



Supporting Your Child Through GCSEs





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Introduction

The exams your child will take in the summer of 2017 are very important as the grades achieved will determine what he or she does next in life. You will want your child to achieve the best grades that he or she can and this can be made possible when there is a partnership between the student, the school and parents. There are a number of simple things that you can do as parents to help students to be as prepared as possible. Parental support is extremely important in supporting students to achieve. The aim of this booklet is to offer you guidance for supporting your child, to understand what is required for GCSE exams, how to best prepare and also how you can become involved in the revision process. As a parent there is lots you can do to help your child revise for his or her exams, from reminding him or her to attend revision sessions to encouraging him or her with praise and rewards. There are also various

things you can do to support your child with his or her individual subjects.

Exams, particularly important public exams, are stressful for students and probably even more so for their parents. It goes without saying that all children are different, so it follows that there is no single approach to how a parent can help out, but this booklet aims to provide some suggestions and help finding the right approach for your child.

The 3 principles below need to be fundamental in your approach to tackling the rigours of GCSE, because students who do best in exams:

- Have revised thoroughly and carefully;
- Feel confident;
- Have parents who take an interest in their revision.



Advice to parents

Providing the correct environment is essential. An effective study environment needs:

- A desk
- Comfortable chair
- No noise or distraction
- Light and ventilation.

How can you help

- Discuss with your child what will be involved in the revision period and what your role could be.
- Respond positively when he or she asks for help. Ask exactly how you can help and if you can't help immediately, say when it's convenient.
- Give plenty of praise and encouragement. Point out what he or she is good at. Tell him or her daily what he or she does well.
- Don't dwell on the errors - emphasise the positives.
- Keep him or her well supplied with food and drinks.
- Keep a low profile.
- Be prepared to listen when he or she want to talk about problems as everything becomes more emotional and heightened during the exam period.
- Encourage him or her to take regular breaks during long periods of revision.
- Encourage morning revision when the brain is more receptive and discourage studying right up to bedtime.

Don't

- Make comparisons with brothers, sisters, friends and so on.
- Unintentionally add to his or her worries by constantly mentioning the exams.
- Relate too much to when you were sitting exams at school or how you did your revision.
- Worry if his or her revision techniques seem strange or unusual.
- Make a battle out of whether or not he or she listens to music when doing his or her revision.
- Distract them unnecessarily.
- Expect him or her to study all the time as taking some time out to relax will have a positive effect on his or her work.
- Join in the general anxiety; be a picture of serene confidence.

In summary there is a great deal you can do as a parent. You can't revise for them and, however much you'd like to, you can't take the exams for them, but you can be invaluable in making the exam process smooth, calm and successful.

Please remember

Don't hesitate to contact the Academy for help and advice.

Revision and support

Supporting your child is essential to ensure that he or she reaches his or her potential. The next section aims to provide information to support your child in specific subjects and some general advice to ensure that he or she stays motivated at such a stressful and challenging time.

How do we keep the motivation up?

Things your child may say and what advice you can give him or her.

- "I find the subject too difficult, I want to give it up" - Don't stop going to, or working in, lessons you find hard or dislike. Talk to your class teacher about any difficulties you are having – there is always a solution.
- "I don't want to do any revision as I am not in the mood" – Create a revision schedule and stick to it – even when you don't feel like it. Don't wait until you are in the mood, the further behind you get the less you will be in the mood.
- "Everything is going wrong, I cannot do anything, who cares". Resist the temptation to bury your head in the sand, if things are getting out of hand talk to someone.
- "My friends aren't doing any revision and their parents don't nag them, leave me alone". Ignore what friends and others are doing or saying.

How parents can help keep their child motivated in the build up to exams

- Agree the balance between work and social life and stick to the agreement.
- Again, flexibility is the key – if a special night comes up, agree that they can make up the work at a specified time.
- All students fall behind, feel demotivated or overwhelmed, or struggle with the balance of social, work and school demands at times. When your child feels like this, berating and threatening him or her will have a negative effect. Talk to him or her about the issues, acknowledge their feelings and adopt a sensible attitude in wanting to find a solution.
- Be flexible – use the 80/20 rule. If your child is sticking to what he or she is supposed to be doing 80% of the time, he or she will be doing alright. Reward your child's efforts to revise, maybe reduce the number of chores that he or she has to do when exams start.
- Make sure the whole family respect the importance of keeping disturbances to a minimum.



