“Champions do not become champions when they win the event, but in the hours, weeks, months and years they spend preparing for it. The victorious performance itself is merely the demonstration of their championship character.”

T. Alan Armstrong

“Success is a science; if you have the conditions you get the result.”

Oscar Wilde

Ask the Right Questions

What revision strategies are helping you most/least?

You've been studying ... what can you tell me about...?

What are you likely to be tested on...?

What extra support do you need?

Which subjects do you feel most confident/anxious about?

Have you asked your teacher about...?

Are you taking regular breaks?

Would you like me to test you on...?

Do you have enough practice questions for...?

Are there any extra books or materials you need for...?

Are you sticking to your revision timetable?

Are you prioritising...?



How to Revise

Everybody learns differently, but one thing that is true for all of us is that revision should be **active**. By this we mean that it should involve **doing things** rather than simply reading or copying.

Revise SMART

1. **S**tart early – learning is far more effective when spread out over a long period of time and revisited regularly.
2. **M**ake it memorable – no matter how ridiculous it feels, more memorable = more effective.
3. **A**dvice and feedback – seek feedback from your teachers on work you have completed or areas you need to focus on.
4. **R**epeat – plan your revision to allow opportunities to revisit topics. This will help to make information part of your long-term memory.
5. **T**est yourself – nothing is more effective than testing yourself to recall and use your learning regularly.

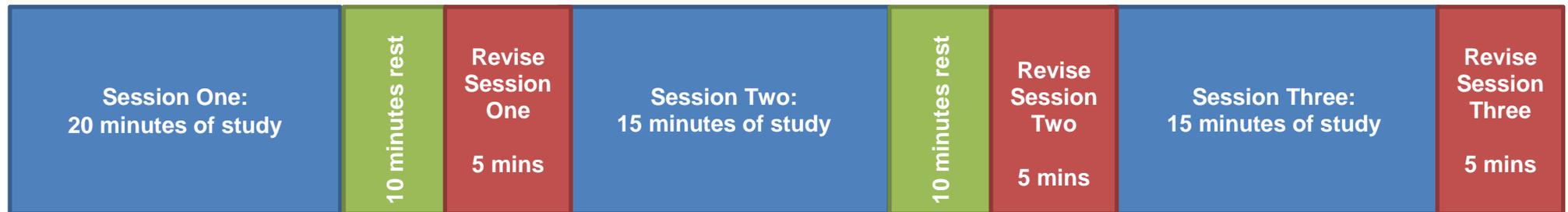
Did you know...?

...according to recent research the two things that make revision most effective are:

1. Starting early
2. Testing yourself

Organising Study Time

Pupils should study in short manageable blocks and build in opportunities to repeat key information. The following format can be adapted based on individual preference.



Writing a revision timetable (for pupils and parents)

1. Firstly, look at the big picture on a calendar: When are controlled assessment/coursework deadlines? When are the exams?
2. Block out time for things that need to be done e.g. school, part-time jobs etc.
3. Fill the revision timetable with specific activities to avoid procrastination later e.g. instead of "Maths" write "Maths - non-calculator past paper". Instead of "German" write "German – speaking (conversation questions) practice".
4. Divide revision time as appropriate. Subjects that (for you) require more work need more time on your timetable.
5. Change your revision timetable regularly to reflect the progress that has been made and, later on, the order of the exams.

Most importantly:

Start early - research indicates this is one of the most important factors in effective revision

Be realistic - set goals that you know you can meet

Stick to it - self-discipline and routine are key factors in revision success

"The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing"

Stephen R Covey

Prospect Revision Menu

Snack (10 minutes)

1. Test yourself using flashcards (or, even better, get somebody else to test you).
2. Listen to a revision podcast from GCSEPod.
3. Watch revision videos on YouTube (ask your teacher for recommendations)
4. RAG a Personal Learning Checklist to decide which topics you need to revise.
5. Ask someone to test you on what you have learnt about a particular topic. Alternatively try to teach someone else about what you have learnt.
6. Check out some of the revision websites listed in this guide.
7. Revise the requirements of your exams e.g. how long you get, how the paper is structured.

Starter (20-30 minutes)

1. Create a Mind Map for a specific topic or to connect the topics in a subject. Stick this up in a place where you'll look at it often.
2. Plan out some answers to past exam questions. Use bullet points, Mind Maps or spider diagrams.
3. Use your phone to record yourself reading key information. Listen back to this before bed, when travelling to school or when on the bus.
4. Create a revision table of the key information. This is particularly useful for topics where you have to make comparisons.
5. Create a poster or diagram that illustrates the key concepts for a topic.
6. Create mnemonics, acronyms, stories, songs or rhymes to help you remember information.

Main (60 minutes+)

1. Create a set of flashcards for the key words or concepts in a subject or topic. Question (or keyword) on one side and answer (or definition) on the other.
2. Timed exam practice. This is an essential part of your revision in any subject.
3. Create a revision collage or poster by printing relevant information from revision websites and combining this with memorable images.
4. Create and share revision videos summarising key information.
5. Create a revision scrapbook. Fill it with useful details relating to the subject or topic.
6. Attempt a question then print and annotate the examiner's report (and/or mark scheme). Can you improve your answer?

STRESS

A little stress can be a good thing: it can help to keep you motivated.

Too much stress is unhealthy and can prevent you from learning effectively.

Try to get the balance right!

ORGANISATION

A well organised and tidy study area will help you to stay calm and in control.

Making revision lists (and following them) will help you to keep organised!

BRAIN FOOD

Good nutrition will help with your concentration, so eat healthily.

90% of the brain is water. Keeping hydrated will make your revision more effective.

Avoid sugary drinks as they can dehydrate your body and affect your concentration.



**Healthy Body,
Healthy Mind**

KEEP FIT

Regular exercise improves your brain's effectiveness and helps to reduce stress.

REST

Take regular study breaks to divide up your revision time.

Make sure you get enough sleep (8.5-9.5 hours recommended for teenagers).

Avoiding caffeinated drinks and sugary snacks in the evening will improve the quality of your sleep.

Exam Boards:

Subject	Qualification	Exam Board
Advanced Maths	FSMQ	
Art & Design	GCSE	
Business Studies	GCSE	
Child Development	Vocational	
Combined Science: Trilogy	2 x GCSE	
Computer Science	GCSE	
Construction	Vocational	
BTEC Tech Award	Vocational	
Design & Technology	GCSE	
Drama	GCSE	
English Language	GCSE	
English Literature	GCSE	
French	GCSE	
Geography	GCSE	

German	GCSE	
Health and Social Care	Vocational	
History	GCSE	
Hospitality and Catering	Vocational	
Mathematics	GCSE	
Music	GCSE	
Physical Education	GCSE	
Photography	GCSE	
Religious Studies	GCSE	
Statistics	GCSE	
Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	3 x GCSE	

Please cut this out and display prominently in the house

REVISION TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.00							
9.00							
10.00							
11.00							
12.00							
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14.00							
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