

EXAM PREPARATION EVENING

Information for Parents



Blackburn Central
HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and achieve

KEY DATES

September	Throughout	Begin to work on revision skills - in school
	Friday 30 September	Loudspeaker - external provider delivering workshops on building resilience and confidence
October	Throughout	Start college applications
		Assessments
	Thursday 20 October	Careers Fayre
	Monday 24 October - Friday 28 October	Half term - revision
	Monday 31 October	Progress reports sent home
November	Thursday 10 November	Mock interviews
December	Tuesday 6 December*	College application deadlines
	Monday 19 December - Monday 2 January	Christmas Holidays - revision
January	From Monday 16 January	Mock exams
March	Tuesday 2 March	Parents' evening
	Tuesday 7 March	Mock exams results day
	TBC	Ramadan -ensure revision is organised around this
April	Friday 7 April - Friday 21 April	Half term - revision
	Throughout	Final preparation for exams
May	Throughout	GCSE exams begin
June	Tuesday 27 June	Leavers assembly
July	Wednesday 5 July	Prom

* If you require more information, please speak to Mrs Jowett or Mrs Ansbro.

REVISION GUIDES

Maths - Edexcel

PiXL Revision Guide and Workbook - £5

There is a site called Corbett Maths that the students can use, which contains nearly 400 videos, textbook exercises and exam questions.

Students can also log onto DrFrostMaths for homework and revision.

GCSE Pod.

Maths Genie.

English Literature - AQA

There are a number of text guides available. Students will need the guide for the books they are studying.

CGP A Christmas Carol - The Text Guide

CGP Blood Brothers - The Text Guide

CGP Macbeth - The Text Guide

CGP AQA Poetry Guide: Love & Relationships Anthology

CGP English Literature AQA Unseen Poetry Guide

GCSE Pod.

English Language - AQA

WJEC Eduqas English Language book 1 and 2

Collins AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature All-in-One Revision and Practice

GCSE Pod.

Science - AQA

School sell the revision guides:

Combined science - £5.

Triple science - £3 per book (3 needed).

GCSE Pod.

Geography - AQA

Revision guides are available from school for £4.50.

Revision cards £4.50

Pocket size revision guide £3.00

GCSE Pod.

History - AQA

My Revision Notes AQA GCSE History is available to buy from school for £8.

GCSE Pod.

Religious Studies - Eduqas

Revision materials are provided by school as no official revision guide covers the required topics.

Computer Science & Creative iMedia

OCR Complete Revision and Practice - £6

OCR Revision Question Cards - £4.50

OCR Revision Guide - £3.50

OCR Exam Practice Workbook - £3.50

OCR Practice Papers £3.25

Enterprise & Marketing - OCR

Hodder Education: OCR Cambridge Nationals Enterprise and Marketing Level 1/2.

Revision guides will be available to borrow from the IT department, but they must be returned after the exams.

GCSE Pod.

Design Technology

GCSE Pod.

Spanish - AQA

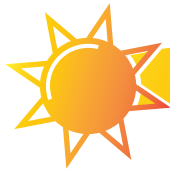
AQA GCSE Spanish: Higher/Foundation: Grammar, Vocabulary & Translation.

CEP Revision Guide and Workbook

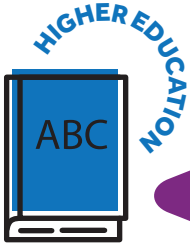
Students can use Linguascope with the school's login. (U: langbchs P: BCHSMFL21)

GCSE Pod.

STUDENT ROAD MAP



SUMMER HOLIDAYS!



AUGUST RESULTS DAY!

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY
Celebrate a successful year at Prom!

TUESDAY 27 JUNE
Leavers Assembly

APRIL
Light revision should begin, 30 minutes - 1 hour per night.

APRIL
End of Lead Student duties.

MAY
Intense revision should begin, 1 - 2 hours per night.

MAY EXAMS START

JUNE
Intense revision should continue, 2 - 3 hours per night.

TUESDAY 7 MARCH
Mock exam results day.

THURSDAY 2 MARCH
Parents' evening.

FEBRUARY
Make sure you listen to the feedback your teachers give you. Set some goals based on their feedback.

JANUARY
Complete your reflection after each exam.

JANUARY MOCK EXAMS

DECEMBER
Intense revision needs to begin. 2-3 hours per day.

NOVEMBER
Your revision should be well under way, 1 hour per night. Start to set short term goals to guide your revision planning.

NOVEMBER
Progress reports sent home.

TIP
Set yourself some goals based on your report.

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER
Mock interviews

DECEMBER
Make sure your college application(s) have been submitted.

OCTOBER
Devise a revision timetable and USE IT!

OCTOBER
Embed excellent study habits, use the lessons on revision in Progress Time to help you practice different techniques.

CAREERS
Continue to research your future. Consider drafting your applications for college.

GET EXAM READY!

OCTOBER
Make sure you know which exam boards and papers you are sitting for each subject.

SEPTEMBER
Purchase any revision books you need.

