

# A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SUPPORTING THEIR CHILD THROUGH THEIR

# GCSEs



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## GCSE INFORMATION AND KEY DATES

### Pre-Public Exams

- The next round of Pre-Public exams start on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – students will have February half term to revise. They will prepare a revision timetable during Form Time and should follow this during the evenings before half term, and during half term itself – you can ask to see this as parents to ensure they are following it

### GCSE Summer Exams

- GCSE Exams start on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 and the final exam takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (please do not book holidays before 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as students need to be available until this date – this is the exam boards contingency date)
- All students will be emailed a **personalised** exam timetable to their school email (April 2024), which they should use to build their GCSE revision timetable
- GCSE Revision Timetables: students will receive a blank revision timetable and will fill this in during Form Time according to their GCSE exams. They will be taught how to plan for revision leading up to the date their exam takes place. They should use this revision plan at home to guide them but also enabling parents to check that revision is taking place
- Please ensure your child attends all exams in full school uniform (including their tie, blazer and school shoes) and most importantly, has all the correct equipment for each of their exams

GCSE Results Day is on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

### Post 16 Options

- Sir Graham Balfour Sixth Form application deadline was: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – see Mrs R Jones for more information
- Students choosing to enroll on a college course as opposed to joining our Sixth Form should be choosing a course that is a Level 3 (Level 3 is the next level above GCSE level) and should not be accepting Level 1 or 2 course offers unless the course is a vocational course
- See final page for more information

# WHAT IS A REVISION TIMETABLE AND HOW DOES MY CHILD CREATE ONE?

*A REVISION TIMETABLE IS A TOOL FOR MANAGING STUDY TIME AND EXAM PREPARATION*

## WHAT SHOULD A REVISION TIMETABLE INCLUDE IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE?

- IT SHOULD BREAK DOWN REVISION INTO SMALL CHUNKS
- IT SHOULD SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY WHAT YOUR CHILD INTENDS TO REVISE/STUDY AND FOR HOW LONG
- IT SHOULD NAME TOPICS/UNITS, INSTEAD OF IDENTIFYING GENERIC SUBJECTS LIKE “ENGLISH” OR “MATHS”
- IDENTIFY THE TOPIC AND WHAT REVISION STRATEGY IS BEING USED: ENGLISH + CREATE MINDMAP
- REVISION BREAKS/TIME OUT SHOULD BE INCLUDED

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN EFFECTIVE REVISION TIMETABLE

	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>EXAMS this WEEK</b>					
<b>4pm</b>	English Literature – Romeo and Juliet Characters <a href="#">Mindmap</a>	Science Biology – infection and response cue cards	Psychology – memory knowledge organiser		
<b>4.30pm</b>	English Literature – Romeo and Juliet Characters <a href="#">Mindmap</a>	Science Biology – infection and response cue cards	Psychology – memory knowledge organiser		
<b>5pm</b>	English Literature – Romeo and Juliet Characters <a href="#">Mindmap</a>	Science Biology – exam questions on infection and response	Psychology – memory knowledge organiser	Geography – <a href="#">mindmap</a> on Natural Hazards	
<b>5.30pm</b>	BREAK - gym	Maths Paper 1 – Past Paper	Psychology – memory knowledge organiser	Geography – <a href="#">mindmap</a> on Natural Hazards	
<b>6pm</b>	BREAK – gym	Maths Paper 1 – Past Paper		Geography – <a href="#">mindmap</a> on Natural Hazards	Prepare revision materials and notes for Saturday morning
<b>6.30pm</b>	English Literature – character exam question (50 mins)	Maths Paper 1 – Past Paper		Geography – <a href="#">mindmap</a> on Natural Hazards	Prepare revision materials and notes for Saturday morning
<b>7pm</b>	English Literature – character exam question (50 mins)	Maths Paper 1 – Past Paper		English Language – Paper 2, Section B Past Exam Question	OUT WITH FRIENDS
<b>7.30pm</b>	English Literature – character exam question (50 mins)	BREAK	English Language – Section B – describe the scene using the pictures and my revision <a href="#">table</a>	English Language – Paper 2, Section B Past Exam Question	OUT WITH FRIENDS
<b>8pm</b>			English Language – Section B – describe the scene using the pictures and my revision <a href="#">table</a>		OUT WITH FRIENDS
<b>9pm</b>			English Language – Section B – describe the scene using the pictures and my revision <a href="#">table</a>		OUT WITH FRIENDS

