



St. Joseph's School and Sixth Form

Becoming fully human in Christ

21st February, 2019

Dear parent/guardian,

As we head into the February half term break, it's important that our Year 11 students are revising for their GCSE exams. Some students will already have started their planning and revision, and they should be congratulated for this. For other students, the half term break will be a good opportunity to really start their revision for the exams.

Students have been given a lot of support in school to help them revise during assemblies, morning care sessions and in subject lessons. The main advice is to:

- plan your revision, using a revision timetable to make sure that all of your subjects are covered;
- prepare a quiet space where you can revise with as few interruptions as possible;
- make sure you have everything you need before you start revising – pencil case, a drink, the appropriate books and paper;
- leave your phone in a different room – free yourself from distractions!
- make sure your revision is active – create mind-maps, spider diagrams, revision pages, revision notecards, posters, or illustrations;
- revise for a maximum of 40 minutes at a time;
- take a break between revision sessions – have a drink, something to eat, do some exercise or check the breaking news on social media!
- after your break, get back to it for your next session.

It's important that our students get the chance to relax and recharge during the half term break, but it's also important that they get serious about their revision - there are only 7 school weeks left until the exams start! At least 2 x 40 minute revision sessions a day during half term would be a good guide.

As a parent / guardian, you have a crucial role in supporting your child to prepare for the exams. Talk with them about what they are doing, offer to test them or to listen to them explain something they've learned. Help them to prepare a suitable place at home to revise, and make sure they have a pen, pencil and some paper to help them revise.

In order to help students revise, subject teachers have given some brief suggestions about what students could revise this week. These are printed overleaf. There are also a range of excellent resources on the BBC Bitesize website, both on revision strategies and on subject content.

With best wishes,

Richard Pyke
Assistant Headteacher

Revision ideas from teaching staff:

English Literature – (All classes)	To begin revising for your English Literature, you can re-read <i>Of Mice and Men</i> / <i>Heroes</i> / <i>An Inspector Calls</i> . You could start learning key quotations for characters and themes, and produce essay plans for each. BBC Bitesize is a good revision source: https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/z9gjp39
English Language – (All classes)	Revise the format of different text types such as letters/articles/leaflets and the persuasive techniques to use in your writing. You can revise the different sentence structures and coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. You could also correct any errors in your last mock exam and attempt the high tariff questions again. See BBC Bitesize for support with revision: https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/ztimv4j
English – Mrs. McDyer	Use your revision booklets for <i>An Inspector Calls</i> . In them are quotes, past papers and candidate responses for you to use. You can use them to revise quotes and write timed responses to the essay questions.
English - Mrs. Gow	Complete 'Character Profiles' of the characters in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> as revision. I have modelled a detailed example with useful quotations in class from the breadth of the play and you now have to complete two independently for Eric and Sheila. We will then attempt a character essay on your return to school after half term.
Maths – Miss Larkman Mrs. Whelan Miss Saunders Miss Dare	You should be revising all topics listed on your topic revision sheet given out in class, together with any homework set. You can use the Corbett Maths Video clip numbers provided to watch video tutorials on each topic and practice questions provided. You may also wish to complete the two past numeracy papers (one calculator and one non-calculator) provided in lesson.
Maths – Mr. Hansen	Practice questions from the past papers that you have in your folders please.
Science – (All classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use your copy of the syllabus content from the front of your booklets to ensure you're happy with your understanding of each area. Complete two or three revision pages on each section of the course which has been covered.• Make sure there are no gaps/missing or incomplete work in your books. Make a list of what you need to catch up on so your teachers can help you on your return after half term.• Many classes are completing mock exams in the first few weeks after the half term break - use the revision lists provided to you to help you to prepare for these.• Make use of the past papers and mark schemes which are available on the WJEC website.
Science (Physics) Miss Williams	You have a test on all the work we have done so far on the Tuesday after half term. I have put the revision as homework on class charts. Topics: 6.1 - <i>Motion</i> ; 6.2- <i>Forces</i> ; 6.3 <i>Energy</i> ; 6.4- <i>Space</i>
Science (Chemistry) Miss Williams	You need to be revising structures and bonding. You have nearly completed the Chemistry section of the course and can therefore revise all of the Chemistry. Topics: 5.1- <i>Bonding and Structures</i> ; 5.2- <i>Acids, Bases and Salts</i> ; 5.3- <i>Metals and their extraction</i> ; 5.4- <i>Crude oil, fuels and carbon compounds</i> .

Art	You need to ensure that your artist reference work is completed and should aim for 6 studies - 3 of each artist. You also need to start photographing any key areas of interest that relate to your 'Industrial heritage' theme and start drawing the photographs you have taken - landscapes, architecture portraits etc.
Computer Science	You will be having a mock exam at the end of the week back after half-term. You should be making flash cards on all topics covered and test yourself on them regularly. You also have all past-papers in the Teams site.
French	You need to have completed the answers to ALL questions in your General Conversation booklets - as detailed as possible. You need to be learning your responses off by heart in readiness for the oral exam which will take place on the 8th April.
Geography	Focus this half term on unit 1 revision. This includes changing landscapes (rivers, honeypot sites, flooding) and rural urban links (includes migration, rural decline and current issues in urban areas). Also tectonics! Use the WJEC revision books if you have them - they are spectacular!
History	Revise for the Russia mock - most definitely if Lenin was successful in establishing communism by 1924.
PE	You have been given a question and mark scheme booklet on participation and provision as a way of revising and improving exam technique. It would be great to see it used over half term.
RE	Complete the past paper you have been given on Unit 1 from 2018. This consists of 16 questions, based on the examination material contained in Booklets 5-9 of the work we've been doing. You could also use the revision booklet for Unit 3.
Welsh	There are Unit 2 Oral examination at the beginning of April. You have a revision booklet with ALL relevant vocabulary that you should be looking at over half term.