

GCSE 2026



Parent and Carer Advice and
Guidance Evening

GCSEs 2025-26

Advice and guidance

- School website
- GCSE grade system
- Revision advice
- Advice from core subjects
 - **English**
 - **Maths**
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- GCSE pod
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- Mock exams
- Exams information
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- Prom



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Inspiring Education, Inspiring Lives



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Open Events 2025 Student Links

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Careers / Post-16 Information

Distance Learning

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Enrichment

Exam Information

Online Safety

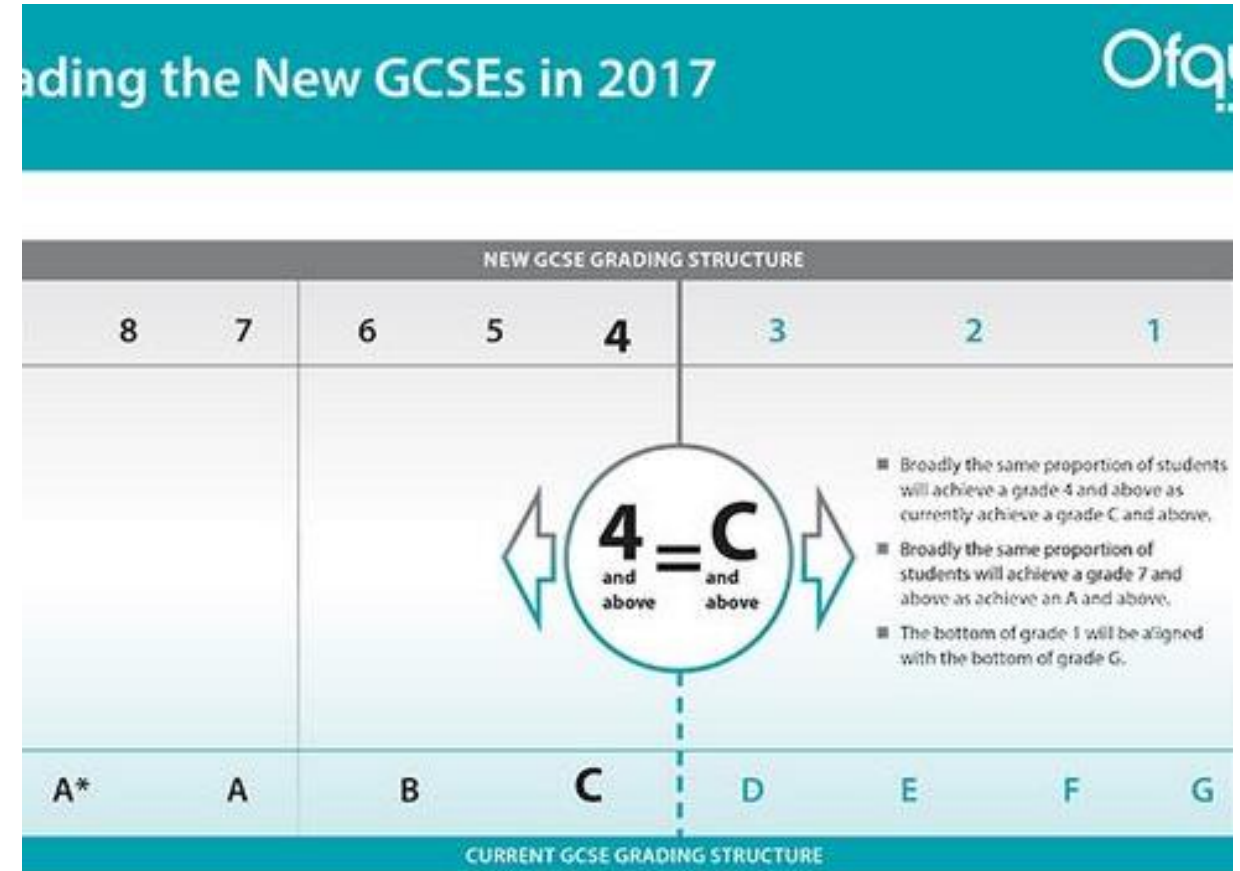
School Council

Check here for:
Exam dates
GCSE pod
Revision sessions
Copy of this PowerPoint



9-1 GCSEs

- Since 2016 most GCSE courses have changed to linear qualifications with content heavy curriculums and terminal exams.
- 1-9 system, with a Grade 4 representing a 'pass' grade.



