Year 11

Guide to Success

– *Students and Families*

As your child enters Year 11, we wanted to share some key information and support around the following:

- Why revise?
- The importance of making post – Yr 11 plans early
- How you can support your child through Yr 11
- Managing exam stress
- Effective revision
- Revision resources and links
- Year 11 Interventions on offer
- Example revision timetable/planner
- Key dates and contacts

An electronic version of this guide will also be emailed out before the Summer holidays, to support with accessing revision links etc.

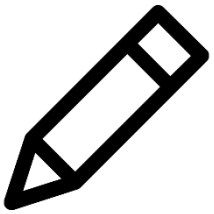
Why revise?

The importance of revision cannot be underestimated; it allows you to go over your work and assess for yourself how well you understand something. It shows when you don't understand something, then do something about it! Revision ensures you are fully prepared for your exams, and ensures you feel CONFIDENT!

Revision doesn't just happen, it is a skill, and like any other skill it can be developed and improved on – with practice. The current examination system gives you ONE chance only; you need to perform as well as you possibly can.

Find a method of revision that suits you - Reading and making notes, Mind maps, Revision cards, Setting questions, Past papers.

Remember little and often is proven to be the best method.



Post-Yr 11 Plans

Whether we like it or not, people/employees/colleges judge us by our qualifications - we want every student to be able to compete and be successful in the job market and further education. We will help and support you in preparing for your GCSEs and BTECs, but YOU also need to take responsibility for revising. You will get out what you put in - please use this booklet and take on board the advice offered, attend the revision sessions that are being put on, and download the past papers or ask for copies.

Mock 1 will be taking place from 10th November – 21st November – students will sit exam papers in all their subjects, and these will be marked in line with GCSE/BTEC guidance. Students will then be given their set of mock results – these give a really clear picture of the results your child is likely to achieve in the Summer and are the results that colleges and other further education providers (such as apprenticeships) will ask for to support them in offering places.

How can I support my child?

GCSEs are a key stage in your child's education, and your support during revision can make a huge difference. You don't need to be a subject expert — your encouragement, structure, and care are what count most.

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1. Value Attendance

It is vital that students attend school every day in Year 11 to maximise their success and ensure they are not missing key exam content – ***Every Lesson Matters***! Students with attendance less than 95%, statistically achieve lower grades than those with attendance above 95%.

2. Create a Supportive Environment

Set up a good study space in a quiet, well-lit, distraction-free area. Ensure all materials are easily accessible, with a comfy desk or table space. Remove distractions by limiting phone use during revision time, and encourage breaks from phone use and social media.

3. Help Them Build a Revision Plan

Structure helps reduce stress. Guide your child to start early and use a calendar to plot key exam dates, key deadlines and map out revision slots. It is important to balance difficult subjects with easier ones, and factor in breaks. Short daily goals are more motivating than vague targets.

4. Encourage Effective Revision Techniques

Different methods work for different learners. Help them explore:

- Active recall: Flashcards, self-quizzing, past paper questions
- Spaced repetition: Revisiting topics at intervals
- Mind maps and summaries: Good for visual learners
- Teaching others: Explaining a topic to you can deepen understanding
- Past papers (and mark schemes): Essential for exam technique and confidence

Avoid just re-reading notes, which is passive and less effective.

5. Promote Healthy Habits

Your child's well-being matters as much as their grades. Encourage sleep (8–9 hours per night), healthy meals, exercise, and regular revision breaks. Watch for signs of burnout, anxiety, or sleep issues, as well as pressure and comparison with peers – talk openly and supportively, and link with the school for more support.

6. Stay Involved and Positive

Check in regularly, and celebrate the small wins — finishing a topic, improving a test score. Encourage a growth mindset: "You're improving with effort" instead of "You must get a top grade". Attend parent evenings and information evenings to stay informed (key dates are shown towards the end of this booklet).

Avoid comparing them to others — everyone progresses at their own pace.

7. Help With Practicalities

Printing exam timetables and the intervention timetable (shown later in this booklet) and sticking them up at home will support with routines and good habits. Buy supplies to support with revision early: pens, highlighters, revision guides, past papers. Know when exams start each day — help with routines and transport if needed – breakfast club is available to all students every school day, all year.

8. Be There on the Tough Days

Some days will be harder than others. Be patient and listen without judgment. A calm, consistent presence gives your child a sense of security.

9. After the Exams

- Be proud, no matter the results
- Help them explore post-GCSE options: A-levels, BTECs, apprenticeships, or work
- Encourage a break and reward their effort — they've earned it.