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<b>9pm</b>			English Language – Section B – describe the scene using the pictures and my revision <a href="#">table</a>		OUT WITH FRIENDS

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH A BLANK ONE OF THESE

**TOP TIP: MAXIMISE REVISION TIME BY GETTING YOUR CHILD TO PREPARE THEIR REVISION MATERIALS THE NIGHT BEFORE**

# HOW DOES MY CHILD KNOW WHAT TO REVISE?

STEP 1: STUDENTS SHOULD REVIEW THEIR PROGRESS USING THEIR MENTORING SHEET (SEE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS BELOW) AND ANY IN-CLASS ASSESSMENTS





Multi-Academy Trust

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Form: 11U 2022-2023 Attendance 83.8% Date: 27/01/2023

SUBJECT	Y10 AP3	PROGRESS 8 SCORE: -1.19		Y11 AP1	PROGRESS 8 SCORE: -2.25			
	TARGET	PPE	PG	PPE	PG	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
English Language	6	3	5	n/a	4	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
English Literature	6	n/a	5	4	4	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
Mathematics	6	1	3	2	2	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
Art	6	4	5	6	5	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
Creative Media BTEC	L2D	X	L2M	L1D	L2P	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
Geography	6	1	2	2	2	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
Spanish	5	3	4	3	3	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework
Science (Trilogy)	6-5	3-3	4-3	4-3	3-3	Behaviour	Effort & Revision	Homework

SEN Code: - Prior Attainment: M - Pupil Premium: Y

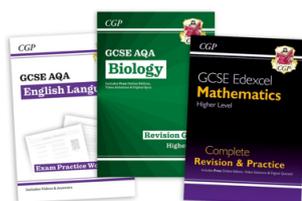
**Behaviour Summary**

Merits	De-Merits	Overall Conduct	Total HO
79	10	69	16

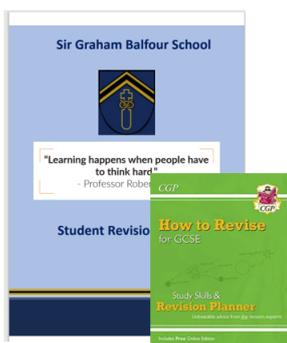
STEP 2: STUDENTS THEN USE THEIR MENTORING SHEETS AND IN-CLASS ASSESSMENTS TO IDENTIFY SUBJECT AREAS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS TO REVISE. THEY WRITE THESE ON THEIR REVISION TIMETABLE

1. STUDENTS SHOULD USE THEIR MENTORING SHEETS/CLASS ASSESSMENTS TO IDENTIFY THEIR WEAKEST AREAS FIRST
2. CREATE A REVISION TIMETABLE TO ADDRESS THESE AREAS
3. REMEMBER WRITE DOWN A SPECIFIC TOPIC AND A REVISION STRATEGY
  - “Romeo and Juliet Characters – mindmap”
  - “Components of Fitness – knowledge organiser”

# WHAT CAN MY CHILD USE TO REVISE?



**REVISION GUIDES  
PURCHASED BY THE  
SCHOOL**



**HOW TO REVISE GUIDES**



**PERSONALISED REVISION PLAN**

WEBSITES AND APPS

# WHAT DOES “ACTIVE” REVISION LOOK LIKE AND WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?

1. CREATE AN ORGANISED REVISION SPACE FOR YOUR CHILD TO REVISE  
(AVOID LOUD MUSIC, MOBILE PHONES AND THE TV BEING ON)



MAKE REVISION  
“VISIBLE”  
*Displaying post-it-  
notes with key  
dates/terms and  
information on the  
wall is good for  
memory*

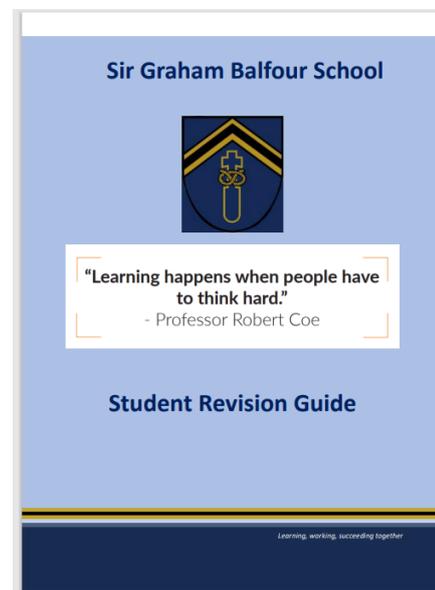
2. “ACTIVE REVISION” IS WHERE STUDENTS DON’T SIMPLY JUST READ THEIR CLASSNOTES AND REVISION GUIDES BUT **DO/CREATE** SOMETHING WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE

