



SUBJECT ADVICE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

AYLESTONE SCHOOL

2019

English

Students will have studied their texts in class. They will have studied three texts: Xmas Carol, Romeo and Juliet. They will also have studied their anthology poems: Love and Relationships.

They should have read their texts at least twice now and they should revisit them again before the Summer Examination. We recommend that students spend between 20-30 minutes per week, per text revisiting what they have studied over and above what is set in class and for homework. They should be making notes on character, setting, context and language and these notes will contribute to their revision programme. The fact that students will not be able to access the texts in the exam makes this kind of preparation useful. There will be a further full mock in March.

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Maths

- Practise is essential. Making revision notes for maths is not useful at this stage. What is needed is regular and frequent practise of questions. Pupils should mark and correct the questions as part of this practise.
- This means 30 mins 3/4 times a week at the moment. This increases to longer sessions in the immediate run-up to the exams.
- Good websites are www.mymaths.co.uk and www.mathswatchvle.com (login & password details provided by school)
- There are also many paper-based resources available (some sold through the maths department)
- Exam board website also contains some exam preparation questions. www.ocr.org.uk

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Science

- Revision sessions are running after school on a Monday and at lunch times on Wednesday, revising the content that was covered in Year 10.
- All students are set two extended answer exam questions for homework each week (via Show My Homework), and an active learn task these should take approximately 30 minutes each to complete and are to be handing in during their Monday Science lesson.
- All students have access to a resource called **Pearson Active Learn**. Students have their own login details but if they cannot remember them, they should see Mrs Perez asap. This allows them to access the text books used for the course and a wide range of revision exercises and exam hints. They should be spending a minimum of **60 minutes** a week using this resource along with any other work that they are set.

A large number of students have purchased revision guides, but if they have not done so, these are available from general book stores and the internet. It is also possible to purchase workbooks with many exam style questions to help them in their preparation for the exams.

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Computer Science

- Students should now be practising their python programs in preparation for each of the tasks that they will do as part of the controlled assessment. They will be working on this between now and Easter at the latest and so should be using time at home for revision and practice.
- Whilst the controlled assessment is running during lesson time, revision sessions in preparation for the second set of mock exams and the final exams in the summer will take place on alternate Thursday afternoons starting 24th January.

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Modern Foreign Languages

- Regular learning and self-testing of vocabulary from topic-based vocabulary lists given out each half term. This is also done in lessons each week.
- Attend intervention sessions as per timetable and letters home.
- www.quizlet.com – all vocabulary from topic-based lists has been uploaded to practise and review
- Revision guides and workbooks for all skills available through school (see Mrs Erwin)

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Business Studies:

- All pupils have their exercise books of class notes at home as all the theory has been covered in school. They should use these books to revise for both final exams in the summer.
- All pupils will have been given additional revision materials from the revision guide booklets covering all the theory for this unit. These should also be used (in addition to their class notes) for revision.
- GCSE Bitesize provides additional revision materials.
- It is essential that any after school revision sessions are attended as per the timetable and lessons home.
- A further complete practice paper for both exams will be completed in the second round of mocks.

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Geography

- Practising describing locations/trends of graphs (remembering to quote data)
- Learning case studies and making sure that they know what topic to apply them to. Also, learning a balanced arguments (positives/negative OR primary effects/secondary effects OR problem/solution)
- Understanding command words (describe, explain, compare, justify, analyse etc).
- Creating revision material for each topic (mind-maps, revision cards etc)

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History

Thorough revision is essential of all four topics as they have equal weighting in the exams. They are The Normans, Health & the People, Germany 1890 – 1945 & The Cold War 1945 – 1972. Students will need a very detailed level of knowledge in this exam so knowledge and understanding of the content is essential. BBC GCSE Bitesize has a very good revision section for this course. It has a section structured for the AQA exam board.

The students will be answering a question on Norman castles to a visit to a castle would serve them well to develop understanding about the Norman architecture and purposes of these buildings.

Practise exam questions are an excellent idea. Some may be found on the AQA website. <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

Any queries to singlis@aylestone.hereford.sch.uk

Music

Students should be listening to the 8 set work pieces of music at least three times a week. When listening to the music, students should think about the style: instruments, structure, texture, tonality, harmony, dynamics, melody, chords and use of technology. Students should continue to practise their instrument and attend composition intervention.

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GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

I would advise students to purchase a CGP GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition (Eduqas) revision guide. It is an invaluable resource which will guide them through the subject content in an easy to understand way.

NEA 2 is currently underway and the students must ensure that they are carrying out research in their own time. Students need to use a variety of methods to ensure that they collate as much valuable information as possible. This includes questionnaires, shop/restaurant surveys and general information on the chosen topic. All practical dishes chosen MUST be highly-skilled choices. www.bbcgoodfood.com is a great resource for recipes and it also indicates the skill rating.

