**GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS IN SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD’S REVISION**

**How should they set up their revision?**

When revising, your child should try to **recreate exam conditions** as much as possible. Research shows that by doing this, they will be able to perform much better in their exams. They should:

* Set up a **dedicated revision space**
* Have **no distractions** where possible including no phone
* Try to revise in a quiet space **without listening to music**

**How long should my child be revising for each day?**

It is important that pupils do not attempt to complete too much revision in one revision session but instead break it down into smaller chunks. **The recommended time that pupils should revise is 25-30 minutes.** This ensures that pupils can complete a focused revision session. They should use a timer (ideally not using a phone unless it is on flight mode) and when the timer goes off, have a short break from their revision and walk away from their revision space. This allows the information they have been revising to sink in.

**We recommend that pupils complete 3-4 revision ‘chunks’ per day.** There is an example revision timetable on Google Classrooms. **It is important that students create a revision timetable that works for them and that they are going to be able to stick to.** They also need to make sure they build in enough breaks so that they do become overwhelmed in the build up to their exams.

It may be that just prior to the exams they complete more revision per day but the above is a guidance to help you.

**Revision is most effective if it is spaced out over a longer period of time rather than cramming just before the exam.** This allows pupils’ knowledge and understanding to be much more secure. It is best to not revise one subject in all their sessions for one day but instead spread their subjects out over the week. **If they have not already started revising for their exams this summer, they should start revising now.**

**What sort of revision activities should they be doing?**

**Revision should be active rather than passive.** In their exams, your child will be tested on what they can retrieve from their long term memory to then use in their working memory. **Therefore their revision should focus on retrieval exercises which practise what they will be tested on in their exams.** They should try to avoid recognition activities such as reading through their notes – this is a passive activity which only allows them to recognise information rather than retrieve what they actually know.

Retrieval practice can be difficult and certainly feels more challenging to students than re-reading their notes. However, their exams will not be testing them on what they can read and recognise but on the information they can remember and then apply in new questions and situations and therefore this is what they need to do during preparation for the exams.

**Retrieval activities include:**

* **Completing practice questions** – these might be in revision guides, given by their class teacher or using online resources
* **Past paper questions** (see below on where pupils can access these)
* **Having someone test them** – it can be really useful to ask elaboration style questions such as how and why things work or asking them to describe what they are doing at each step and why they are doing it that way on problem solving questions
* **Create flashcards** with the question on one side and answer on the other – they can then either use these to test themselves or get someone else to test them to see if they can answer the questions
* **Create mind maps -** there is further guidance on these in the revision booklet

**What resources can they use?**

* **Revision checklists** – these will be put on the year group page on Google Classroom giving information on what they need to revise for each of their subjects
* **Past papers** – check the revision booklet for what exam board they are doing for each subject and you will be able to find past papers on the relevant exam board website
* **Seneca Learning** <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/> – a website which has a wide range of practice questions for many subjects
* **Revision guides** – these generally include a range of practice questions – please ask subject teachers if you would like a specific recommendation
* **GCSE Pod** – [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) – a wide range of revision videos and resources
* **Oak National Academy** <https://www.thenational.academy/>– online videos, teaching resources and revision activities

Students will also have revision sessions delivered by Ms Chalmers during Mentor time and can speak with their Mentors, subject teachers, Heads of Year or Ms Chalmers if they would like or need further guidance and support with their revision.