

HFUTC
Parents' Exam Support
Booklet



Health
Futures
UTC

Tuesday 24th January 2017

3pm – 7pm

What is this booklet for?



As our year 11 students are fast approaching their final examinations in the summer, it is vital that they are fully equipped with all the necessary knowledge and skills.

A large part of this success will be down to how effectively they manage their time, and implement an effective revision programme, in the run up to the summer examinations. Learning how to revise effectively is a key part of this.

This is where we all come in. Working together to support our students/child with their revision. Parents/Carers may find it difficult to support their children through this time. This booklet provides you with advice, tips, key dates and techniques that may help you with this support.

Formal GCSE written examinations begin on Monday 15th May, 2017 and run until Friday 23rd June, 2017. Details regarding the final dates and expectations of students during this period will be sent out at the beginning of the summer term.

Please do feel free to contact, via phone or email, us any point you wish to discuss revision techniques or how we can work to support your child further. Contact details are available on our website.



Useful Links:

The following resources/websites are some (but not all) of what is available to help students:

The logo for Collins Connect, featuring the word "Collins" in white on a red rectangular background, followed by the word "Connect" in white on a blue rectangular background.

www.connect.collins.co.uk

This is an online resource that has been bought by the School to support your child's progress. They have their own login and are able to access the information on the go as well as in formal revision times.

www.gcsepod.com

If you have any problems using this resource, maybe a trip to see Mr Teather will help!



www.samlearning.com

If you have any problems using this resource, maybe a trip to see Mr Teather will help!

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

This is a generic website that contains information on each of your child's GCSE subjects. It is free to use and is easily accessible online.

What are HFUTC doing to support my child?

In addition to the useful link of the previous page, following are also strategies we are using to best support your child in securing the best possible grade they can.

- Ensure the mental and physical wellbeing of our students
- Lessons
- Intervention and support/catch up lessons
- Monitor attendance and punctuality
- Work closely with teachers to support behaviour
- Additional lessons
- Tutor time support
- Email/contact
- Pastoral support
- Resources bought in (online)
- Study revision guides
- Practice papers
- Study periods
- Holiday school
- Study skills sessions (revision timetable planning)

We've advice, tips and tricks
For your exam fever
So remember the following
And be an achiever

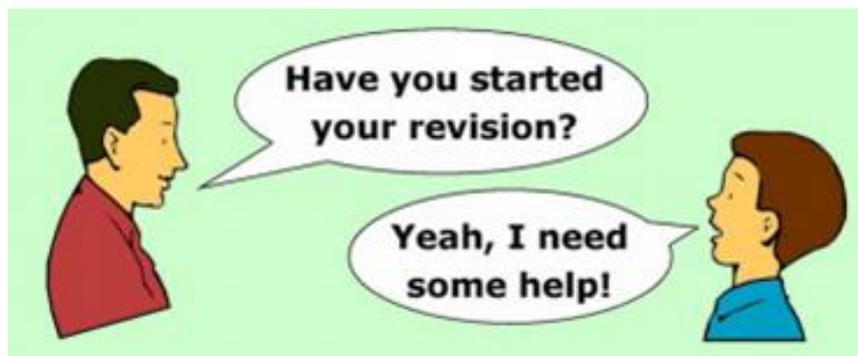


What can I do to support my child?

The good news is that you don't need to be an expert in any of the subjects your child chooses to make a real difference. You also don't need to give up your life and other responsibilities – you just need to know how best to spend the time you do have.

One of the hardest demands on students is that of understanding the long-term importance of doing the best they can, and learning to shelve short-term fun at times in the interest of long-term benefits (not easy even for adults). Children will also differ in their levels of maturity, their ability to take responsibility for their learning, organisational skills and levels of motivation.

This is where parents come in. Your support, encouragement and interest can make a spectacular difference to your child's motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the exam period.