GET YOUR CHILD TO FOLLOW THE REVISION STRATEGIES IN THE ‘STUDENT REVISION GUIDE’

TOP TIP 1: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

TOP TIP 2: FLASHCARDS

TOP TIP 3: MINDMAPS

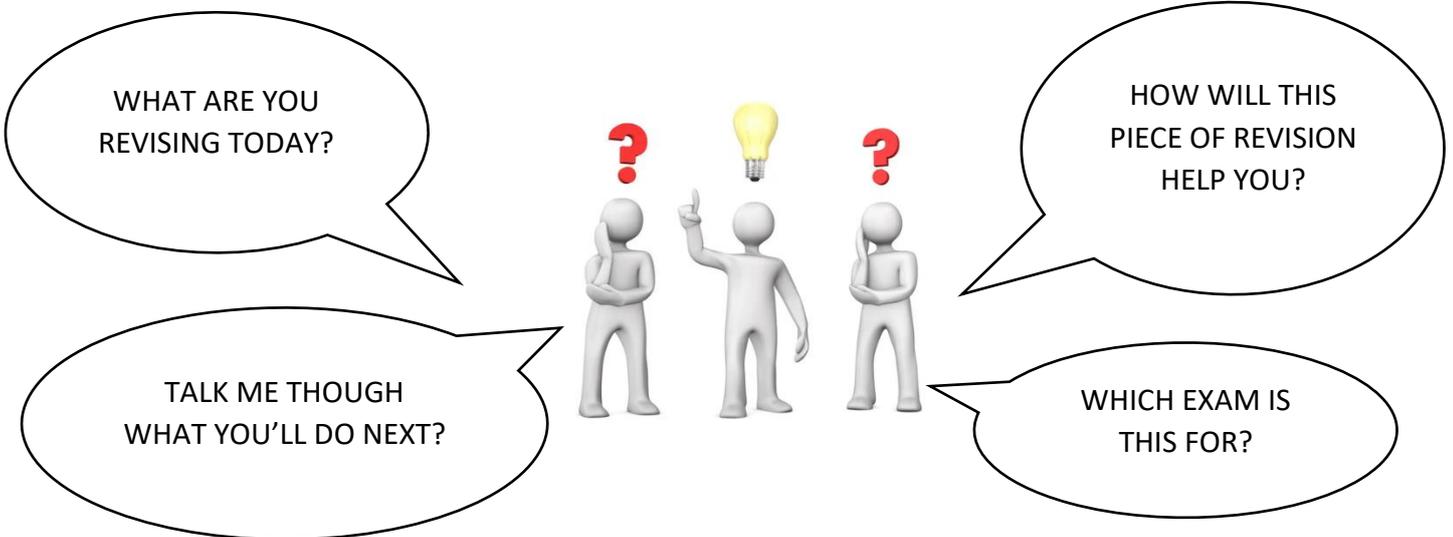


## FIND THE “STUDENT REVISION GUIDE” ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

Sir Graham Balfour website > Student Tab > Y11 Revision Strategies

# TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS ON HOW TO KNOW IF REVISION IS EFFECTIVE

## 1. ASK YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR REVISION AND UNDERSTANDING



## 2. LOOK AT YOUR CHILD'S REVISION AND COMPARE IT TO THE EXAMPLES IN THE 'STUDENT REVISION GUIDE'

A SET OF CUE CARDS SHOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS – A QUESTION ON ONE SIDE AND ANSWERS ON THE BACK

