

7/5/24

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Exam Revision Techniques

As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to take a moment to share some valuable information regarding revision techniques to support your child's preparation for their upcoming end-of-year exams.

Before diving into the details, I'd like to mention that we conducted an assembly with Year 8 and Year 9 students on Friday, where we discussed the importance of effective revision strategies. However, I understand the importance of reinforcing this information, which is why I wanted to share it with you as well.

Revision plays a crucial role in exam preparation, and employing effective strategies can significantly enhance your son's learning and retention of key concepts. Moreover, if your child can start revising now, the process will become habitual and, therefore, less onerous when they reach their GCSE examinations. With this in mind, I have compiled a list of five revision tips along with information on various methods of revision.

Revision Tips:

1. **Create a Revision Schedule:**

Encourage your child to develop a structured revision timetable that allocates specific time slots for each subject (20 minutes per subject). These short, sharp sessions can be part of their 90 minutes of academic time each day. This will help them stay organised and ensure that they cover all necessary topics before the exams. Tip from a Y11: "Start your revision now, if you do some at the end of each day you'll get through more revision than you realise".

2. **Active Learning Techniques:**

Encourage active learning by engaging in activities such as summarising notes, creating flashcards, or teaching concepts to others. Active learning ensures that students are processing information multiple times and will therefore be able to recall more of this during their exams. Tip from a Y11: "I hardly ever remember anything from just reading over my notes".

3. **Use Visual Aids:**

Incorporate visual aids such as mind maps, diagrams, and flowcharts to represent key concepts visually. Visual learning can help students better understand complex ideas and enable them to make connections between different topics.

Tip from a Y11: "Using revision videos is a good way to get a summary of different topics".

4. **Take Regular Breaks:**

Encourage your child to take regular breaks during study sessions to prevent burnout and maintain concentration. Short breaks allow the brain to rest and recharge, leading to improved productivity and focus. Tip from a Y11: “Be strict with the timings of your breaks so that you don’t overrun”.

5. **Group Study Sessions:**

Group study sessions, or studying alongside others, can be beneficial for collaborative learning and sharing ideas. Encourage your child to participate in group revision sessions with classmates to discuss concepts, ask questions, and reinforce learning. However, self-discipline is important here so that it doesn’t devolve into social time.

Please note that during exam week, students will have dedicated revision periods. However, it is essential for them to bring in **physical resources** such as textbooks, notes, and revision guides as they will be unable to use electronic devices during these sessions. They can use their revision time now to create these resources.

Thank you for your ongoing support and taking the time to read this letter. Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,

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