

# How can we support our young people to perform well in exams?

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# Setting the scene - 20+ exams for most students

Date	Start Time	Board	Level	Element Code	Element Title	Component Code	Component Title	Duration
Tue 14 May	1:00PM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8461H	Biology Tier H	8461/1H	Biology Paper 1 Tier H	1h 45m
Wed 15 May	1:00PM	WJEC/GCSE	GCSE/9FC	C720QS	English Literature	C720U10-1	English Lit Component 1 Shakespeare	2h 00m
Thu 16 May	9:00AM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8462H	Chemistry Tier H	8462/1H	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier H	1h 45m
Tue 21 May	9:00AM	EDEXL/GCSE	GCSE/9FC	1MA1H	Mathematics Option H	1MA1 1H	Maths Paper 1 Non Calculator (H)	1h 30m
Wed 22 May	1:00PM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8463H	Physics Tier H	8463/1H	Physics Paper 1 Tier H	1h 45m
Thu 23 May	9:00AM	WJEC/GCSE	GCSE/9FC	C720QS	English Literature	C720U20-1	English Lit COMPONENT2 Prose & Poetry	2h 30m
Tue 04 Jun	9:00AM	WJEC/GCSE	GCSE/9FC	C700QS	English Language	C700U10-1	Eng Lang Component 1 20th Cent Lit	1h 45m
Thu 06 Jun	9:00AM	EDEXL/GCSE	GCSE/9FC	1MA1H	Mathematics Option H	1MA1 2H	Maths Paper 2 Calculator (H)	1h 30m
Fri 07 Jun	9:00AM	WJEC/GCSE	GCSE/9FC	C700QS	English Language	C700U20-1	Eng Lang Component 2 Nonfiction	2h 00m
Fri 07 Jun	1:00PM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8461H	Biology Tier H	8461/2H	Biology Paper 2 Tier H	1h 45m
Tue 11 Jun	9:00AM	EDEXL/GCSE	GCSE/9FC	1MA1H	Mathematics Option H	1MA1 3H	Maths Paper 3 Calculator (H)	1h 30m
Wed 12 Jun	8:30AM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8462H	Chemistry Tier H	8462/2H	Chemistry Paper 2 Tier H	1h 45m
Wed 12 Jun	10:30AM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8100	Citizenship Studies	8100/1	Citizenship Studies Paper 1	1h 45m
Wed 12 Jun	1:00PM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8668H	German Tier H	8668/LH	German Listening Test Tier H	0h 45m
Wed 12 Jun	1:50PM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8668H	German Tier H	8668/RH	German Reading Test Tier H	1h 00m
Fri 14 Jun	9:00AM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8463H	Physics Tier H	8463/2H	Physics Paper 2 Tier H	1h 45m
Mon 17 Jun	9:00AM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8100	Citizenship Studies	8100/2	Citizenship Studies Paper 2	1h 45m
Mon 17 Jun	11:00AM	AQA	GCSE/9FC	8668H	German Tier H	8668/WH	German Writing Test Tier H	1h 15m

28 weeks until the start of May

22 of these are school weeks

110 school days

As few as 60 lessons left for some subjects

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# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Attendance affects your learning.**

**Attendance affects your future.**



Every minute of every lesson counts



### LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

Minutes lost each day	5 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes
Days per school year lost	3 days	6.5 days	10 days	13 days	19 days

**Did you know that attendance impacts upon achievement?**

Employers want a workforce that is committed and punctual. Studies show there is a clear link between poor attendance and low academic achievement. Employees who have 8 good GCSEs earn on average £150 per week more than those who do not.

# Attendance

## Attendance affects attainment

Students who attended over 95% of the time last year scored on average a full grade higher than those between 90% and 95%

Students with attendance between 80% and 90% scored nearly 2 grades lower on average