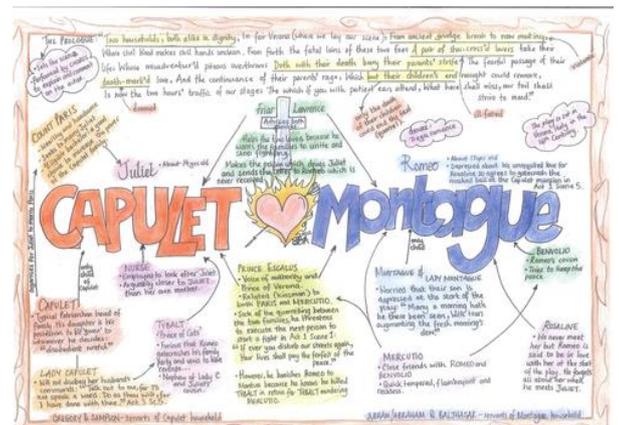
<p>Front</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Romeo and Juliet</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you think that Lord Capulet is presented as a good Father?</p>	<p>Do you think that Lord Capulet is presented as a good Father?</p> <p><b>Yes he is a good Father...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lord Capulet tells Paris he needs to win Juliet's heart as he won't simply hand over her hand in marriage.</li> <li>- He asks Paris to make sure Juliet is the girl for him, by seeing how they get on at his party later that night – he wants Juliet to love Paris.</li> <li>- Lord Capulet thinks that Juliet is still too young to be married.</li> </ul> <p><b>Not such a good Father...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lord Capulet changes his mind when Tybalt is killed and arranges Juliet's marriages to Paris behind her back.</li> <li>- This forces Juliet/Romeo together as Juliet does not want to marry Paris</li> </ul>	<p>Do you think that Lord Capulet is presented as a good Father?</p> <p><b>Links to key themes/context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Arranged marriage</b> – it was common during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century for men to arrange for their daughter's marriage. Marriage was for money not for love.</li> <li>- Parents would arrange their daughter's marriage with someone rich/powerful.</li> <li>- The Capulet's family structure is fairly typical of what was expected during Shakespeare's <b>time</b> – the husband controlled his wife/daughter.</li> <li>- Juliet rebels against her family structure – this would have shocked the audience watching.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conflict between what Juliet wants/her family's expectations.</li> </ul>
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Work through a set of cue cards with key information linked to your question. You can use as many cards as you need as long as the information is KEY.

A MINDMAP SHOULD LOOK SOMETHING LOOK LIKE THIS:

### Tip 4: Mind Maps

1. Write the MAIN TOPIC in the middle of the paper and draw a ring around it.
2. For each KEY POINT draw a branch out from the main topic.
3. Write a KEY WORD or PHRASE on each branch.
4. Build out further branches and add DETAILS.
5. Use pictures and words (**Dual Coding**) rather than loads of writing copied from your notes.



### 3. CHECK THAT YOUR CHILD IS FOLLOWING THEIR REVISION TIMETABLE

	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May
12:00-1:00pm	English Literature - Romeo and Juliet Character (50/50/50)	Science Biology - reflection and response cue cards	Psychology - memory knowledge organiser		
1:30pm	English Literature - Romeo and Juliet Character (50/50/50)	Science Biology - reflection and response cue cards	Psychology - memory knowledge organiser		
2pm	English Literature - Romeo and Juliet Character (50/50/50)	Science Biology - exam questions on inference and response	Psychology - memory knowledge organiser	Geography - (50/50/50) on Natural Hazards	
2:30pm	BREAK - gym	Maths Paper 1 - Past Paper	Psychology - memory knowledge organiser	Geography - (50/50/50) on Natural Hazards	
3pm	BREAK - gym	Maths Paper 1 - Past Paper		Geography - (50/50/50) on Natural Hazards	Prepare revision materials and notes for Saturday morning
3:30pm	English Literature - character exam question (50 mins)	Maths Paper 1 - Past Paper		Geography - (50/50/50) on Natural Hazards	Prepare revision materials and notes for Saturday morning
4pm	English Literature - character exam question (50 mins)	Maths Paper 1 - Past Paper		English Language - Paper 2, Section B Past Exam Question	OUT WITH FRIENDS
4:30pm	English Literature - character exam question (50 mins)	BREAK		English Language - Paper 2, Section B Past Exam Question	OUT WITH FRIENDS
5pm	Science Biology - cell biology, re-reflect on cards	BREAK	English Language - Section B - describe the scene using the picture and my answer (10/10)	English Language - Paper 2, Section B Past Exam Question	OUT WITH FRIENDS
5:30pm			English Language - Section B - describe the scene using the picture and my answer (10/10)		OUT WITH FRIENDS
6pm			English Language - Section B - describe the scene using the picture and my answer (10/10)		OUT WITH FRIENDS
6:30pm			English Language - Section B - describe the scene using the picture and my answer (10/10)		OUT WITH FRIENDS

### 4. **PROGRESS BOOSTER:** MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD DEDICATES TIME TO PAST PAPERS AND WRITING WRITTEN RESPONSES. THEY SHOULD HAVE A GO AT FULL EXAM PAPERS AND EXTENDED PIECES OF WRITING



**AQA**

GCSE  
ENGLISH LITERATURE  
Paper 1M Modern prose/drama

Time allowed: 50 minutes

**Materials**  
For this paper you must have:  
• an AQA Change answer book

**Instructions**  
• Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use pencil.  
• Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 8525/01.  
• Answer the question.  
• You must use a dictionary.

