

## **Making the most of your Revision**

Thorough preparation and revision for exams is essential. Revision should be in full flow by the Easter Holidays and will need to continue through until the end of the exams. Remember your exams start on 16<sup>th</sup> May – you will only have one full week of school (and one short week) after the Easter Holidays.

Here a few pointers to help you ensure that you are ready for these important exams:

### **Ensure that you know when all your exams are.**

Use the examinations timetable that you have been given to identify when your exams are. You will need to work out how to prepare for each exam effectively. Most of your revision should have taken place before the exams even start. The Easter Holidays are a golden opportunity to get organised and make real inroads into your revision.

### **Build a weekly revision timetable**

A revision timetable is a very visual way of organising your time. It is better to do several blocks of half an hour with a rest in between than to sit down and expect to work solidly with no break. There is a sample revision timetable in your revision pack, but you may need to change it to suit you. Make sure that you fill in revision slots for each of the subjects in which you will have an exam. You will probably need to make a different revision timetable for each week of the holidays. You are entitled to holiday time as well – so don't be over-ambitious, you won't revise every day and if you set yourself that target you will end up feeling guilty. Be sensible.

### **Get up, Get it done!**

The best way to work is to get up early, get your revision done and then you have the rest of the day to yourself. If you leave it

till later in the day, it will always be on your mind and you will be tired of thinking about it before you have even started.

### **Have a revision list (topic list) for each subject.**

Use the revision list provided by your teachers to tick off the topics as you revise them. This will ensure that you do not miss anything out. Remember not to just revise the topics you like! The topics you don't like probably need more attention!

### **Find a quiet place to work**

It is important that you find somewhere to work that is quiet and peaceful. You need to be able to focus fully on your work for 30 minute stretches. TV, radio, mobile phones and computers are all a distraction. Music without words can be helpful but music with words can be distracting. Remember, the exam hall will be silent so it is good to get used to working quietly.

### **Be determined**

Your revision is hugely important. Think of how proud you will when you get great results. Do not be distracted by friends, brothers and sisters, even parents, trying to encourage you to do other things. Speak to your parents about fitting your revision in with family life.

### **Speak to your teachers**

Many teachers will be running revision sessions in their lessons as the exams get closer. Ensure that you come to these sessions prepared with sensible questions to ask. Revision sessions are a good opportunity to get help with anything that you do not understand, do not have notes on or are unclear about.

Ask how to improve your results. In many subjects the ways of achieving high marks are clearly defined and by revising certain topics and answering questions in a particular way, you can hugely improve your exam result.

### **Use Revision Materials**

Your teachers will have told you where to find the information you need to revise for your exams. Use your textbooks, any work books you may have and also your own notes in your exercise books. You may also find some websites useful – again your subject teachers will be able to advise you.

Do not be a 'passive' reviser. The information will not leap from the page into your brain, you need to engage with the information, discuss it with your parents, friends, even the dog. Write revision

cards and put post it notes of key points in places all around your bedroom. Get people to test you. Chant important formulae or vocabulary while you're in the shower.

### **Do not waste time**

Playing on the computer and using networking sites is not going to improve your examination result. By all means relax and socialise, but not in your revision slots.

### **Keep on going!**

It may feel like a long, hard slog to get to the exams, but you will be so proud of yourself at the end if you know that you have really tried your best.

When you find something hard, make a note of it so that you can talk to your teacher about it at the next revision, then crack on with something else.

### **Look after yourself**

A hard working brain needs plenty of fresh air, lots of water and healthy food. Remember work hard when you are working and relax properly when you are relaxing.