



# Thrybergh Academy

## Study Skills Guide for Parents and Students

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The purpose of this revision booklet is to give you and your child a variety of ideas and practical ways to revise on a daily basis. The vast majority of GCSE exams are now linear, meaning that students will sit a large number of final exams in the May and June of Year 11 and coursework is disappearing in most subjects. In order to succeed and meet their potential they need to practice and fine tune how best to revise as early as possible.

Studies show that we retain:

- 90% of what we learn when we teach someone else or use immediately
- 75% of what we learn when we practice
- 50% of what we learn when engaged in a group discussion
- 30% of what we learn when we see a demonstration
- 20% of what we learn from audio-visual
- 10% of what we learn from reading
- 5% of what we learn from lecture

Your child can and should get into the habit of revising regularly NOW and you will be surprised at the number of ways you can help them. This booklet should give you some ideas to put into practice. It might be a good idea to try the revision activities that look the most interesting to your child first and then decide how effective it was. Through trial and error, you should find a few ways that really help your child to progress.

*Good Luck!*

# Preparing to Revise

Before you start revising you must know the basics:

- How many exams do you have?
- When are your exams?
- How long does each exam last?
- What units are in each paper?

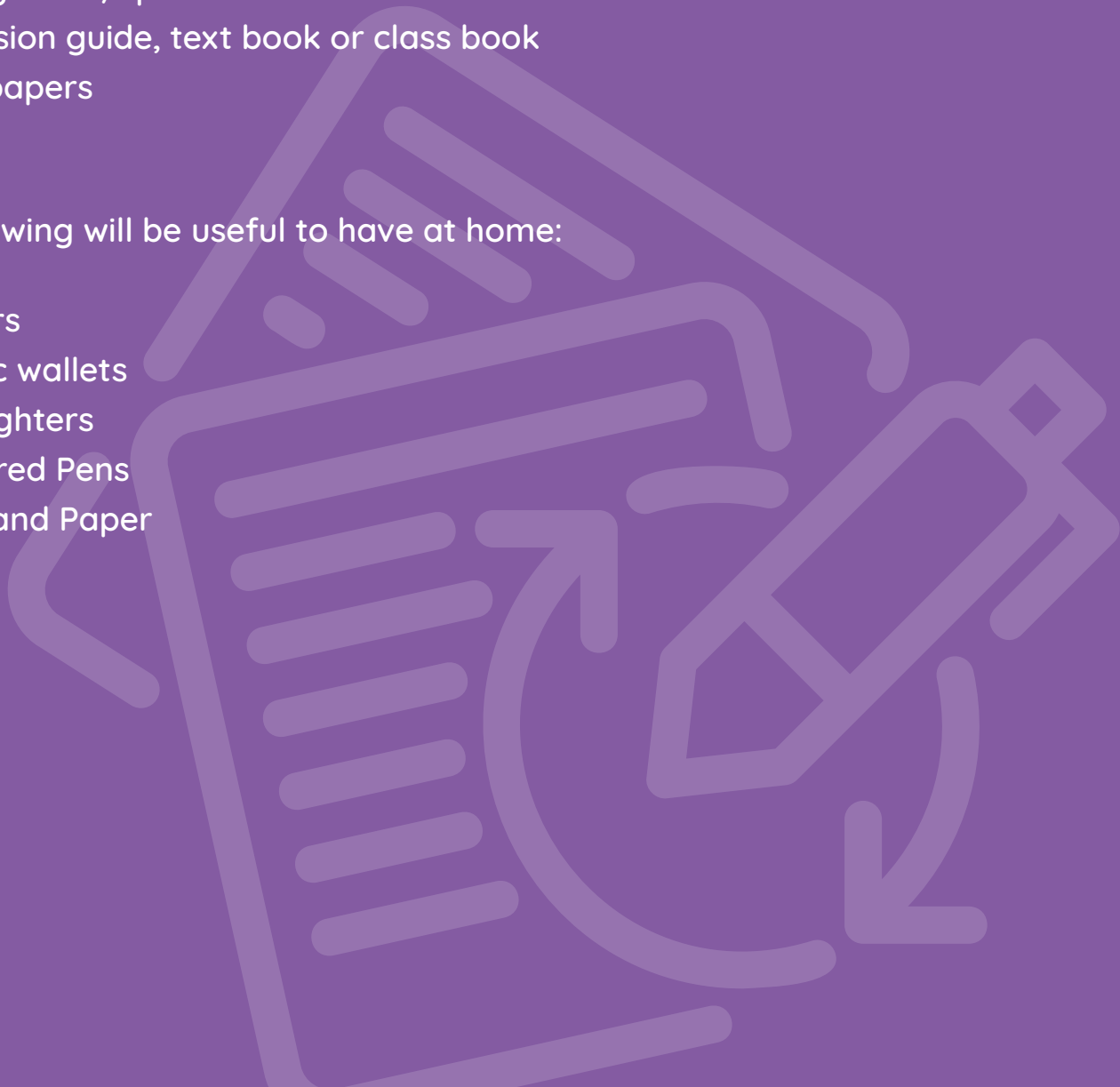
*Your teachers will be handing this information out to you in lessons before your summer exams*