SEPTEMBER
Make sure you know your GSCepod login. There'll be competitions along the way!

START

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

It's really easy at this time of year for students to make the wrong choices. It is much more tempting to watch TV, go out with friends or play video games than it is to start revising.

There are some simple things that you can do to make sure your child is prepared for exam success. We want to work together with you to help your child to make the right choices so they are prepared and can do well during the exam period.

TEAMWORK		
SCHOOL	STUDENT	HOME
What we will do	What your child needs to do	What you can do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with College Applications • Identify knowledge gaps • Intervention when required • Pastoral Support • Mentoring • Revision skills • Provide revision material • Communicate with parents • Careers Advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a revision plan • Know which exam boards and papers they are taking • Identify knowledge and skill gaps • Plug knowledge and skill gaps • Ask for help • Revise • Practice questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a study space • Help them to be organised • Encourage them to use active revision techniques • Support them with their revision • Give them healthy food • Make sure they get enough sleep • Ensure they take breaks

Encourage your child

This can be helping them to get organised, supporting them with their revision or just some words of advice and support.

Set goals

Talk to your child about why the exams are important and what they want to do when they leave school.

Be organised

This can include a study space, a revision timetable and the correct equipment. You can find a guide to help you with a revision timetable in this booklet, and a blank revision timetable at the back.

Breaks

These should be included in their revision timetable. It is important to have a break in between revision sessions so that the brain can have a rest. Revising for too long all at once will mean the brain will 'switch off' and then the information they are trying to learn will not go in. You can ensure that the breaks are regular but not too long. Your child does need to work up to being able to concentrate for over 2 hours as some of their exams will be this long.

A healthy lifestyle

It is very important for your child to eat healthily, get enough sleep and stay active during the revision and exam season. You can support them by planning time for exercise and lights out into their timetable.

Unplug

Although most teenagers will insist that watching YouTube or listening to music whilst they study will help them, studies show that having your phone near you when you are revising is a distraction. It is just too tempting to check that message that came through. If they do want to listen to some music, relaxing background music (with no words to sing along to) can aid concentration. Remember they need to get used to concentrating in silence as there will definitely be no music in the exam hall.

Support

You may need to encourage your child to believe in themselves, calm them down if they are starting to feel overwhelmed or stressed. Encourage them to ask for help if they are struggling. They might want you to test them or be an audience for them to explain things to.

REVISION TIPS AND PREPARATION

When revising your child should NOT just be reading through their notes. Revision needs to be active so that they remember the maximum amount of information. This means they should be doing mind maps, summarising notes, answering exam questions, asking you to test them, teaching you the information.

Here are some tips to ensure their revision is effective:

Where

Find a good environment in which to revise (comfortable, no distractions).

Create an effective study space - this can help revision by removing distractions and promotes an organised approach to study. Things you can include:

- A tidy undisturbed place to work.
- A comfortable chair.
- A bright lamp / light.
- A table which gives enough room for books, etc.

Make sure they have the things they need – pens, pencils, paper, highlighters, post its, revision cards, revision materials etc.

When

Work out when your child has free time.

Make a realistic revision timetable; mark subjects and topics on it (use each subjects' revision lists to do this). There is a guide on how to make a revision timetable in this booklet.

How

Ensure your child knows their areas of strength and weakness; mix them up on the timetable (they won't gain by revising all the easy topics – but they'll have nightmares if they only revise the worst bits!)

Encourage them to tick off topics when they've revised them; this will make them feel good about it!

Split revision sessions into 45 minute long sessions, including time to test what they've remembered.

Give a short relaxation/exercise break between revision sessions to unwind.

Preparation for exams during Ramadan

Ramadan is due to start around 22 March 2023 (TBC), this may impact on your child's revision for their GCSE exams. The exams are due to start in May 2023. We want to highlight that if your child observes Ramadan, it will fall during revision season.

The Easter holidays fall in the last 2 weeks of Ramadan this year. There may still be revision sessions to attend.

- Organise a revision timetable and stick to it.
- Do the bulk of revision before Ramadan begins.
- Utilise half term to get into good time management and revision habits.
- Ensure your child sets a strong foundation now in terms of exam preparation. This will take the pressure off nearer to the exams.
- Ramadan can mean that your child may be more focused, with less distractions.
- School will remain open throughout Ramadan and during Eid.

Holiday Revision

Some students will be invited into school for revision sessions during school holidays. You will receive a letter with a personalised timetable.



What is GCSEPod?

GCSEPod is an award-winning expert in Subject Knowledge. We provide **3-5 minute bursts of audio-visual, teacher written learning** which can help to reinforce and consolidate key GCSE topics covered in lessons.

Experts read and explain everything clearly including all the right **facts, quotes, keywords, dates and diagrams** on screen.