English

Resources

- CGP Workbook. Published by CGP - (available on Parent Pay)
- CGP Revision Guide. Published by CGP - (available on Parent Pay)
- The Vale Learning Platform – Students – Key Stage 4 Year 11 Language & Literature

Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/gcse/english
- www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700
- www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702
- www.getrevising.co.uk

Maths

Resources

- CGP Workbook. Published by CGP - (available on Parent Pay)
- CGP Revision Guide. Published by CGP - (available on Parent Pay)
- The Vale Learning Platform

Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcse/bitesize/maths
- qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf

Science

Resources

- CGP Revision Guide Foundation. Core, Additional and Further Additional Published by CGP- (available on Parent Pay)
- CGP Revision Guide Higher. Published by CGP Core, Additional and Further Additional - (available on Parent Pay)

Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcse/bitesize/science

Computer Science

Resources

- Hodder Revision Guide (available on Parent Pay)
- School learning platform – Revision guides, practice papers, workbooks, lesson notes
- Excellence day to focus on controlled assessment, date tbc.
- Revision day, date tbc.

Websites

- www.cambridgegcsecomputing.org
- www.cambridge.org/gcse-computing
- My.dyaminc-learning.co.uk
- www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computing-j275-from-2012
- www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z34k7ty

Technology

Students can access the ICT room in technology to work on their controlled assessment and print work off that is due to be handed in. Deadlines will be set throughout the coursework for each criteria point.

Product Design

Resources

- CGP D&T Product Design will be available on parent pay until 18th November
- Smart phone App – J Plimmer Product Design (Free)

Websites

- www.technologystudent.com (Select Product Design)

Catering

Resources

- CGP D&T WJEC Catering will be available on parent pay until 18th November
- The practical exam week for CA2 will be w/c 6th March 2017 – individual days will be given in the new year
- The deadline for the controlled assessment written aspect of this unit will be the 24th March 2017
- Students are encouraged to practice their practical exam and table setting at home. There will be a letter in the new year to explain this in further detail

Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/school/gcse/footechnology

Graphics

Resources and Support Materials

- Lonsdale 'The essentials of GCSE design and technology: Graphic Products' revision guide, edited by Debbie Eason
- Lonsdale 'The essentials of GCSE design and technology: Graphic Products Workbook', edited by Russel Jones. Can be used as a structured revision programme

Websites

- Technology Student
www.technologystudent.com/
- BBC Bitesize
www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zdqmhyc
- The Vale Academy Learning Platform KS4 Graphics Y10/11
schoolpartnershiptrust.org.sharepoint.com/SitePages/SPTA.aspx

Textiles

Resources

- CGP D&T Textiles will be available on parent pay until 18th November
- Coursework help booklet
- Classroom resources on the Learning platform

Websites

- textiles4u.wikispaces.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zkj2tfr



History

Resources

The Humanities faculty make their own History revision guides for each topic that are supplied by teachers but strongly recommend the following revision guide by the chief examiner for the OCR GCSE History B exam:

- OCR GCSE Modern World History Revision Guide Paperback by Ben Walsh and Wayne Birks
- The textbook produced by the chief examiner specifically for this course: OCR GCSE Modern World History (History In Focus) Paperback by Ben Walsh

Both are available from amazon.co.uk

Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitsize/history
- www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-history-b-modern-world-j418-from-2013
- www.schoolhistory.co.uk
- www.historyonthenet.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools
- www.historylearningsite.co.uk
- www.johndclare.net
- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/default.htm

Geography

Resources

- WJEC Geography B Revision Guide. Published by Hodder Education (available on Parent Pay)
- WJEC Geography for WJEC B Textbook publisher by Hodder Education

Websites

- <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/geography/geography-gcse/geography-b-gcse.html>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitsize/geography>

French, German & Spanish

Resources

- GCSE Complete Revision & Practice with audio CD (A*-G course) Published by CGP, available on their website (Available for French, Spanish and German)
- GCSE Revision Guide (A*-G course) Published by CGP, available on their website (Available for French, Spanish and German)
- GCSE Bundle (A*-G course) Published by CGP, available on their website (Available for French, Spanish and German)

Websites

- Learning platform - exam papers and mark schemes www.vocabexpress.com/login students have their own personal login for this vocabulary building site
- www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z98jmp3 choose Modern Foreign Languages & then the language you study

In addition, students also have a clear zip lock plastic wallet containing a vocabulary booklet for the language they are studying as well as other helpful booklets, guides & sheets. Revision for their listening & reading exams is essential. Using the Vocab Express website 2/3 times a week is proven to have a positive impact on raising grades.