Make sure you have the following for each of your subjects:

- The syllabus/specification
- A revision guide, text book or class book
- Past papers

The following will be useful to have at home:

- Folders
- Plastic wallets
- Highlighters
- Coloured Pens
- Card and Paper



# Construct a Revision Schedule

You will find a blank schedule in this revision guide. This can be used to structure your revision.

- Be disciplined, self-discipline is crucial for you to be successful in life, not only in exams
- Put away your phone. We cannot emphasise enough how putting your phone in a different room is essential whilst you are revising
- Get in a routine, use the same times each evening and weekends to revise. If you are in a routine, you are more likely to stick to it
- Timing, work around your commitments, don't give up on your hobbies they are important to continue with. Most research says work for about 30 - 45 minutes and then have a 5-10 minute break
- Start early, do not leave everything to the last minute. It takes time to commit things to memory
- Spread out your revision, is it more effective to do small chunks and keep revisiting a subject then to spend a whole day on the same subject
- Give yourself time to relax

Your study environment should be:

- Calm and quiet
- Well lit, natural light is best or the main light on during evenings
- Somewhere with all your equipment at hand
- Equipped with water and snacks
- Don't forget there are places in school until 5:30 if you are struggling to concentrate at home

# Revision Techniques

There are lots of different ideas that you could try, they won't all work for you, you need to find the ones that suit you the best.

## Create a video

Creating a video of a topic you are finding difficult to remember is a great revision technique. Support your research by ensuring accurate information is used from your exercise books and the internet.

Free video apps include:

- Loopster
- Shadow Puppet
- PowerPoint
- 30 Hands

## Post-Its

Write information on post-it notes and place them on the wall, door or large sheets of paper. You can then re-arrange them according to a variety of ideas:

- Categorise items into similar groups
- Organise them into what you know and don't know, re-arrange as you learn more to show your progress
- Follow trends or themes

Put any revision notes/post-its around the house especially in your favourite places like on the fridge, the backs of doors or mirrors. When you pass them, stop and consider what's on the note and expand and explain it to yourself in more detail.

## Straight Away

As you read through your work, start to make notes straight away – don't wait for it to become clear. Get your thoughts and ideas down quickly as you read and just record the small details. At the end you may look back over what you have done to look for patterns or bigger pictures.

## Flashcards

These can be made for all sorts of topics and can be quite small. The idea here is to put key words and ideas on the cards. Finally, shuffle the cards and then turn them over, one at a time, explaining each key word or idea out loud, to someone else if possible.



### Helpful Tip...

Allow your child to teach you:

- How to do a key question from an exam
- How the circulatory system works
- How to conjugate a verb in Spanish

## Draw Spider Diagrams

These are not as organised as mind maps, but for getting all of your ideas down to start with they are excellent. You can then organise your ideas from your spider diagram onto your mind map.

## Mimes

Make up mimes for key words, concepts, people or places. You need to think through what mimes are suitable for the work that you are revising. Each character in a book can have a mime that fits them. A chemical group could have a linked mime to remember all the elements in it.