Exam Stress Support

Search:

- How to deal with exam stress in the run-up to GCSEs and Nationals - BBC Bitesize
- Info on exam stress - for 11-18 year olds | Mind
- Top revision techniques for exams - BBC Bitesize

How to Revise

Have a revision timetable

Plan your day by splitting it into chunks. Ensure that you leave time to revise all of your topics. A revision planner like the one included in this guide is an ideal way to plan ahead which will help you stop worrying about when you will fit it all in. Make sure you distribute your time fairly across all of your subjects and topics and be sure that you allocate more time to areas of your revision that you found the most difficult in class. Staying on track – once you have created a plan, stick to it. It is really important that you have a daily routine which allows you to meet the needs of all your subjects.

Key Words

A good place to start is by reading through a topic and writing a list of the words that are important to that subject. You should then attempt to define those key words using your notes – flash cards work well for this. This list of words and definitions can be covered up to test yourself with; checking will allow you to keep track of what you have learnt. A good final test is covering the definitions and attempting to use those words in a sentence or practice question.

Group Study

Teaching each other is a very effective way to ensure you fully understand more difficult concepts. Revising in a group either through a scheduled intervention session or by organising to meet up with friends can really help – the library is a great location for this. Divide a topic into sections, write a short summary of the important points and distribute to a partner. They can then ask you questions on your summary to check your understanding. Writing your own questions: take a few topics each and write two questions on each topic. One should be a question which has a simple short answer. One should require more information. You should write the answers to both of your questions on the back. Swap topics and answer each other's.

Past Papers

A key part of revision is trying out your knowledge on examination questions similar to those that you will attempt on the day. Examination questions are available from your teachers or online and you should ensure that you have some to practice on before your exam. Exam questions usually have the number of marks next to them to give you an idea on how many different points you need to make. A good technique is to attempt the exam questions cold (without revising that topic), noting down any topics you can't answer before revising those sections. Return to your question then to test your revision.

Exam Day

The Night Before

- Only attempt light revision using your revision notes and try not to do any totally new revision.
- Get all the equipment you will need (pens, rulers, calculators) ready the night before. Avoid rushing in the morning to get things ready.
- Try to get a normal night's sleep.

On the day

- Get up in plenty of time. It is really important to have a good breakfast.
- When you leave home make sure you have everything you need for the exam, including a bottle of water.
- If you want to, flick through your revision notes.

In the exam

- The moment you open your exam paper is always a bit of a shock- don't worry about others who may have started writing straight away.
- If necessary, write down anything you are afraid of forgetting.
- Read the whole paper through carefully, noting all the instructions given about the number and choice of questions.
- Decide on your question order then start by answering the questions you know you can answer well. This gives you more time to think about the difficult questions and boosts your confidence.
- It can be a mistake to tackle difficult questions first, as you may run out of time to do the questions you can answer more easily and fully.
- Read every question twice, analyse it before you answer it, outline key points for essay questions.

After the Exam

- Feel proud that you tried your best.
- Don't spend too long talking about how the exam went with friends.
- Make sure you take a break before continuing with any more revision.
- Think positive about the exams coming next and learn from any mistakes you may have made.

Interventions Timetable

Year 11 - From September 2025				
	Mon	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**
Break	Spanish (Higher) - LHA - A1			
Lunch	Science - JVE - D8	Business - JFA - F3	History - LBE - F10	Geography - ARI - F8
	Maths (Higher) - AJO - B5	Geography - ZFL - E8	Spanish (Foundation) - EJO/JBY - A5	History - CSH - F5
	Maths (Foundation) - JTH - B3		Art/Photography- EBO - E7	
	Computer Science - JMO - F1			
After-School	History - COL - F9	Business - JFA - F3		
	Art - EBO - E7			

Please contact the Head of Department for more information about specific subjects, interventions, or for further advice on revision.