Tips & Tricks

- Watch **online** or **offline**! Ask your child to **download** some Pods to their mobile device, this way they are free to expand their knowledge wherever they go.
- Create **Playlists**! Use the **My Playlist** area to create bespoke playlists on topics that they may find challenging. Having a personalised playlist means your child has fast access to Pods that will help to fill in knowledge gaps.
- Use **Favourites**! Challenge your child to a **favourite 10 Pods** on topics they find difficult/challenging. Watch the Pods together and use one of our other suggested learning techniques to help simplify what it is they're struggling with.
- **Memory Cards**! Watch the Pods and then together write **key facts, dates, diagrams** and **quotes**. Then test their knowledge to see how much they remember. *Top Tip* Turn it into a competition and reward your child for correctly answered questions. If you're stuck on what questions to ask your child then head over to our 'Quiz your Child' document.*
- **Support Homework**! GCSEPod isn't just for revision, it's to **help expand your child's subject knowledge**. If your child is struggling with a piece of homework, you can search for the topic on GCSEPod and use the Pods as an additional resource.

Does your child know they have access to GCSEPod?

If your son or daughter have already activated their account, they simply need to log in with the username and password they've created.

If they've not yet activated their GCSEPod account, simply follow these simple instructions:

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com
2. Click **Login**
3. Click **New Here? Getting Started**
4. Ensure they've selected they are a **Pupil**
5. Enter their personal details as requested
6. Create a Username and Password



Quiz your Child!



Test your child on their pod knowledge with some of these general questions!

General Questions

1. What did you learn from watching the pod?
2. What will you remember?
3. Tell me 3 key words you have learnt from the pod.
4. Tell me everything you know on the topic.
5. How confident do you feel on the subject?
6. Do you think you need to learn more on that subject?
7. What part of the pod interested you the most?
8. What was your favourite part of the pod?
9. Teach me what you've learnt?
10. Where you surprised by what you've learnt?
11. What was your least favourite part?

Character Questions

1. Who are the 3 main characters of the book/play?
2. What are their relationships with each other?
3. Which social class do they belong too?
4. Do the main characters change by the end of the book/play? How?
5. If you had the chance to talk and ask each character a questions - what would you ask them and why?

Tip: Think of some specific questions on other subjects, like photosynthesis, algebra or WWII.

Tip: Print out this page, take it everywhere you go and ask questions when you're in the supermarket, in the car, cooking dinner...

English Literature Questions

1. What's the book/play about?
2. Can you give me a plot overview?
3. Where is the book/play set?
4. How does the setting reflect the book?
5. Who are the main characters in the book/play?
6. What genre is the book?
7. Do you know any important quotes?
8. What is the structure of the book?
9. What are the book/plays themes?
10. Does the story interest you? Why?



REVISION TIMETABLE

The sooner your child starts their revision the less overwhelming it will be. We advise that students start revising now so that they are well prepared for their exams. The reason for starting this early is that there is two years of study to cover.

Before your child starts to revise they need to have a list of topics for each subject. The dates for all of the exams are on page 3 of this booklet – write these on your calendar. It is vital that your child is prepared, well rested and at school early on these dates.

It's really important to have a revision plan, this ensures that the necessary hours of revision actually take place. It also helps to make sure that your child gets the correct balance between study and leisure time.

A revision timetable need to be realistic, any pre-planned activities or commitments need to be included and there needs to some time to relax.

Your child needs to include time for all of their subjects (even if they don't like them all!). Spread out the revision for each subject over the week and vary the subjects revised on each day. You should allow about 45 minutes per subject, with a rest in between.

There are some examples of a term time and a holiday timetable below. There is also a blank timetable at the back of this booklet.

When you've completed the timetable make a copy and stick it up somewhere you will see it.

Example Term Time Revision Timetable

	5:30 - 6:00pm	6:30 - 7:30pm	8:15 - 9:00pm	9:15 - 9:45pm
Mon	Urdu	English	Science	Urdu
Tue	English	RE	Maths	Maths
Wed	English	History	Science	RE
Thur	Science	Maths	History	Early finish
Fri	History	Maths	RE	English

	11:00 - 12:00pm	11:30 - 12:30pm	1:45 - 3:00pm	4:00 - 5:00pm
Sat	History	English	Science	Maths
Sun	RE	Maths	English	Early Finish

Example Holiday Revision Timetable

	10:00 - 11:00am	11:30 - 12:30pm	1:30 - 2:30pm	2:30 - 4:00pm	4:00 - 5:00pm
Mon	Spanish	English	Science	Break	Spanish
Tue	English	Computers	Maths	Break	Maths
Wed	English	History	Science	Break	Computers
Thur	Science	Maths	History	Break	Spanish

REVISION TIMETABLE

Term Time Revision Timetable

	5:30 - 6:00pm	6:30 - 7:30pm	8:15 - 9:00pm	9:15 - 9:45pm
Mon				
Tue				
Wed				
Thur				
Fri				

	11:00 - 12:00pm	11:30 - 12:30pm	1:45 - 3:00pm	4:00 - 5:00pm
Sat				
Sun				

Holiday Revision Timetable

	10:00 - 11:00am	11:30 - 12:30pm	1:30 - 2:30pm	2:30 - 4:00pm	4:00 - 5:00pm
Mon					
Tue					
Wed					
Thur					
Fri					