## Problem Page

Before you start to revise a topic make a list of the typical problems or questions that you think you or other students might have. Now go through your notes and look for the answers. Finally, compose an explanation that you might share with others to make things clearer.

## ‘What I know’

Spend some time before your revision to record what you already know. This could be in the form of a spider diagram, a mind map or list. As you read through your notes, check if you really do understand each item. Are there things you have forgotten? If so, add them in. Are there things that aren't right? If so, correct them.

## Helpful Tip...

Google documents can be used to work collaboratively:

- Create revision sheets or essays that can be peer assessed
- Use the comment boxes to allow discussion of ideas
- Share with a Teacher for feedback



## Concept Mapping

Go through a topic and pick out key words, ideas, symbols or pictures and transfer them onto different pieces of paper or post-its. Group them together if they have any connections. Arrange them on a bigger sheet of paper using blue tack so that you can re-arrange them. Use arrows to link words and add phrases along them to show the connections.

## Funny Stories

If you can introduce humour into your learning it will be more memorable. You can just imagine the image in your head, write it down or draw it.



### Helpful Tip...

Make revision cards to test your child and ask them develop their answers! Flash cards can include:

- The meanings/ definitions of key words
- Diagrams
- Worked examples of calculations
- Q&A

## Create Gap-fill Exercises

Go through your notes and recreate them leaving \_\_\_\_\_ key words. Then see if you can fill in the gaps later. If you \_\_\_\_\_ the exercise you can print copies regularly and keep testing yourself. You \_\_\_\_\_ wish to change where the gaps appear.



## Make Lists

- Bullet point them
- 1. Number them
- a) Letter them

Do this according to what suits you best. Numbers will definitely suit those who like using numbers, letters for those who prefer reading and writing, but if you have no strong preference, try all of them.

## Order/Sequence

Make notes, cut them into sections and then try to order or sequence them. Check against the original work to see how well you have done.

## Visuals

Make good use of drawings and diagrams in your revision. Use different colours. Replace key words, ideas, people or places with pictures.

## Posters

Make a poster of each topic. After reading all the information, condense it onto one poster. Use lots of different colours and pictures, but limit the number of words. Think carefully about which words you will use before you start.

## Rhymes

Think of words that are similar to or rhyme with the words you are trying to learn. You only have to think how you still know nursery rhymes or the words of songs to know that this works.

## Games

Use guessing games as part of your revision. Things like Pictionary, Scrabble and Taboo work as well. You have to change the rules so that you can only use words that are linked to the topic you are learning. You will need to make your own cards to play some of these games.



### Helpful Tip...

Make models to help you remember key information:

- What does it look like?
- How does it fit together?
- How does it work?
- Explain to a adult how it works whilst creating the model

## Sound-alike

You can split harder words up and have a series of pictures, for example, chromatogram = crow - mat - gram a crow sitting on a mat with a gram weight all on a colour strip of paper.

## Reading Out Loud

Read your revision notes out loud to a particular rhythm – this could be set by music playing in the background or tapping your foot or by walking calmly and steadily. This is a sort of walk and talk.

## Helpful Tip...

You can help your child revise by recording yourself reading key information:

- Play it back over and over
- Pause it at key points and have your child continue the explanation “live”
- Encourage them to transcribe their explanation
- Have them listen, make brief notes and then explain it back to you in their own words using their notes



## Question and Answer (Q&A)

Devise questions and answers about a topic and quiz each other. You could create a version of ‘Who Wants To Be A Millionaire’ where the questions are graded according to the difficulty that you choose.

## Underlining and Highlighting

As you read through the work in your exercise book underline or **highlight** keywords. You could come up with a predicted list of what you are expecting to read before you start or you could make a list of the key words as you work through the notes.

## Use Colour

Most people like colour and will remember things much more easily if they use it. For example, you might want to make notes, putting all important words in red, the importance concepts in green and the important dates in purple.

## Create a Rap, a Song or a Poem

If you like music, the rhythm of these sorts of activities will help you to learn. Get used to singing or talking your work to a set rhythm, perhaps use different rhythms for different topics.

## Questions

Ask questions before you revise anything. Think about the topic to be studied and take some time out to think about the questions you would like to have someone answer for you. Write them down and as you read through your notes jot down any answers that you find. The brain likes looking for answers. When done, research carefully for the answers that you cannot find.