Revision Links and Resources

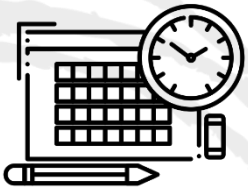
Subject	How can I best revise this subject?	Key revision website 1	Key revision website 2
English	Mind maps and cue cards to support with revising key quotes and ideas. To practice essay writing, practice writing plans for the essay structure rather than the essay itself.	https://www.aqaenglishrevision.com/how-to-revise	https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/free-aqa-english-language-gcse-revision/
Maths	Use of past papers alongside a mark scheme to practice exam format and content. Flashcards to practice key mathematical vocab. Revision tasks will be set on Sparx Maths	https://sparxmaths.com/	https://www.mathslinks.co.uk/home
Science	Use past papers to practice format and write out key longer question answers on flash cards. Use flashcards to practice key vocab and definitions through Carousel.	https://revisionscience.com/gcse-revision/science/science-gcse-past-papers/aqa-gcse-science-past-papers	https://www.cognitoedu.org/register
History	Learn specific details through repetition by writing it out three times to memorise. Always plan out longer answers before starting to write.	https://reviseonline.pearson.com/home	https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4u0CppiFIkVcigivouZLSsR4m8AK4Zlq
Geography	Use linking sentences to develop your answers. Use flash cards to revise key vocab and definitions. Include data facts where appropriate.	https://www.internetgeography.net/revision/	https://www.internetgeography.net/aqa-gcse-geography/
Spanish	Regular small chunks of revision will help build recall. Focus on depth of vocab learning, over breadth. Regular use of Duolingo.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgpg2p	https://www.duolingo.com
RE	Use past papers to practice applying the knowledge. Learn key philosophical ideas to structure longer answers.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z68sjhv	https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/rs-religious-studies
Business	Use flashcards to learn key definitions and equations. Focus on the three-mark questions - "Identify, This means that, Therefore".	https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z98snbk
Art	Use the ongoing fedback in lessons to improve your work. Create relevant high quality drawings/paintings/prints based on "The Sea" in the A4 sketchbook provided to you. Acknowledge relevant artists you were inspired by. Annotate your work based on "What, how, why". Develop and combine different ideas to prepare for Final Outcome.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjymp9q	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/AQA-GCSE-ART-NG-MARKING-GUIDANCE-SPIDERGRAMS.PDF
Photography	Take photos at home and upload these to your OneDrive for your teacher to see.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdymp9q	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/AQA-GCSE-ART-NG-MARKING-GUIDANCE-SPIDERGRAMS.PDF

Example Revision Timetable/Planner

WEEKLY REVISION PLANNER

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TIME	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:30AM –4PM	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	9AM– 10AM	BREAKFAST/ SHOWER	BREAKFAST/ SHOWER
4PM– 5PM	HOMEWORK	TV/ GAMING/ SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	TV/ GAMING/ SOCIAL MEDIA	HOMEWORK	10AM– 11AM	REVISION – ENGLISH	REVISION – SCIENCE
5PM– 6PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	11AM– 1PM	SEEING FRIENDS/ LUNCH	SPORT/ LUNCH
6PM– 7PM	REVISION – GEOGRAPHY	HOMEWORK	REVISION – HISTORY	REVISION – FRENCH	REVISION – SCIENCE	1PM– 3PM	REVISION – MATHS	REVISION – FLASH CARDS
7PM– 8PM	REVISION – MATHS	REVISION – ENGLISH	FREE TIME	HOMEWORK	FREE TIME	3PM– 5PM	OUT WITH FAMILY	SPORT/ TV/ GAMING
8PM– 9PM	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	FREE TIME/ SHOWER	6PM– 8PM	DINNER/ FREE TIME	DINNER/ FREE TIME

- Include in-school intervention sessions in your timetable (break, lunch, after-school).
- Don't spend too long on one subject or topic – variety will help with concentration and recall.
- Include a variety of revision techniques across your day – flash cards, past papers, essay planning, key vocab.
- Schedule in regular meal and snack breaks
- Don't forget to spend time with friends and family!
- There are lots of excellent free subject-specific apps available.



Search:

How do I make a revision timetable for my exams? - BBC Bitesize

Key Dates

- Wednesday 17th September 2025 – **Year 11 Information Evening**

- October 2025 (date TBC) - **Yr 11 Family Day** – Parents/Carers of Year 11 are invited to attend this event which offers an opportunity to learn key revision techniques and exam guidance on English, Maths, and Science revision, along with wider advice around the exam period and student mental health. This event will take place in a classroom setting, delivered by Core subject staff. Further invite information to follow with our return to school in September.

- 10th November – 21st November – **Mock 1 Exam Period** – Students will sit exams in all their GCSE and BTEC subjects, to mirror their summer exam schedule.

- December 2025 (date TBC) – **Mock Results Day** – Students and Families are invited to the Academy to collect their Mock 1 results, discuss these with staff, and gain more information about next steps.

- December 2025 – **College/Apprenticeships Applications Deadline** – All students are expected to have applied for at least two post-16 places – *Mock 1 results will be required for these applications*.

Key Contacts

Head of Year 11 – Miss Hannah Scott – Hannah.Scott@oasisbrightstowe.org

Assistant Head of Year 11 – Mr Kieran Bennett - Kieran.Bennett@oasisbrightstowe.org

Careers Advisor – Mrs Mel Powell – Melanie.Powell@oasisbrightstowe.org

Attendance Support – Mr Jamie Barnes – Jamie.Barnes@oasisbrightstowe.org

Final Word for Families:

Your support is more valuable than you might realise. Whether you're helping them plan their week, supporting them into school every day, making them a snack, or just listening after a tough day, you're helping your child achieve more than they could alone.