



REVISION

Matters

January 2026

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Welcome to this first edition of "Revision Matters", which has been designed to help you support your child through their GCSE preparation. Over the next few pages, you will see:

- An overview of the revision programme running in school
- A reminder of the revision resources we have available
- Guidance on helping your child to map out their revision plan over the next four months
- Useful activities you can do to support your child now.

It may be a few months until the main exams begin but now is the right time to get prepared. We hope that you find this information helpful and look forward to supporting you and your child over the coming months.

Several subjects have organised revision clubs to support Year 11 students in their exam preparation. These sessions offer targeted support, helping students strengthen their understanding, practise exam techniques, and address any gaps in knowledge.

The timetable below outlines the current schedule - we will update this regularly as more activities get underway.

Regular, planned revision is key to building confidence and improving performance. The revision clubs complement classroom learning and give students valuable additional time with subject teachers in a focused, collaborative setting.

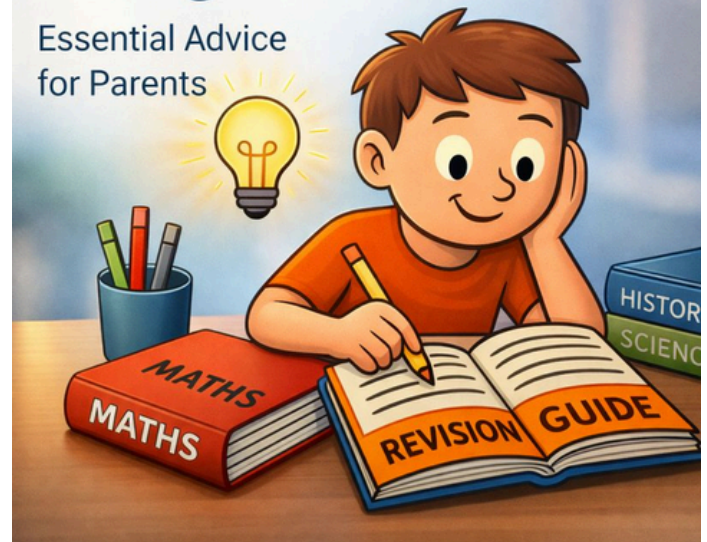
We strongly encourage all students to make the most of this opportunity. With consistent effort and the right support, every student can succeed.

Mrs K Room
Associate Senior Leader,
Raising Standards - Year 11.

Mr S Ottaway
Head of Year 11.

Supporting Your Child Through Their GCSEs

Essential Advice
for Parents



IMPORTANT DATES:

- 10th Feb: Year 11 Reports issued
- 23rd Feb: Food exams
- 25th February: Parents' Evening
- 2nd-3rd March: Maths Mock Exam
- 13th April: Art/Photography Exams
- 21st April: Languages Speaking Exams
- 7th May: Main exam period begins
- 22nd May: Last day in school

REVISION PROGRAMME

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SCHOOL THIS TERM?

Subject	Lunchtime / After school	Location / Room	Due to start on:
MONDAY			
GCSE PE Revision & Coursework	After school	F239	19 th January
Maths Paper Society	After school	G136	Already started
Homework Club	Lunchtime and After school	F223	Already started
TUESDAY			
GCSE Music Revision	Lunchtime	G145	Already started
GCSE Art and Photography Exam Preparation	Lunchtime	F230	Already started
English Literature	After school	F222	2 nd February
English Language	After school	F220	2 nd February
Food NEA 2 Catch Up	After school	G112	20 th January
Textiles NEA Support	After school	G102	Already started
Homework Club	Lunchtime and After school	F223	Already started
WEDNESDAY			
Art and Photography GCSE Extra Session	Lunchtime	F230	Already started
Science Revision - Required Practicals	Lunchtime	L004	21 st January
KS4 Bright Sparx - Maths HWK club	Lunchtime	G101	Already started
GCSE Computer Science	Lunchtime (Week 2 Only)	F234	21 st January
Food Theory Revision	Lunchtime (Week 1 Only)	G103	28 th January
Homework Club	Lunchtime and After school	F223	Already started
THURSDAY			
Term 3 French revision: 3 sessions	After school	F213	15 th , 22 nd , 29 th January
Homework Club	Lunchtime and After school	F223	Already started
COMING AFTER HALF TERM			
English Drop-ins	Lunchtime sessions with a range of teachers to work on past papers and ask questions about exam format and content		
History	Lunchtime exam clinics After school content sessions		
Other subjects	To be confirmed		

AVOIDING THE 'APP TRAP'

NAVIGATING THE PITFALLS OF ONLINE REVISION

THE RISE OF ONLINE REVISION

Thanks to the wonders of algorithms, your newsfeeds and emails may already be filling up with advertisements for tutoring, webinars or miracle apps, all claiming to hold the secret to “jumping 4 grades” or “guaranteed Grade 9s”.

Your child’s phone is sure to be full of them.

