

## Useful revision tips

You can support your son/daughter by helping them to follow these tips:

- Plan for half-hour sessions or an hour at most. Any longer and it is likely that nothing more will sink in. Take a short break in between sessions and have a glass of water or something similar to drink.
- In the evenings after school, plan to revise one or two subjects only. Leave some time for relaxation.
- Plan to revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once.
- Ensure that each session starts by tackling the most difficult topics.
- Plan to cover each subject several times and revisit each one near to the exams.
- Revising with the TV or radio on or with loud music is NOT a good idea. Encourage them also to switch off mobile phones, MSN messenger and computer games.
- Reading is not generally enough. Making brief notes in either words or pictures helps them to remember.
- Have all the books they need to hand so they do not have to go off looking for information.
- Encourage them to read the revision guide – ‘Revision Cracked’ which is packed full of tips on all aspects of revision and contains many practical and usable ideas.
- Working with a friend can be useful because it allows them to test each other and to talk about the work. But ensure that they are working!

## How can I help during the exam period?

Try to ensure that:

- Your son/daughter gets a good night’s sleep before exams.
  - They have all the equipment they need:
    - plenty of pens and sharp pencils;
    - a rubber and ruler;
    - a watch.
- Sometimes they may also need:
- a calculator;
  - a protractor.
- They know the dates and the start times of every exam.
  - You wish them well. Tell them they have worked hard enough and that they can only do their best.
  - You look forward to seeing them at the end of the day.
  - You help them to forget about each exam once it is over

## And when it’s all over

Tell your son/daughter to relax and forget about studying for a while. Perhaps you can celebrate by taking them out for a meal.

***“A year from now you may wish you had started today.”***

# Making a difference

## Helping your daughter or son prepare for their GCSEs

### Advice for parents and guardians

### Doing better at GCSE

Year after year, some students do not do as well as they could at GCSE because they do not revise well and they make very common mistakes in exams. This leaflet can help you to help your child make the best of what they have learned during their GCSE courses.

***Students who do their best in the GCSE exams work hard all through Years 10 and 11 rather than relying on last-minute revision.***

### Exam timetable

Pupils will be issued with individual examination timetables. However, it is also important to note that many subjects now use modular examinations and these are ongoing throughout years 10 and 11.

## How can I help my child study?

- Everybody has a way of learning that suits them well. What works best for your child? Do they remember things if they write them down in a list, perhaps draw a spider diagram or maybe record their notes on a cassette tape or instead of writing notes in words, by drawing pictures? Know how they learn best!
- Create a learning environment by securing a quiet place for study where their work can be kept safely.
- Agree times for homework and other activities and stick to it.
- Check and sign your son's/daughter's journal on a weekly basis. Pages 116-121 give valuable advice on study and revision skills.
- Encourage them to ask for help at school if there is anything that they do not understand
- Do not ask them to do too many chores or look after younger brothers and sisters;
- Encourage the rest of the family to help by not disturbing revision;
- Encourage relaxation time (too much study is not helpful);
- Praise hard work;
- Emphasise the need for plenty of sleep

## How can I help my child with coursework/ controlled assessments?

- Be aware of pressure points and deadlines and help your son/daughter to organise their time effectively.
- Do not be afraid to contact your son's/daughter's teacher in order to support the completion of coursework and controlled assessments.

***“Shoot for the moon even if you miss it you'll land among the stars”***

*Les Brown - Author*

## Other materials

Look at useful websites. The school and libraries have access to the Internet.

Try BBC 'Bitesize', [getrevising.co.uk](http://getrevising.co.uk) and the Departments section on the school's website.  
[www.bbc.co.uk/education/revision](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/revision)

[getrevising.co.uk](http://getrevising.co.uk)

Have a look at the materials in bookshops – there are some useful revision guides on sale.

***“Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.”***

*Dag Hammarskjold – Swedish Statesman*

## How can I help my child to revise for exams?

Recognise how important these exams are and how much time your son/daughter will need if they are to do as well as they can. Your support and encouragement can make a huge difference.

Get your son/daughter to check that they have all the notes and texts they need for revision. Get them to talk to their teacher if they are missing any.

Check that they have a revision timetable which includes the dates and times of their examinations

The school can supply a blank revision timetable or you can download one from the following website: [getrevising.co.uk](http://getrevising.co.uk)

Make sure that coursework/controlled assessments deadlines are also included on the revision timetable.

The timetable should be used to plan revision sessions. These should be spread out evenly, so that your son/daughter is not planning to do too much all at once.

Having the timetable displayed in their room is a good idea, which helps them stick to the plan.

Check how they are doing by letting them explain something they have just learned. It's a good rule of thumb that if you can follow their explanation then they will be able to produce a good answer to an exam question on that topic.

Encourage your son/daughter to ask for help at school on any parts of their work they do not understand.

Encourage your son/daughter to persevere and to work hard in the run-up to the exams.