PE

Resources

- All students have been provided with Revise for Edexcel GCSE PE guide (purple) and all have an A5 revision booklet

Websites

- Learning platform - exam papers and mark schemes
- DO NOT use Bitesite as it is not compatible with Edexcel

BTEC Level 1/2 Award in Sport

Resources

- Students have been provided with paper copies of the online exam and answer booklets as well as being directed to purchase
- BTEC First in Sport Revision guide ISBN: 978 1 84762 461 1

Websites

- Learning platform - exam papers and mark schemes

Drama

Resources

- 'Blackout' script by Davey Anderson- supplied by school

Websites

- www.ocr.org.uk/Images/82476-specification.pdf
- BBC Bitesize Drama - www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zbckjxs

Music

Resources

- GCSE music revision guide OCR Rhinegold
- GCSE Music study guide OCR Rhinegold
- CGP OCR Areas of Study
- All available from the music department

Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/GCSE/music
- www.youtube.com/watch OCR listening revision

BTEC Music (Level 2)

Websites

- www.careersinmusic.com
- www.memrise.com
- www.theguardian.com/

Expressive Arts & Drama

Due to the practical nature of this subject, students must be prepared to work on their performances or artworks after school to rehearse and develop ideas.

Mock Exam Timetable

Week beginning	Mock Exams
21st November 2016	English and maths mock exams
5th & 12th December 2016	All subjects except English, maths and science
23rd January 2017	English, maths and additional science mock exams
13th March 2017	English, maths and further additional science mock exams

February Intervention Day – Friday 17th February 2017

Resources

The Academy operates a highly successful intervention day; when only Year 11 attend. This is compulsory for Year 11 and allows bespoke intervention sessions to be delivered which has a significant impact on improving grades.

Final GCSE Exams

Final GCSE exam timetables will be issued later in the academic year. Final GCSE exams are in **May and June 2017**.

Exam regulations published by the JCQ

A Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

- 1 Be on time for all your exams. If you are late, your work might not be accepted
- 2 Do not become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the exam
- 3 If you try to cheat, or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your subjects
- 4 You must not take into the exam room:
 - Notes
 - Potential technological/web enabled sources of information such as an iPod, a mobile phone, a MP3/4 player, a smartwatch or a wrist watch which has a data storage device.
 - Any pencil cases taken into the exam room must be see-through.
 - Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.
- 5 Do not use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers
- 6 Do not talk to or try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once the exam has started
- 7 You must not write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material
- 8 If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you will not be allowed to return
- 9 Do not borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.

B Information – Make sure you attend your exams and bring what you need

- 1 Know the dates and times of all your exams
- 2 Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of each exam
- 3 If you arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam
- 4 If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam, you may not be allowed to take it
- 5 Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other equipment which you need for the exam
- 6 You must write clearly and in black ink. Coloured pencils or inks may only be used for diagrams, maps, charts, etc. unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.

C Calculators, Dictionaries and Computer Spell-checkers

- 1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise
- 2 If you use a calculator:
 - Make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly
 - Clear anything stored in it
 - Remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulas
 - Do not bring into the exam room any operating instructions or prepared programs
- 3 Do not use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told otherwise.

D Instructions during the exam

- 1 Always listen to the invigilator. Follow their instructions at all times
- 2 Tell the invigilator at once if:
 - You think you have not been given the right question paper or all of the materials listed on the front of the paper;
 - The question paper is incomplete or badly printed.
- 3 Read carefully and follow the instructions printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet
- 4 Fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and/or the answer booklet before you start the exam. Make sure you fill these details in on any additional answer sheets that you use.
- 5 Remember to write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet
- 6 Do your rough work on the proper exam stationery. Cross it through and hand it in with your answers
- 5 Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use.