There are undoubtedly some fantastic revision resources on the internet but remember that there are no magic solutions. No app, website or online tutor is going to guarantee success unless students put in the effort.

THE BIGGEST TRAPS TO AVOID

- **AI-generated essay responses:** These often don’t meet the exam board mark scheme and may even contain false information.
- **Unreliable or misleading information:** The internet is full of it. Even if the information is correct, it’s no use unless students know how to apply it correctly.
- **“Easy tricks” and “guaranteed Grade 9s”:** if it was that easy, everyone would be doing it.
- **Expensive subscriptions:** It might be worth signing up to a subscription service, but be sure to check independent reviews of the company first.
- **Passive revision:** Simply watching videos is not an effective way to retain information.

WIDELY RECOMMENDED ONLINE RESOURCES

Exam boards

Use exam board websites to access past papers and study tips. You can find the exam boards we use on our website

(Exams > Qualifications)

Seneca learning

Uses spaced repetition and interactive courses across multiple subjects.

Educake

Students can access quizzes for Science, English, PE, History and Geography

Physics and Maths Tutor (PMT)

Free revision notes, past papers and worksheets.

Quizlet

Flashcards for memorising facts and definitions.

BBC Bitesize

Trusted revision notes, videos and quizzes.

Mr Bruff

Videos and exam technique for English Literature and Language.

DIGITAL PLANNING AND ORGANISATION TOOLS

One potentially helpful role for technology is using it to plan revision activities. There are many apps available to help create revision plans and timetables, for example “Sherpa”, a free app which creates a bespoke timetable based on the precise topics that should be revised for each subject.

Even ChatGPT or CoPilot can help to create a tailored revision timetable, or recommend specific revision techniques for different subjects.



"WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?"

PRACTICAL SUPPORT WITH 4 MONTHS TO GO...

SETTING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

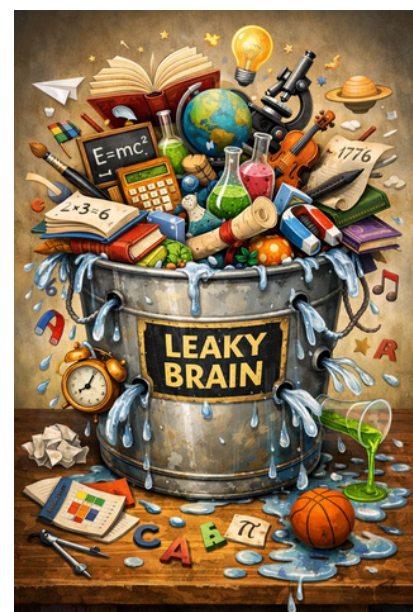
Your child's first formal exams will feel daunting for both of you and it might be hard to know where to start. But don't put off starting. Here are some practical things you can do now to help your child.

Support them to take the first steps.

The exams may still feel a long way off but your child needs to start their revision planning now.

Our brains are like leaky buckets; we very quickly forget the things we learn. We can increase the amount of information we remember by topping up our buckets "little and often", (rather than trying to refill them from empty at the last minute!) so the sooner they get started, the better.

Encourage them to start by revisiting the content they learnt in year 10 - there will be lots that they have forgotten.



Plan ahead.

Now is the time to create a revision plan.

See the example on the next page.

Help them to prioritise.

Ask your child to rank their subjects according to their confidence levels; this will help them know where to focus more of their effort.

They will shortly be filling in a questionnaire at school to reflect on the outcome of their mock exams, so you could go through the results of this with them. Remember that their report will be issued in early February, containing mock grades and MLO (most likely outcomes).

Promote attendance.

It is vital that your child continues to attend school every day, up until the final day on 22nd May. Teachers will be covering important subject content and revision techniques in lessons and you don't want them to miss out.

Encourage your child to attend revision sessions in school whether at lunchtime or after-school (**see page 2 for the schedule**).

Remind them of the 'bigger picture'.

