

Year 11 GCSE Revision

How Parents Can Help

Success in exams is a team effort which involved you, the school and your child working together!

Motivation



Start with why – Discuss with your child what they want to do after their GCSE's. Make sure they are clear about their grades they may need to get there. Where possible see if other family members can talk to them about this as well.

Take an interest – Ask about their plans, how things are going, what's going well and what not going so well. Remind them of past successes and praise them for their efforts.

Incentives and Rewards – If you do choose to offer a reward or incentive think if it will really increase your child motivation. Discuss this with your child and what sort of reward might motivate them. Consider celebrating their efforts!

Planning



What to revise? – Before your child begins revision they need to make sure they have a few list of subjects and topics they need to revise.

Make a plan – It is important that your child has a plan for their revision. The plan needs to provide enough time to revise all of the topics for each of their subjects. There also needs to be an appropriate balance between revision and social life.

When to revise? – During school days it is important that a regular amount of revision is completed and your child sets up a daily routine. During school holidays provides far more time to revise and a plan for the week should be made.

Revision Sessions



Revision Resources – Make sure your child has the basic equipment such as pens,, pencils, scientific calculator, highlighters, A4 lined paper, revision cards etc...

Revision Environment – Ideally your child will need a permanent, quiet and well lit place to study. When studying please encourage them to ensure their space is free from everything that might cause a distraction such as electronic devices. If your child is revising online many devices allow you to set up a separate user profile which will avoid a constant stream of notifications from social media.

Revise, Test, Rest – An effective session follows a simple formula:

Topic 1: 40 mins revision..... 10 mins Testing 10mins Resting

Topic 2: 40 mins revision..... 10 mins Testing 10mins Resting

Tricky Issues



Watching TV – Insist they don't revision whilst watching the TV (except if its a revision video).

Music – Your working memory is limited, any background noise provides cognitive overload and will make learning much harder. Follow the overwhelming research and advice on this and turn the music off to achieve better exam results!

Pinging – When revising your child needs to find a way to avoid constantly checking their phone.

Silence – Attempting to memorise knowledge and doing exam practice should be done in silence.

Sleep – Discuss regular time for lights out times to develop good routines.

Don't compare – Guaranteed to irritate your child and cause tension between you!