E Advice and assistance

- 1 If on the day of the exam you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator
- 2 Put up your hand during the exam if:
 - you have a problem and are in doubt about what you should do
 - you do not feel well
 - you need more paper
- 3 You must not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

F At the end of the exam

- 1 If you have used more than one answer booklet and/or any supplementary answer sheets, place them in the correct order. Place any loose additional answer sheets inside your answer booklet. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use
- 2 Do not leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator
- 3 Do not take from the exam room any stationery. This includes the question paper, answer booklets used or unused, rough work or any other materials provided for the exam.



Warning to Candidates

1. You **must** be on time for all your examinations.
2. You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.
3. You **must not**:
 - sit an examination in the name of another candidate;
 - have in your possession any unauthorised material or equipment which might give you an unfair advantage.
4. **Possession of a mobile phone** or other unauthorised material **is breaking the rules**, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.
5. You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.
6. You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.
7. If you are in any doubt speak to the invigilator.

The *Warning to Candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.

Effective from 1 September 2014



**NO IPODS, MOBILE PHONES
MP3/4 PLAYERS
SMARTWATCHES**

**NO POTENTIAL
TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB ENABLED
SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone, is a serious offence and could result in

DISQUALIFICATION
from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

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Exam information

Subject	Exam Board	Specification	Controlled Assessment	Exams
English Language	AQA	9-1 GCSE	N/A	Paper 1 (1hr 45) – Explorations in creative reading & writing
	AQA	9-1 GCSE	N/A	Paper 2 (1hr 45) – Writers' viewpoints & perspectives
English Literature	AQA	9-1 GCSE	N/A	Paper 1 (1hr 45) – Shakespeare & 19 th C novel
	AQA	9-1 GCSE	N/A	Paper 2 (2hr 15) – Modern Drama & Poetry.
Maths	Edexcel	9-1 GCSE	N/A	Paper 1 (1hr 30) – Non-calculator Paper 2 (1hr 30) – Calculator Paper 3 (1hr 30) – Calculator
Science	AQA	Science A (core)	25%	3 x 1hr exams Biology, Chemistry and Physics
	AQA	Additional science	25%	3 x 1hr exams Biology, Chemistry and Physics
	AQA	Further Additional science	25%	3 x 1hr exams Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Product Design	AQA	GCSE A*-G	60%	40% unit 1 (2hr) – 120 marks 26 th June am
Textiles	AQA	GCSE A*-G	60%	40% unit 1 (2hr) – 120 marks 23 rd May am
Catering	WJEC	GCSE A*-G	60% 20% CA1 40% CA2	40% unit 1 (1hr 15mins) Tuesday 13th June pm Practical exam W/C 6th March 2017
Graphic Products	Edexcel	GCSE A*-G	60%	40% unit 1 (1hr 30mins) 20th June pm
French German Spanish	AQA	French 4655 German 4665 Spanish 4695	Speaking 30% 2 recordings completed by Easter 2017 Writing 30% 2 pieces completed by Easter 2017	Foundation Listening: 35 mins Higher Listening: 45 mins Foundation Reading: 30 mins Higher Reading: 50 mins
Geography	WJEC	B	25% Due 1/11/16	Paper 1 (1 hr) – Unit 1 + 2 Paper 2 – Unit 3 (30 mins) + Paper 3 – Decision making 1hr 30 mins - covers all 3 units
History	OCR	B (J418)	25% Due 2/12/16	Paper 1 (2 hrs) – Cold War 1945-75 and Germany 1918-45 topics Paper 2 (1 hr 30 mins) – How far did British society change 1890-1918?
PE GCSE	Edexcel	2PE01	60% Completed by March 2017 (All students need to complete badminton officials course after school)	Exam 1 hour 30 minutes