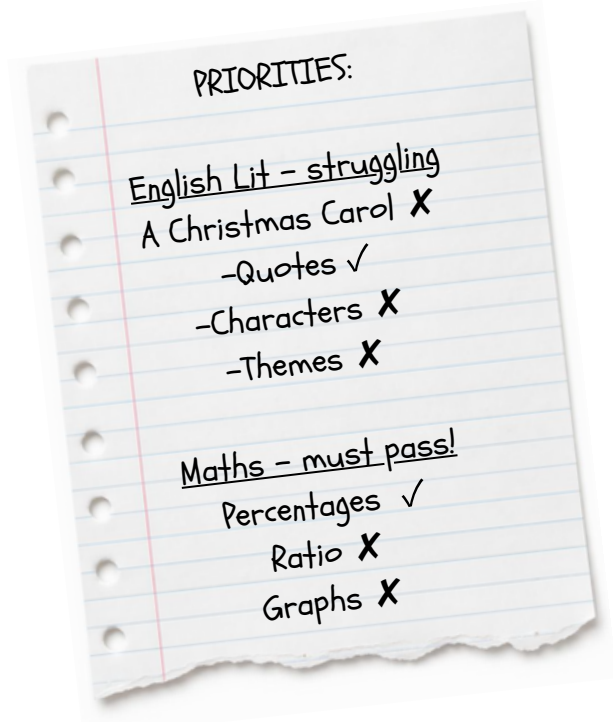
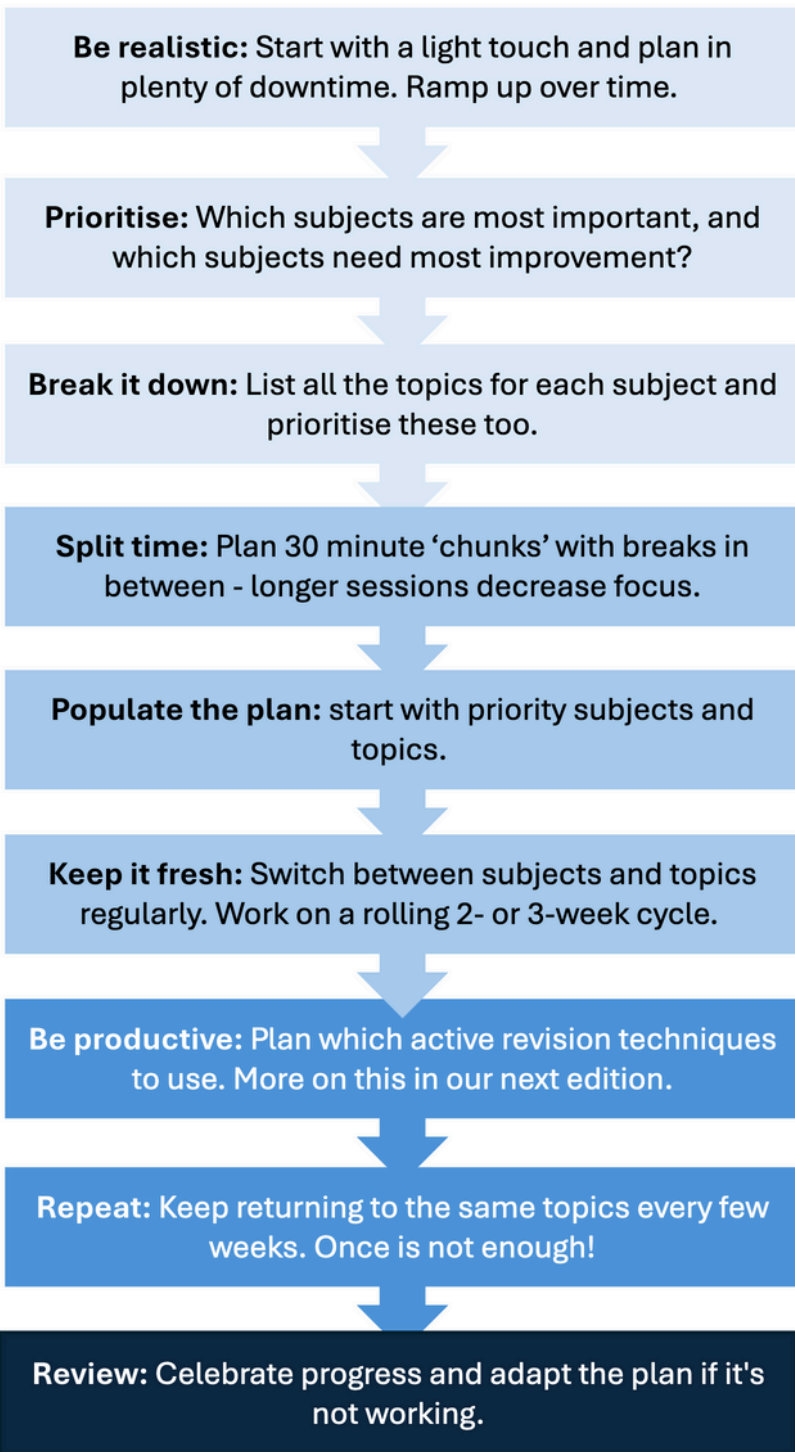
Your child might feel like their whole life has been taken over by GCSEs, so remind them that it's only for a few months and putting in the time to revise now will definitely pay off in the long term.

CREATING A REVISION PLAN

WHAT DOES A GOOD REVISION PLAN LOOK LIKE?

A revision timetable doesn't need to be complicated, but it does need a bit of thought. Here's a step-by-step guide to creating an effective revision plan.

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TIME	SATURDAY	SUNDAY



Don't forget, there are many apps and AI tools that can help to create a revision plan.

If you have any concerns about helping your child prepare for their exams, please get in touch. We want every student to achieve their full potential and we're here to help.

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