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GCSE Design and Technology

Pupils in year 11 should be buying CGP AQA GCSE Design and Technology Materials revision guide to revise from. They should also be utilising the GCSE revision resources wall which is full of handouts to help them with revision on certain areas.

If pupils can revise the following...

Materials (Paper and board, Wood, Metals, Polymers and Textiles)

Processes

New and emerging technologies

Sustainability

Design and annotation skills

Different joining methods for wood and why they would use them for particular products

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GCSE Art

Pupils are given individual feedback each lesson that allows them to progress with their coursework during class, intervention sessions and at home if appropriate. This feedback may outline artists they need to research, drawings, or photographs that need to be completed in order for work to progress.

Pupils can take their art folders home weekly to complete work which must be presented on A2 boards that are provided by the school. Pupils are allowed to take home paper, boards and appropriate equipment to help them complete their art studies.

The art room is open at lunch time and after school for pupils to access if they need to complete work.

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GCSE PE

Students should be devoting at least one hour a week on revision for GCSE PE, starting with the content covered at the start of the course. All content for both papers has now been delivered. There is still some work to do on the controlled assessment (Personal Exercise Programme), which should be completed by February half term.

All students are encouraged to attend the extra revision sessions available to them, running on a Friday afterschool to revisit topic areas and increase their confidence when it comes to applying their knowledge to different examination questions.

It is likely that the cohort's practical examination will be just after Easter so it is important that they are working on their fitness levels and skill development outside of school, attending afterschool sports clubs to develop their practical assessment scores.

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Advice from recent Aylestone leavers

How did you prepare for your exams?

Started revising after the Christmas break with an idea as to what I needed to work on most from the mocks. Kept organised with a timetable for revision knowing how many hours of study I wanted to do for that subject (this can easily be done online – Get Revising).

What worked best for you?

At the time I used to just duplicate notes by writing them down, but now I'd say the best thing for me is using flash cards, with the topic area on the front and the information on the back. Just flicking through these at any time is really useful and an accessible thing to do.

Study timetable?

Personally, I used a website named GetRevising. It allowed me to create a timetable around school and other activities and ensured I would get the amount of revision I wanted to have before the exam date.

How did you keep yourself motivated?

I'm quite competitive in sports, but even when it came to being in the classroom I wanted to achieve. I think the mindset that doing well really helped me continue revising. Also, although a lot of people say that GCSEs don't have any precedents, they really do! When you come to applying for colleges and universities, they will refer to your GCSEs and question why you got a certain result. Top universities will only consider students with the best GCSE results coinciding with their A-levels.

Also, taking frequent breaks and keeping refreshed with fruit and water. This helped keep my mind positive and awake during revision. Additionally, going on a run most mornings during study leave was also beneficial.

Joel Middleton – Aylestone leaver and prefect 2015

It's never too early to start revising, the earlier you start the more prepared you'll be, there is nothing worse than walking into an exam and knowing you're not as prepared as you could be for it. If you're not prepared for the exam you're already failing yourself.

However, it's important to remember that everyone struggles in the lead up to exams, it feels like if you fail it'll be the end of the world. I think that it needs to be emphasised more that even if they don't go well, as long as they have worked hard, that is all that matters.

The important thing is to figure out the type of revision that works for you, if they don't figure it out at school then college will be difficult as revision is left to you at college, whereas at school you are given lots of resources and guidance. You don't realise how easy you've got it at school until you go to college.

It's also good to find the best time of the day to revise, I'm an afternoon/evening reviser but some are morning etc... This can make a huge difference towards your motivation to revise!

The main thing I did to keep myself upbeat in the run up to exams is that I planned things for after finishing exams like parties and my trip to Mexico, and the Prom, that was my biggest motivation.

I would schedule in breaks, go and exercise or get out of the house for a bit just a chance to clear my mind.

Fleur Hodges – Aylestone leaver and Head Girl

For each subject, I made a set of notes mainly using the revision books available, ensuring all topics in the courses were covered. I would regularly read through the notes, then I went through past papers along with the mark schemes, understanding what the questions were asking for, which also allowed me to identify any areas I was weak on.

I would advise people to go to the after-school revision sessions which are available, and if stuck on any questions or parts of the course, go to their teachers.

Around this time of year (February half term), I was doing around 2 hours of solid revision a night and around 4-5 hours on Saturday/Sunday. I always gave myself Friday night off of any work or revision and arranged my work on the weekend to allow the evenings to be free to relax. I did increase the amount of time spent on revision around Easter.

Every week I would make myself a basic timetable which helped me focus on keeping organised. I made a more detailed timetable at Easter which I worked more closely too.

In my spare time, I made sure I met up with friends, relaxed with family and on Saturdays I would play hockey to get some fresh air.

I stayed motivated by realising that all the time and energy spent on revision on the lead up to the exams would all be worth it come results day, and working hard meant I knew that I couldn't have done any more.

I am very happy that I worked hard for the exams as it's given me a great start to pursue the career I want.

Kelly Higgins - Aylestone leaver and Head Girl