Exam information

Subject	Exam Board	Specification	Controlled Assessment	Exams
BTEC Level 1/2 Award in Sport	Edexcel			Year 11 Units to be completed are the compulsory units which will have a directed impact on the overall grade Unit 1 Fitness Testing and Training Unit 2 Practical Sport Exam: Monday 12th December
Computer Science	OCR	J275	60% (A452 already complete) A453 due in 1st review 18th Feb 2017	A451 1hr 30 min
Music	OCR		B351 Solo performance Composition linked to solo performance Commentary B352 Ensemble performance Composition written for an ensemble. Log	B353 Creative task 45 minute exam Production of a composition from a given stimulus B354 Listening and analysis exam Questions based on the following: AoS 2 Shared music Romantic Songs-Lieder / Pop Ballads / Classical Concerto / Jazz / Indian Classical / Gamelan / Baroque and Classical Chamber Music / Baroque and Classical structure / Baroque and Classical Melody patterns / The Great Choral Classics / African a Capella Singing AoS 3 Dance Music Waltz / Salsa / Tango / Line Dance-American / Irish Jig and Reel / Bhangra / Disco / Club Dance AoS 4 Descriptive Music Programme Music-from 1820 onwards Film Music
BTEC Music (Level 2)	Edexcel	First Award in Music	75% Unit 2 Due Dec 2016 Units 4+5 Due April 2017	Unit 1 Exam 17th Jan 2017 (25%) Covering: Recording & Media Jobs / Employment and Contracts / Production and Promotion / Service Companies and Agencies / Trade Bodies (MPG, APRS, PLASA) / Performance, Recording, Media & Creative Jobs / Management & Promotion Jobs
Drama	OCR	J316	Unit A581: From Page to Stage- 30% Unit A582: Drama in the Making- 30%	Unit A583 From Concept to Creation: Practical examination- 40%



Tips for revision

How students can improve their chances of getting at least a Grade 'C' or Grade '5.' There are a number of factors which cause students to lose marks in the exams. The factors below are often reported by examiners. Here is a list of factors that you need to be aware of and concentrate on:

- Starting revision in good time – leave it too late and students will start panicking. The best advice is to, **“Make them start!” – then the hard bit is over!**

Give the following advice

- Plan for half hour to one hour revision slots. Nothing extra is likely to sink in if one subject is revised for much longer.
- When revising during the evenings plan 1 or 2 subjects only. Leave some time for relaxation.
- Allow some days off, but not in the few weeks just before the exams.
- Plan to revise specific topics or aspects of a subject – for example, not just science, but human systems, or waves, or chemical reactions or electricity.

- Read through a topic and then make brief notes on cards which can be used for further revision later.
- Use colours to highlight key works.
- Work in small groups to discuss a topic.

How to Revise – practice tests; guidance for parents

- Use revision notes to test your child.
- Revision over time leads to better recall than cramming. Help students to do this by spacing their revision for all subjects over time, using a revision timetable.
- Consider encouraging explanatory questioning to promote learning; for example, by asking students “Why?” when they tell you information about things they know.

E.g. Student: “I know that temperature increases the rate of a chemical reaction”
Parent: “Why is that?”

Extra classes

English				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor by invitation with Mrs Wray After school by invitation	Tutor by invitation with Mrs Wray After school by invitation	Tutor by invitation with Mrs Wray Tutor Set 4 with Mrs Sullivan After school by invitation	Tutor by invitation with Mrs Wray Tutor Set 4 with Mrs Sullivan After school by invitation	Tutor by invitation with Mrs Wray After school by invitation
Maths				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school Grade 4-5 (JPT) Grade 8-9 CZ (G5) Tutor & after school with SFB	Lunchtime Grade 6+ CZ (G5) After school Tutor & after school with SFB	After school Grade 6+ RCA (G3) Tutor & after school with SFB	Lunch time Grade 3-4 AWS (G6) Tutor & after school with SFB	Tutor with SFB
Science				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Lunchtime revision Physics WLI with MC		Lunchtime revision chemistry LM in WL2	Lunchtime revision Biology AD in WL5
Computer Science				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After School – 3.30 - 5.00pm IT2 with DBN/JKR				
Graphics				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 12.25 - 1.15pm Afterschool 3.20 - 4.30pm (by arrangement only)	Lunchtime 12.25 - 1.15pm Afterschool 3.20 - 4.30pm (by arrangement only)	Lunchtime 12.25 - 1.15pm Afterschool 3.20 - 4.30pm (by arrangement only)	Lunchtime 12.25 - 1.15pm Afterschool 3.20 - 4.30pm (by arrangement only)	Lunchtime 12.25 - 1.15pm
Catering				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school 3.20-4.30		Lunchtime ICT3 with JWS Afterschool 3.20-4.30pm		
Textiles				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime ICT3 with JWS Afterschool 3.20-4.30pm		Lunchtime ICT3 with JWS		