### Helpful Tip...

Mind-Maps are a fantastic way to revise and breakdown important information - focus on exploring why and making connections between topics!

## Symbols and Abbreviations

Look at all the key words in a particular topic and come up with a symbol or abbreviation instead - think hard about each word and match to an appropriate symbol or abbreviation. Write out revision notes using these instead of the key words.

## Role-Play

Get together with a group of friends and create a role-play, perhaps for part of a novel that you are trying to learn or to re-enact a poem. You can try this on less likely topics, for example role-play the water cycle for Science or Geography.

### Helpful Tip...

Be inventive when creating notes, make them a format that is memorable to you!



## Use Revision Websites

There are lots of school approved revision sites you can access which are full of resources, advice and topics to help you!

- BBC Bitesize
- Quizlet
- Active Learn
- Languages Online
- Active Learn
- Complete Maths
- Sparx Maths
- Educake
- Google Classroom
- Goconqr

## Revision Guides

- We are able to loan students the following revision guides:
- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Spanish

The books must not be written in and must be returned at the end of the year so we have them for future Year 11 students. These books are signed out.



## Helpful Tip...

Adults can use revision guides to quiz your child to help them with their studies. Setting your child a mini-quiz for each section can help to check how well they know a particular topic.

- Write these on cards and test the regularly
- Keep them in colourful pack for each unit
- And remember, revise 'a little, but often'

## Key Dates

- Y11 Data Collection - Sept 2024 - this included the performance of students on end of Year 10 Mocks
- Y11 December Mocks - Start Monday 2 December
- Y11 Data Collection - Jan 2025 - this will include the performance of students on Y11 Dec Mocks
- Y11 Feb/March Mocks - Start Monday 22 February
- Y11 Data Collection - March/April 2025 - this will include the performance of students on Y11 Feb/March Mocks

## Tailored Intervention

These are focused, planned sessions which are tailored to the students in the group.

Interventions include:

- Morning intervention sessions during registration
- Period 5 intervention
- Holiday intervention sessions
- Curriculum changes

Staff identify which students are needed for these interventions based on current and predicted grades.

Students are grouped by need following detailed question level analysis of assessments and mock exam papers.

## GCSE Exam Timetable 2025

Subject	Exam Dates
Maths	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
English Language	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
English Literature	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Biology	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Chemistry	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Physics	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
History	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Geography	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Spanish	Listening & Reading - 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 Writing - 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Statistics	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Business Studies	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
ICT	Component 3 - 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025
Childcare	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Drama	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Music	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Health & Social Care	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
RE	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2025
Sports Studies	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Engineering	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025