KEEPING THE MOTIVATION UP

FOR PARENTS

1. Agree the balance between work and social life and stick to the agreement. Again, flexibility is the key – if a special night comes up, agree that they can make up the work at a specified time.
2. All students fall behind, feel demotivated or overwhelmed, or struggle with the balance of social, work and school demands at times. When your child feels like this, berating and threatening them will have a negative effect. Talk to them about the issues, acknowledge their feelings and adopt a sensible attitude in wanting to find a solution.
3. Be flexible – use the 80/20 rule. If your child is sticking to what they are supposed to be doing 80% of the time, they will be doing alright.
4. If your child asks for your support, encourage them by helping them to see the difficulties in perspective. Teenagers often take an all or nothing ‘catastrophic’ approach to difficulties – “I’ve messed up this essay, I might as well give up.”

Hints for an Ideal Revision Area

providing some of these will go a long way to helping your child...



What do the new grades mean..?

By now I am sure you are all aware the grading system for English and Maths has changed. This is the first year for this change, the old letter grades are being replaced with numerical grading. A* - G is being replaced with 9 – 1.

- The **first new exams** for GCSE Maths and English will be in summer **2017**. The new GCSE Science exams will start in summer **2018**.
- There's **no Foundation Level** in the new **English** GCSEs — students of all abilities will take **the same exams**.



New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

The government's definition of a 'good pass' will be set at grade 5 for reformed GCSEs.

What else will change?

- Course content will be more demanding across all subjects. For example, in English language candidates will be required to read a greater range of challenging texts from a variety of periods.
- The majority of subjects will be assessed solely through exams taken at the end of two years of study (ie no controlled assessments or coursework).
- 'Tiering' will be dropped in most subjects. This means that for most courses, all candidates will sit the same paper, rather than opting for a foundation or higher paper according to their ability. The main exception to this is maths, although it is worth noting that a lot of content previously only included in the maths higher paper will now also be tested at foundation level.
- November resits will only be available in maths and English language.



Tips for English Literature Revision

<u>Paper 1</u>	<u>Paper 2</u>
Monday 22nd May 2017 (am)	Friday 26 th May 2017 (am)
1 hour 45 minutes	2 hours 15 minutes
64 marks	96 marks
Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel	Modern Texts and Poetry

Your child is studying 3 different texts plus a poetry anthology. The texts are listed below:

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare (Paper 1)

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson (Paper 1)

An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley (Paper 2)

Power and Conflict Anthology (Paper 2)

Reading, reading, reading!

Above anything else, your child will gain the best grade possible for English Literature if they have read and reread the set texts. In class, we have focused on the key areas but anything can come up in an exam so the more they understand the book, the more chance they stand of gaining the highest grade possible!

Spark Notes

www.sparknotes.com

Sparknotes is a resource which breaks down each scene or chapter of texts into manageable summaries. There is also some excellent information on the context of each text, some focus on the specific themes and motifs and also some quizzes which the students can use to assess their understanding.

No Fear Shakespeare is a part of Spark Notes and gives a line by line modern translation of Shakespeare texts.

Swipespeare (Mobile device application) is also very useful for this!

BBC GCSE Bitesize

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zckw2hv>

This is another website where your child can access revision tools and information about each of the set texts. There are quizzes available for them to try and videos to watch to ensure they are getting the right content.

S-Cool

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/english>

This is another really useful website, particularly for poetry, but it does contain information on all of the set texts.

Key questions to ask your child about their English Literature revision:

1. Have you read the text more than once?
2. Have you borrowed a copy from school?
3. What happens in each chapter?
4. What are the particular themes of the text and why are they so important?
5. What is the most important quotation from each chapter?
6. Why do you think this is?
7. Can you explain and identify the literary language features that have been covered in class (metaphors, personification, similes, hyperbole etc)?
8. What effect do these language features have on different areas of the text?
9. How has the writer structured this chapter to entertain the reader?
10. What is the context of the story/poem?