Below 80% was nearly 4 grades lower



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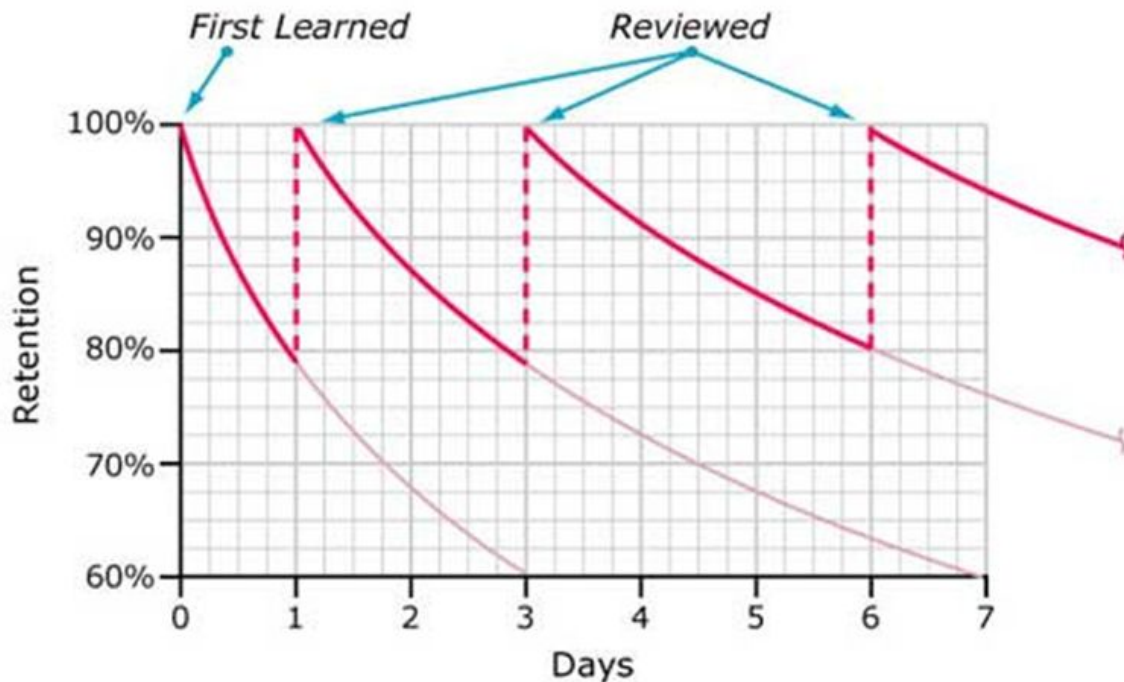
Praising Stars 1 Report this week  
Year 11 Assessments starting Friday 10th November  
Praising Stars 2 Report December  
Year 11 Revision Support Evening January  
Prom passport launch  
Parents Evening 1 18th January  
Parents Evening 2 February  
Year 11 Mock Exams starting 26th February  
Year 11 Mock Results Day March  
Praising Stars 3 Report March  
Praising Stars 4 Report April  
Parents Evening 3 April  
GCSE Exams begin May

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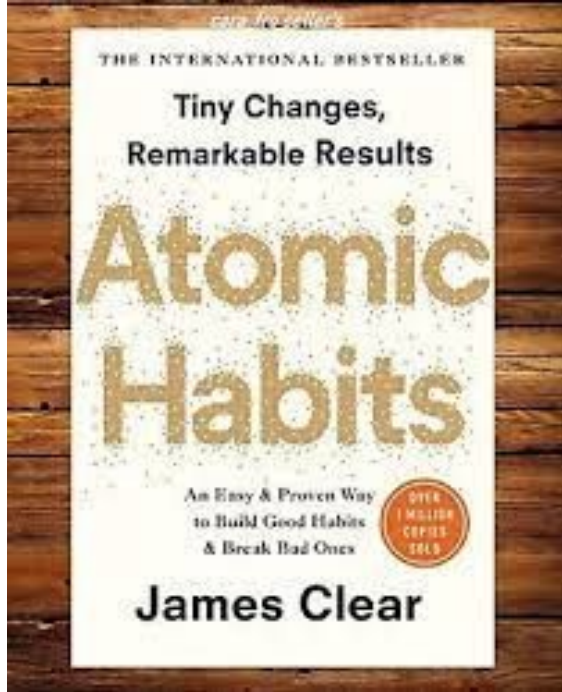
# Cramming doesn't work

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



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# Atomic Habits



How to build new habits, and break bad ones.  
Every action you take is a vote for the kind of person you want to become.

Forget about goals focus on systems instead...

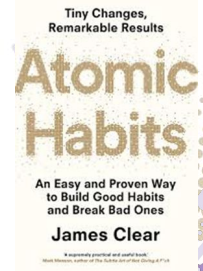
1. Winners and losers have the same goals
2. Achieving a goal is only a momentary change
3. Goals restrict happiness
4. Goals are at odds with long term progress

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# Do you need to change your habits?