Revision Advice

We are what we
repeatedly do.
Excellence, therefore,
is not an act, but a **habit**

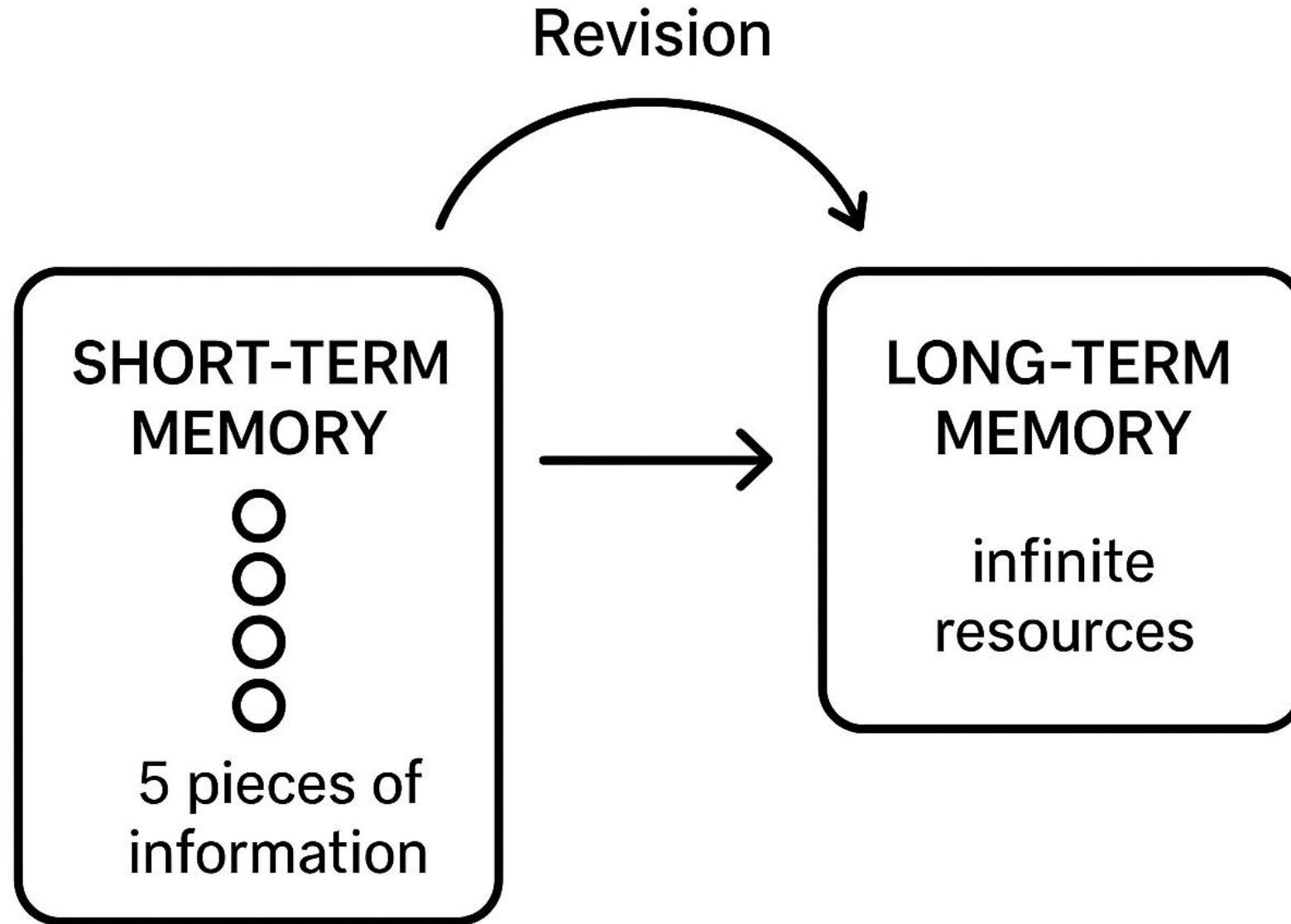
Will Durant

Revision Advice

- The sooner the better...
- Where to do it – A quiet organised space
- How much to do
 - *Quantity vs Quality*
- After school revision sessions
 - *Not a substitution for independent study*



