

April 2022

Dear parents, carers and students,

As Year 11 students approach their formal GCSE examinations, and Year 10s their mocks, revision is no doubt at the forefront of their minds. The same can be said for staff as well, who know all too well the hard work, resilience and strong revision that's required to get the results you deserve. Unsurprisingly then, staff at JOG talk about this a great deal and we recently asked all of our staff to share at least one piece of advice or revision tip for the students soon to take exams. They came up with a helpful list and we thought it would be good to share with our community. Of course, the list isn't exhaustive and some of you may know these things already, but even taking just a little time to discuss these or other revision ideas is a positive step towards achieving your best. We hope you find these useful.

If you have any queries about this or anything else, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

With best wishes for successful revision and exams,



Mr R Hawthorne and the JOG staff

John O'Gaunt – revision tips and advice from staff

We asked JOG teachers and support staff to think of their *best* advice and tips for revising in the lead up to your exams. They told us these and we thought it would be nice to share them with you. If there's any repetition, it's probably because it's great advice!

- Make a revision timetable but don't get stressed if you don't follow it to the letter. Reevaluate the tasks, re-focus and start again
- Make sure you have a clear space and a drink when you start - procrastination truly is the thief of time
- Put your mobile phone away, better still turn it off so you won't be tempted to be distracted!
- Stick your revision notes around the room so you can glance at them - make sure you move them around, so they don't become invisible
- Use different colours for different topics
- Get plenty of sleep, eat properly and get outside for some fresh air occasionally!
- Use Knowledge Organisers
- Use acronyms like MAD TSHIRTT: 'Melody Articulation Dynamics Texture Structure Harmony Instrumentation Rhythm Tempo Time Signature' for example
- Test yourself and tick off what you have accomplished from your revision list (good way to track progress)
- Short bursts of 20-25 mins are more effective. Your concentration will lapse after an hour. Take short breaks
- Try different revision methods. Research shows that doing a range of activities will benefit you. Organise your folders and simplify your class notes. Make summary skeleton notes, mind maps, audio notes and diagrams for key facts
- Use practice exam papers – this is one of the most valuable methods of revision
- Create an environment that works for you (lighting, noise, limited distractions)
- Take 5 minutes at the end of each day to reflect on what you've achieved and set yourself (manageable) goals for the next day
- Make it memorable! Draw pictures or make up little songs to help the knowledge stick
- Reward yourself for achieving your goals, with fresh air, an episode of your favourite TV programme or a sweet treat
- Start early. A lie-in may be tempting, but facts are at their most digestible first thing in the morning. By starting your day at early you can get more of the revision done early, leaving you feeling positive about the day and what you've achieved
- Have everything you need. Set up your revision space, making sure you have everything you need for the revision session. From drinks and snacks to stationery, paper and resources
- Attend revision classes when they are offered! You'll cover key topics, learn new revision styles and have a chance to ask questions about the things you still aren't sure about. You'll also have the chance to take part in group discussions with your peers who are revising the same thing!
- Organise yourself for the exam. Before the exam comes make sure you know what your exam involves (such as how many questions you need to answer and how long you have). Make sure you pack your bag the night before, being sure you have the correct equipment with you. Make sure you know when and where your exam is and leave for your exam in plenty of time. Getting a good night's sleep before the exam is going to do your brain a lot better than last minute cramming, so don't be tempted to stay up late
- Put your revision to good use. Don't put your revision to waste by panicking when you get into the exam. You've got this! Just think positively and make sure you read the instructions on the paper carefully first. Once you've got an exam out of the way don't dwell on it – even if you're not sure about some of your answers there's nothing that can be done afterwards so let it go and focus on the next one!