“Changes that seem small and unimportant at first will compound into remarkable results if you’re willing to stick with them.”

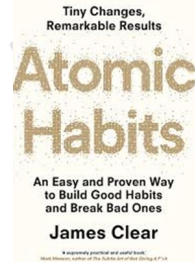


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#LearningHabits

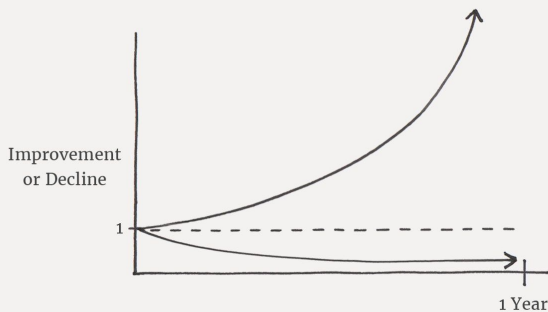
and transforming lives

# Do you need to change your habits?



## The Power of Tiny Gains

1% better every day  $1.01^{365} = 37.78$   
 1% worse every day  $0.99^{365} = 0.03$



JamesClear.com

Students will feel like they are not making progress.

This may mean they want to give up.



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#LearningHabits

...d transforming lives

# How can we support our young people to perform well in exams?

**Miss Pressley**  
**Associate Assistant Principal**

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# Why do we need your help?

Evidence shows that parental support is **eight times** more important in determining a child's academic success than other factors.

The work ethic and culture that you instil in your child at home can make all the difference.

As a parent you cannot be expected to know all subject areas and every piece of curriculum knowledge and luckily you don't have to.

Promoting a positive working ethos and encouraging your child to do their very best is essential!

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# Revision Misconceptions (What your child may tell you!)

“It’s too early to start yet.” – effective revision starts early and continues at a steady pace. All subject teachers have already started embedding revision into their lessons.

“My friends haven’t started revising yet.” – They have, they just haven’t told you. Surprisingly, these are the same friends who also seem to achieve well **‘without revision’**

“You can’t revise for this subject.” – You can and you should! There is always something you can be doing, and at Bydales we optimise the use of Google Classroom and other programmes to ensure our students have access to revision materials.

“I can revise and do other things at the same time.” – Certainly not! Concentration is key. There is significant evidence that shows texting, watching TV and sometimes listening to music can reduce your levels of concentration by a huge margin, preventing students from being able to retain the information even if they are revising.

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# How can I support my child with their revision?

Set out a **designated place** at home where your child can complete revision, the kitchen table, a desk in the spare room. Having a set place to separate work from home is really important for balance.

Encourage students to **take a break** every 20-30 minutes to do something fun, or just take a break from writing or the computer. After long periods of time without breaks, we become less productive

Ask them to **set intentions** for each session: 'By the end of this session I will be able to answer questions about photosynthesis'. After the session, you can then have a discussion around what they have learned, to promote that recap and recall.

Ask the student to **create flashcards** on questions they may be asked on their exam, and work with them to create quizzes where you can test their knowledge.

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# Do's & Don'ts!

## Do!

Provide resources (paper, coloured pens, & snacks!)

'Study Buddy' - Show an interest in their work, get them to be the teacher and teach you!

Chunk information - help your child to break tasks down so they are manageable, create a plan or timetable of how much time they want to spend on each topic area.

Set rules - agree the rules for homework or revision. Implement rewards when targets are met.

## Don't

Make comparisons with other students

Make them to revise in a set style or structure, mind maps, post it notes and Google Classroom are still forms of revision.

Require students to evidence **all** the revision they are doing.



# From the Sidelines

Another fantastic resource is a website called <https://www.fromthesidelines.uk/>- it specialises in videos and 'study hacks' to help parents to support their children with revision.

They have lots of great videos, and even 15 minute podcasts to listen to on how to support young people, with methods and activities you can try at home.

Here is a short example about how distractions can affect your child's concentration when trying to study.  
<https://youtu.be/tUYX7owUtC4>

How you can create the perfect study space for your child at home.