With English Literature, your child has to write in essay format so they should understand how to construct an essay. I like to use the Jaffa Cake essay format:



Introduction

This is the start of your essay (the biscuit/cake base). It tells the reader what you are going to do throughout the essay and should ALWAYS directly address the question.

Main Body

This is the "orange goodness" of the essay and is where you will explore what you think about the question. Prove your point by supporting it with evidence from the text and make reference to language, structure and context. At the end of each point, refer back to the question to stop yourself going off track!

Conclusion

No Jaffa Cake would be a Jaffa Cake without the layer of chocolate, just as no essay would be an essay without a conclusion. This is really important and is where you summarise your arguments and ensure that you have answered the question in full!

Tips for English Language Revision

<u>Paper 1</u>	<u>Paper 2</u>
Tuesday 6 th June 2017 (am)	Monday 12 th June 2017 (am)
1 hour 45 minutes	1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks	80 marks
Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Your child knows what each question is about and will have been given a document called "What is Included in Each Exam." This breaks down each question into the number of marks, the time to be spent on each question and how much they should write.

Paper 1

This paper focuses on a literary extract from either the 19th or 20th century. They can utilise the skills that they have learned for English Literature to help them answer the questions in addition to what they have learned in Language sessions.

Top Tips for this Paper

- Encourage your child to write definitions of each language technique and structural technique and an example of each on flashcards/posters and display them in their bedroom.
- Ask them to explain to you what the focus is at the start of a fiction book and how it changes during the first 2 pages.
- Encourage them to practise evaluating what they read ensuring they use evidence from the text to support their ideas.

Paper 2

This paper focuses on two non fiction extracts. These may be diaries, newspaper articles, blogs, speeches etc. They will need to be able to understand the writers' point of view and explain why they have come to that conclusion.

Top Tips for this Paper

- Encourage your child to read a newspaper or news articles on a regular basis. Not only will this give them a wider understanding of the world around them, it will also solidify what they have learned in terms of the features and characteristics of different genres of texts.
- Ask them to explain a writer's perspective and be able to ascertain why they have come to that conclusion.
- Encourage them to draw conclusions based on what people say (we call this inference).

English Language Specific Resources

Mr Bruff on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>

This YouTube channel is led by an English teacher who breaks down each question of the English Language exam in a clear and precise way. Each video lasts for around 10 minutes but it is very useful if your child struggles to revise through reading alone. There are many other teachers on YouTube if they find this helpful.

AQA

www.aqa.org.uk

This is our Exam Board. You are able to access specimen papers and sample answers on the website.

Your Teachers!

Above all, your English teachers are the best resource you have to ensure pass to the best of your ability. Use them!

Tips for Mathematics Revision



<u>Paper 1</u>	<u>Paper 2</u>	<u>Paper 3</u>
Thursday 25 th May 2017	Thursday 8 th June 2017	Tuesday 13 th June 2017
Non calculator	Calculator	Calculator
80 marks	80 marks	80 marks
1 hour 30 mins	1 hour 30 mins	1 hour 30 mins
100% Exam		

Below we have listed useful websites that we use in the maths department. Every pupil has their own unique login for mathswatch, allowing them to save the work they complete and for their teacher/parent to see the progress they are making!

Maths Specific Resources

Mathswatch

Question Level Analysis

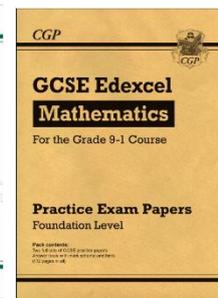
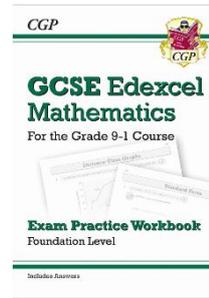
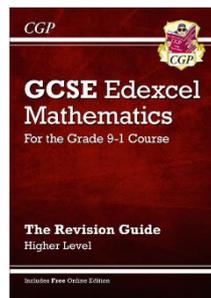
Revision Guide