	1 Mon	1 Tue	1 Wed	1 Thu	1 Fri
Lunchtime	Food	Textiles	Physics	Geog	
	Comp Sc		French Found		
Afterschool	Chemistry	D+T RM	English	Music	Biology
		Maths	French Higher	Art	Bus St
		History	Drama	GCSE PE	
			PR	Geog	





Revision Strategies

- Annual subscription paid for by the school
- Video and audio – access on PC, tablet or phone
- Stream or download content

Login details

Username = school email address firstname.surname@oldburywells.com

Password = You will have set this at the beginning of the year with Mr Williams

You may have already done this, if you are unsure e-mail and we will look to reset them

Retrieval Practice

Practice bringing information from memory for better results.

“**Retrieval Practice**” is a learning strategy where we focus on getting information **OUT**. Through the act of retrieval, or calling information to mind, our memory for that information is strengthened and forgetting is less likely to occur.



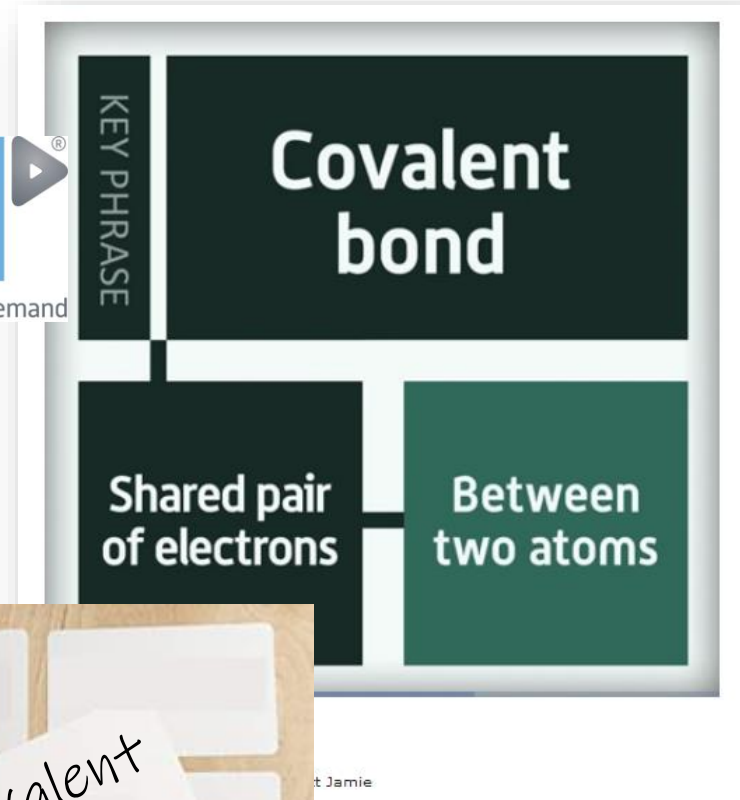


Retrieval Practice

Practice bringing information from memory for better results.

At-home activities using Retrieval Practice

- Watch a Pod with your child.
- Ask your child to write key words on a flash card.
- Watch the Pod again – your child should summarise their knowledge of each key word on the back of each flash card.
- Allow your child time to flesh out their cards with as much information as they can remember.
- Test your child by asking them to define the flash card words without looking.