# GCSE Subjects Overview Guide

Subject	Exam Board	Exam Content (exams, length % of each)	Useful links	Revision guides
GCSE English Language	AQA	Paper 1: Fiction (50%) Paper 2: Non-Fiction (50%)  5x questions per paper - 50% of the marks based on reading, 50% based on writing.	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702</a>	Various, mainly for writing.  We have them available to loan out to Y11 students.
GCSE English Literature	AQA	Paper 1: 40% Macbeth Jekyll & Hyde  Paper 2: 60% An Inspector Calls Power & Conflict Poetry Unseen Poetry  Each of the five sections is worth 20%.	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700</a>	Each component has its own CGP revision guide.  As above, we have them available to loan out to Y11 students.
GCSE Maths	OCR	3 Papers (1hr20min) 2 x Calculator, 1 x Calculator	<a href="https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/mathematics-j560-from-2015/">https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/mathematics-j560-from-2015/</a>	Revision guide from CGP is loaned to students at the start of Y11 (to be returned on/after the last exam)
GCSE Science (combined)	AQA	6 papers (2x biology, 2 x chemistry, 2 x physics) each exam worth 16.7% paper length 1hr 15 mins	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance</a>	CGP AQA Revision Guide and Workbook - Combined Higher and Combined Foundation. Loaned to Y11 students or available to buy through Parent Pay.
GCSE Triple Science	AQA	6 papers total 2 papers for each GCSE (each paper 50% of GCSE) paper length 1hr 45 mins	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse</a>	CGP AQA Revision Guide and Workbook - Separate Science - Biology, Physics & Chemistry. Loaned to Y11 students or available to buy through Parent Pay.
GCSE History	Pearson Edexcel	3 papers total Paper 1 Crime & Punishment 75mins Paper 2 Cold War and Elizabeth I 105mins Paper 3 Weimar & Nazi Germany 80mins	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html</a>	Pearson Revise - Revision Guide and Workbook available for each topic studied.
GCSE Geography	AQA	3 Papers, Paper 1 Physical Geog 90 mins, Paper 2 Human Geog 90 Mins, Paper 3 Geographical Skills 90 Mins	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance</a>  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zj3ptyc">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zj3ptyc</a>	Revision guide from CGP is loaned to students at the start of Y11 (to be returned on/after the last exam)
GCSE Spanish	Pearson Edexcel	4 exams, worth 25% each. Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing. Foundation or higher tier papers. Listening - 35/45 minutes including 5 minutes reading time, written paper Speaking - Conducted by the class teacher and externally assessed. 7-9 / 10-12 minutes plus 12 minutes preparation time. This exam is conducted in late April/early May. Reading - 45 minutes / 1 hour written paper Writing - Written paper 1 hour 15/20 Listening and reading papers are examined on the same day in the same session.	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Spanish/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-Pearson-Edexcel-Level-1-Level-2-GCSE-9-1-Spanish.pdf">https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Spanish/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-Pearson-Edexcel-Level-1-Level-2-GCSE-9-1-Spanish.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.languagenut.com">https://www.languagenut.com</a>  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z799hbk">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z799hbk</a>	CGP Edexcel Revision Guide and Workbook. Loaned to Y11 students and to be returned after their final exam.  All students have a subscription to languagenut.com - website with revision exercises in all 4 skills.



Subject	Exam Board	Exam Content (exams, length % of each)	Useful links	Revision guides
IT (DIT)	Pearson Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technolog	3 components, 2 internally assessed (coursework), 1 exam.  Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques. Coursework - completed in Y10 (May window).  Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data. Coursework - completed in Y11 (December window)  Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices. Exam completed at the end of Y11 (Exam - 1.5 hours / 60 marks)	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology-2022.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology-2022.html</a>	Revision guide (PG Online Clear revise) is loaned to students at the start of Y11 (to be returned on/ after the last exam)  All students are given a subscription to "Knowitall Ninja (KIAN)" - Revision website with learning resources and quiz activities covering all components of the BTEC DIT course.
GCSE Business Studies	Edexcel	2 Exams 1 Exam focusing on Year 10 Both exams 1hour 45mins long 90 Marks both papers.	<a href="https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/seneca-certified-resources/business-gcse-edexcel/">https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/seneca-certified-resources/business-gcse-edexcel/</a>	Knowledge retrieval guide and revision workbook provided to students by class teacher. These have been provided to students already.
Sport Studies	OCR Cambridge Nationals	R184 Contemporary Issues - 1 hour exam sat at the end of Y11. Other units are coursework.	<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2-J829/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2-J829/</a>	Revision books will be provided and loaned to students.
GCSE Art	AQA	Component 1 60%, Y10-Y11 Component 2 40% Y11 Jan-April 100% coursework		
Health and Social Care	OCR Cambridge Nationals	Exam 1 hr 15 mins - R032 Principles of care in health and social care settings (40%) Coursework - R033 Supporting individuals through life events (30%) R035 Health promotion campaigns (30%)	<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/</a>	CGP AQA Revision Guide and Workbook - Separate Science - Biology, Physics & Chemistry. Loaned to Y11 students or available to buy through Parent Pay.
Childcare	NCFE CACHE	Non-examined assessment (50%) Examined assessment (50%)	<a href="https://www.ncfe.org.uk/qualification-search/?Category=All&amp;Term=603%2F7012%2F9&amp;PageNumber=1&amp;PageSize=20">https://www.ncfe.org.uk/qualification-search/?Category=All&amp;Term=603%2F7012%2F9&amp;PageNumber=1&amp;PageSize=20</a>	Revision book