Extra classes

Product Design				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school 3.20-4.20pm		After school 3.20-4.30pm		
MFL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
French speaking practice W10 office with Mrs Volland	French speaking practice W10 office with Mrs Volland	French speaking practice W10 office with Mrs Volland	French speaking practice W10 office with Mrs Volland	French speaking practice W10 office with Mrs Volland
Geography				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.20pm Case Studies Mr J. Hastings	3.20pm General revision	3.20pm Geographical Skills Mr K. Cooper	3.20pm Controlled Assessment Mr C. Hoare	
History				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Lunchtime Grades C/E W7 with LMI After school Grades A*-B W7 with LMI/LV	
Music				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After school Performance and composition. Listening from March		After school Performance and composition. Listening from March		
PE GCSE				
Intervention and revision starts after practical element is completed in March 2017				
BTEC Level 1/2 Award in Sport				
Coursework intervention and exam revision will start 12:25 on Tuesday 1st November in ICT 3				
Expressive Arts				
Lunchtime Course- work Clinic After school coursework clinic/ Rehearsals with JWe/ RC	Lunchtime Course- work Clinic After school coursework clinic/ Rehearsals with JWe/ RC		Lunchtime Coursework Clinic After school coursework clinic/ Rehearsals with JWe/ RC	
Drama				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime Coursework Clinic After school coursework clinic/ Rehearsals with JWe/ RC	Lunchtime Coursework Clinic After school coursework clinic/ Rehearsals with JWe/ RC	After school coursework clinic/ rehearsals with JWe	Lunchtime Coursework Clinic After school coursework clinic/ Rehearsals with JWe/ RC	After school coursework clinic/ rehearsals with JWe

Attendance

At The Vale Academy we consider 95% and above as good attendance. Good attendance is vital to achieve good outcomes. DFE studies show students with attendance below 92% achieve on average one grade lower than students with attendance above 92%.

Careers

Use career discussions to help to motivate your child to revise. All students have access to U-Explore (<https://login.u-explore.com/Login.aspx>) to search for information about careers and the next step in their education. The next step is rapidly approaching and having an idea of the 6th Form, College or course that your child wants to progress to will help him or her to focus on achieving the best outcomes possible for his or her GCSEs.

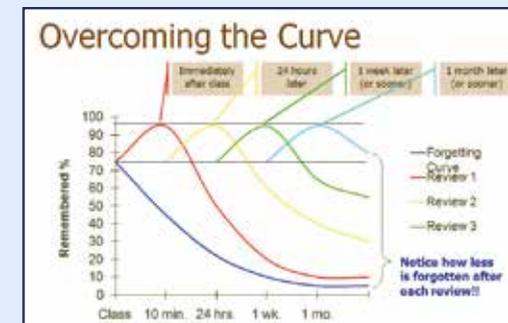


Frequently asked questions

- **Are GCSEs really that important?** Yes, they are. GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. They are the first step in allowing your child to move on to further education or to a career. They have been the benchmark for measuring student ability for more than 25 years
- **What results should my son/daughter aim to get?** A grade C or grade 5 is considered a good pass, but many post-16 courses require a B+ grade and many courses and colleges require students to have at least 5 good GCSE

- passes at Grade C including English and Maths at Grade 5
- **Will my child have to re do maths and English?** Your child must get a grade 5 in English or Maths otherwise they will have to continue studying the subjects until they are 18
- **Is it ever too early to begin revising?** Students who do their best in the GCSE exams work hard all through Year 11 rather than relying on last minute revision. It is best for students to start revision early and to keep revising during the year by doing little but often

This diagram called the **Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve** illustrates how information is quickly forgotten unless it is reviewed at spaced intervals.



Source: <http://www.mentormegate.com/wordpress/2014/06/10/mentor-me-gate-the-forgetting-curve>

Take the next step with us..

Top quality teaching

Smaller class sizes

A tutor who knows you and treats you as an individual

A personalised timetable

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