## Study Hack



## Podcast Episode





# Revising for GCSE English Language & Literature

Mrs Townsend

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Start early! GCSE English literature is extremely content heavy, with the students needing to have a thorough knowledge of the following texts:

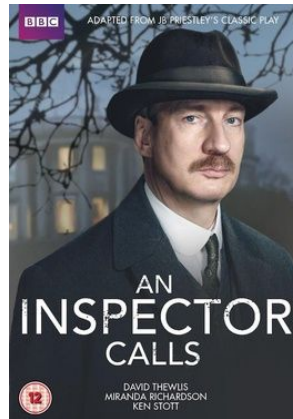
- Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'
- Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'
- Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'
- 18 Anthology poems

For 'A Christmas Carol' and the poems, students also need to be aware of the context.



# How can you help?

- Encourage your child to re-read the texts at home. They have all been provided with their own copies and all of our set texts are available as free PDFs online.
- Quiz your child and encourage discussion about the texts (perhaps you could read them too).
- Watch faithful adaptations of the texts to facilitate discussion around plot and character.



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# Homework

Students should have a revision task set as homework by their core English teachers each week. We expect them to spend around an hour on these tasks. (1 hour 15 for students who are eligible for extra time.) Please encourage your child to complete this work to a high standard.

Encourage your child to speak to their core teachers (or me) if they are confused about the task or need an extension.

There is a homework drop in every Friday from 2.30 pm in room 210.



In addition to this, we have a weekly poetry challenge. This is run through Google classroom. Please encourage your child to accept the invite and take part in the weekly challenges.



Students First  
**OUTWOOD**  
GRANGE ACADEMIES TRUST

Please accept the invite to the 'Anthology Poetry Challenge' classroom

## POETRY CHALLENGE

Each week, one poem from the Anthology will be the focus of your Anthology revision.

Quizzes will be posted in the 'Anthology Poetry Challenge' classroom **each Monday morning** and **scores will be logged and shared with your class teachers** - this is to ensure that we can support you in identifying the poems you are least confident with.

*This week's poem is **The Manhunt***

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Students First Raising Standards and Transforming Lives



Anthology Poetry Challenge - BYDALES  
Year 11

Meet [Generate link](#)

Announce something to your class

Class code: **r534e3c**

Upcoming

Due Monday 'Sonnet 43'

Juliette Cooper 16 Oct  
Good morning year 11,  
This week you will be looking at *Sonnet 43*. Watch the short revision video and have a go at the quiz.  
Well done to all those people who completed *The Manhunt* last week. The English Team is really impressed with the number of students who have taken part - keep it up!  
The English Department

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# Enrichment

Enrichment runs weekly on a Wednesday from 2.30 - 3.30. Staffing is as follows:

IIX1 - HTO 207

IIX2 - SJE 208

IIX3 - HHN 209

IIX4 - EGO 206

IYY1 - LCE 210

IYY2 - VSH 211

We will not cancel Enrichment without prior notice, but please note it will not run in the last week of term before Christmas.

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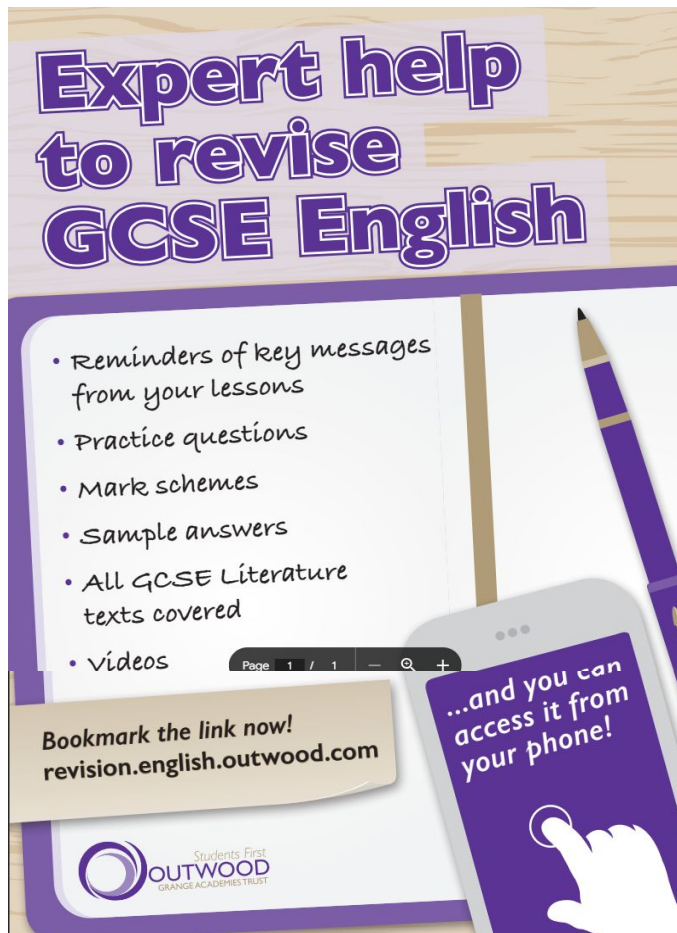