Revision practice books

CGP Practice Papers

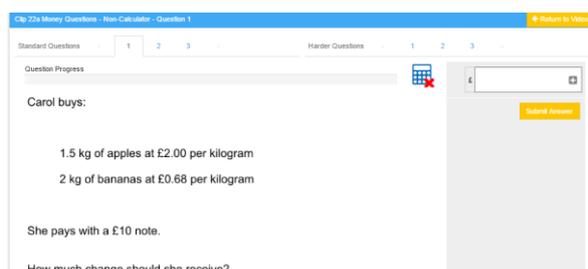
Mr Barton Maths website

Maths Made Easy website



www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk

Mathswatch is a resource with over 150 videos explaining Maths topics. There is no limit to the amount of videos you can view! With questions for them to practise and their work is marked!



Of course don't forget pupils can always use Google to help!

Reducing the REDs:

Each fortnight pupils are given a question level analysis, identifying areas of improvement and strengths (see below). These are 'ragged'. Pupils will revise each 'red' and 'amber' topic areas, by watching the clip on Mathswatch, answering the interactive questions and finally completing the worksheet. Ticking off a red/amber as they successfully complete each topic!

Pupil RAG Rating Analysis		
	<u>Aut 2: MOCKS - paper 3: Friday 2nd December 2016</u>	
Each column tells me the topics I need to improve on, the topics I am strong at and the topics I need to understand further.		
RED = I need more help and support with these topics		
AMBER = I understand but need to practise		
GREEN = I fully understand these topics		
Red	Amber	Green
	rounding - 31	
ordering decimals - 3		
bar charts - 15		
		money questions - 22
		sequences - 37

Key questions to ask your child about their Maths revision :

- 1- Have you got your RAG rating sheet ?
- 2- Have you watched the clip on mathswatch? Done the sheet? Answered the interactive questions?
- 3- Have you used your revision guide to help you ?
- 4- Have you answered the GCSE style questions from your revision guide ?
- 5- Still not confident enough to tick off your red topic ? Ask your teacher for help! Get worksheets from your teacher to support and guide you.
- 6- Now tick off your red! Onto the next one!

If you have any questions/queries please feel free to contact your child's maths teacher via email details on school website).

Tips for Science Revision



Subject	Core Science (Unit 1)	Additional Science (Unit 2)	Triple Science (Unit 3)
Biology	16 th May 2017	9 th June 2017	19 th June 2017
Chemistry	18 th May 2017	14 th June 2017	21 st June 2017
Physics	24 th May 2017	16 th June 2017	23 rd June 2017

Science Examination Breakdown				
Additional Science GCSE		Triple Science GCSE's		
Core Science	Additional Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
B1 60 marks (25%)	B2 60 marks (25%)	B1 60 marks (25%)	C1 60 marks (25%)	P1 60 marks (25%)
C1 60 marks (25%)	C2 60 marks (25%)	B2 60 marks (25%)	C2 60 marks (25%)	P2 60 marks (25%)
P1 60 marks (25%)	P2 60 marks (25%)	B3 60 marks (25%)	C3 60 marks (25%)	P3 60 marks (25%)
One Unit 1 CAU 48 marks (25%)	One Unit 2 CAU 50 marks (25%)	Biology CAU (Unit 2 or 3) 50 marks (25%)	Chemistry CAU (Unit 2 or 3) 50 marks (25%)	Physics CAU (Unit 2 or 3) 50 marks (25%)

Science Specific Resources

www.educake.co.uk

You should now be use to using Educake, you don't have to wait for teachers to set you questions, you can set them yourself! When you log in edit your profile and save your mobile number- if you forget your password in the future you can reset it yourself. If you are having problems logging in, any member of Science can help you reset your password.

Visit the EdExcel website to access a range of past papers and mark schemes. Remember you are following the 2011 specifications!