**Information**  
• The marks for questions are shown in brackets.  
• The maximum mark for this paper is 50.

#### Visit the Pearson website for the GCSE Summer Exams timetable

Google: Pearson GCSE Summer Exam Timetable

Or use this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/exam-timetables.html>

#### Visit Revision World for Past Papers

Google: Revision World Past Papers

Or use this link:

<https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>

### 5. SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH EXAM STRESS BY REMINDING THEM IT IS COMPLETELY NORMAL TO FEEL WORRIED/NERVOUS AND USE THE TIPS BELOW

<b>EAT WELL</b>	<b>GET ENOUGH SLEEP</b>	<b>TALK IT THROUGH</b>

#### **OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES AND APPS FOR REVISION INCLUDE:**



[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

[mrbruff.com](http://mrbruff.com)

Mr Salles English

GCSE Learning and Revision

Physics & Maths Tutor  
([physicsandmathstutor.com](http://physicsandmathstutor.com))

23 Equations

Freesciencelessons - YouTube

Science | Revision World

[internetgeography](http://internetgeography)

[senecalearning.com](http://senecalearning.com)

[timeforgeography](http://timeforgeography)

BBC Bitesize

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

Coolgeography

[www.mathswatch.co.uk](http://www.mathswatch.co.uk)

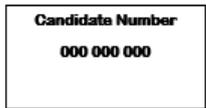
[www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse](http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse)

Quizlet

## WHAT EQUIPMENT DOES MY CHILD NEED FOR THEIR EXAMS?

### GCSE Exams Equipment List

#### For all exams

<p>Candidate number card AND seating number</p> 	<p>Water bottle (no label)</p> 	<p>Clear pencil case for your equipment</p> 
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#### For all exams

<p>BLACK PENS X3</p> 	<p>PENCIL AND RUBBER</p> 	<p>HIGHLIGHTER (to highlight the question only)</p> 
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#### Specific Equipment

Maths	Science	Geography	Business Studies
<p>BLACK PENS PENCIL RULER RUBBER PROTRACTOR PAIR OF COMPASSES SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR</p> 	<p>BLACK PENS PENCIL RULER RUBBER PROTRACTOR SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR</p> 	<p>BLACK PENS PENCIL RUBBER 15cm RULER CALCULATOR</p> 	<p>BLACK PENS PENCIL RULER RUBBER CALCULATOR</p> 

# POST 16 OPTIONS

YOUR CHILD HAS TO STAY IN EDUCATION UNTIL THEY ARE 18 YEARS OLD

THEREFORE, THEIR OPTIONS ARE:

- A-LEVELS AT SIR GRAHAM BALFOUR SIXTH FORM (OR AT ANOTHER PROVIDER)
- COLLEGE
- APPRENTICESHIP

## A-LEVEL ENTRY REQUIRMENTS

7 GRADE 4S OR ABOVE

ENGLISH AND MATHS AT A GRADE 4 OR ABOVE

HIGHER GRADES IN THE SUBJECTS YOU WANT TO  
STUDY



## COLLEGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

ENGLISH AND MATHS AT A GRADE 4 OR ABOVE (OR STUDENTS  
WILL BE MADE TO RESIT AT COLLEGE)

ENROL ON A LEVEL 3 COURSE

**N**SCG

## APPRENTICESHIP

ENGLISH AND MATHS AT A GRADE 4 OR ABOVE (OR  
STUDENTS WILL BE MADE TO RESIT)



**VISIT OUR CAREERS WEBSITE FOR FURTHER ADVICE/INFORMATION:**

**STUDENT TAB>CAREERS**

## WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD CHOOSES A LEVEL 3 COURSE AT COLLEGE?

A Level 3 course is "above" GCSE level, which shows they have progressed onto Post 16 Education

A Level 2 course is the same "level" as GCSE and therefore means they are repeating KS4

We therefore want to encourage all students to enrol on Level 3 courses and not accept lower entry offers

The only Level 1/2 course offers that students should accept are for practical courses such as: bricklaying, carpentry, hairdressing or moto-mechanics