# Additional revision materials and techniques

- Students will be given recommended revision materials at a later event
- I have copies of CGP revision guides available that students are welcome to take
- BBC Bitesize
- 'DystopiaJunkie' on YouTube
- Revision.english.outwood.com
- Google Classroom - Year 11 English Revision Resources
- Their exercise books!



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## Expert help to revise GCSE English

- Reminders of key messages from your lessons
- Practice questions
- Mark schemes
- Sample answers
- All GCSE Literature texts covered
- Videos

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Bookmark the link now!  
[revision.english.outwood.com](http://revision.english.outwood.com)

...and you can access it from your phone!

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## English Language

It is a common misconception that students cannot revise for English language. The aforementioned website has practice resources such as reading papers and writing tasks.

The most powerful thing you can do to support your child in English language is to encourage them to read! Fiction, non fiction, newspapers, articles, websites, short stories...it all helps.



# Revising for GCSE Mathematics

Mrs Charlton - Head of Maths

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# Maths GCSE

## 3 papers - Pearson Edexcel

**Paper 1** Non calculator - Thursday 16th May am

**Paper 2** Calculator - Monday 3rd June am  
(1st day back after half term!)

**Paper 3** Calculator - Monday 10th June am

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## Maths revision

- Any topic can appear on any of the 3 papers - there are no set topics for each paper  
Therefore we have to ensure that the whole specification has been revised as we do not know what will appear.
- Preparation for assessments is the same as we would prepare for the “real thing”.  
First assessments are 2nd week in November - 3 papers
- Holiday homework packs will be given out each Holiday (including this half term) to help your child gain further practice in answering exam questions and exam technique
- Your child has been preparing in the lessons with completing a practice paper each week. They have then been given a QLA sheet linking these questions to Sparx - so they know what they need to go away and practice. This will also happen after their November assessments

# Maths revision

Completing Sparx homework each week is incredible effective for supporting revision as it provides continual practice on the topics they are doing in lesson and also consolidation of past topics covered. It also exposes student to vast amounts of different questions

Students also have to remember facts and formulae these can be found in

- Their school planner - a currently underused resource, has lots of important information they need to remember for their maths GCSE
- Revision guides - these will be given out in the coming months
- Google classroom - we will be placing information on there that is also needed for revision
- Ogat Maths revision website

<https://revision.maths.outwood.com/> this has lots of information for both students and support for parents ( a link has been placed in the google classroom)



# Maths - extra support we provide

Tutor maths - Students are placed with either the HOD or the 2nd in dept to complete maths skills in tutor time

121- Some students will be chosen to work in small groups during different times of the school day to target those skills that they still need to gain a grade 4 to 5 on the Foundation paper. These students are carefully selected based on current performance.

Consolidation - This is an extra maths lesson for students on the higher paper who need an extra push to secure the Grade 5 at this moment in time.

We constantly monitor who we think will benefit from tutor maths, 121 and consolidation and therefore this may change as the year progresses.



## To sum up

Practice - the more a student does the better they get, this includes in lessons too - being in lessons on time, all the time.

Flash cards, highlighting information etc helps with remembering facts and formulae

**BUT** this will not answer a maths question in its entirety, this comes from actually doing the maths and lots of variety of questions

There are many “unique questions” which now appear on the papers each year. Students have to gain the confidence to tackle questions they have not seen before by knowing how to apply their knowledge. This improves the more questions they tackle both in lessons and out of lesson.

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# A Final Thought

If we are better today, than we were yesterday, there is a big difference we can continue to make.

We still have 6 ½ months to be a little better every single day!

What do you need to do, to truly be the “Best that you can be?”



**BEING  
THE BEST  
WE CAN  
BE!**

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