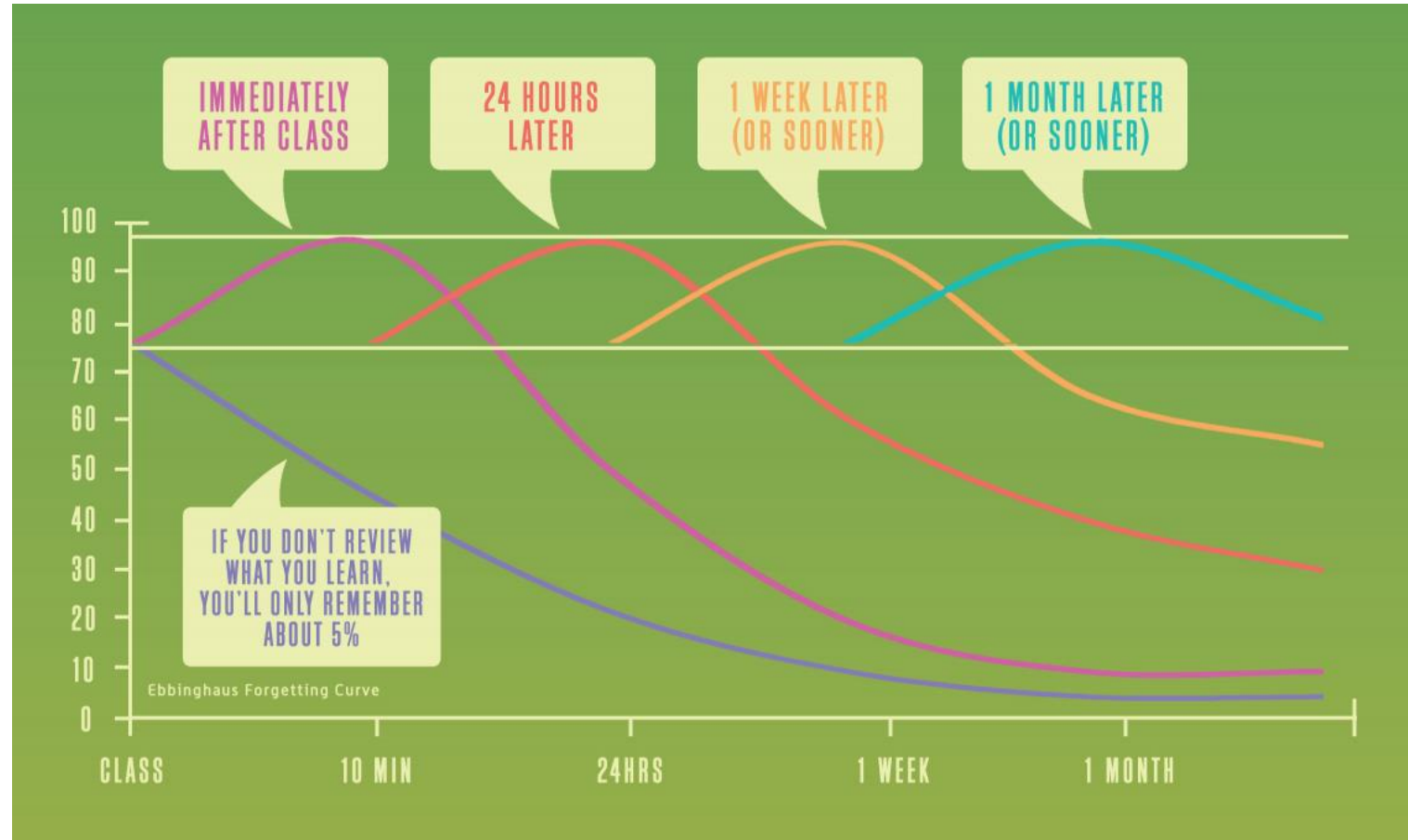




Spaced Practice

Revise, rest, repeat.....space out revision for better results

It has been proven that by reviewing at regular intervals, you can reduce how much you forget to just 10%.





Spaced Practice

Revise, rest, repeat.....space out revision for better results

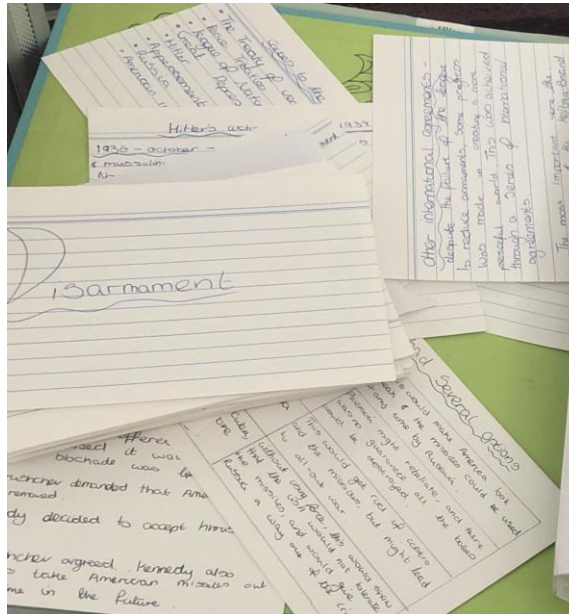
Reviewing 4 times within a month can help you remember nearly 100%



1 Week Later

Flash Cards

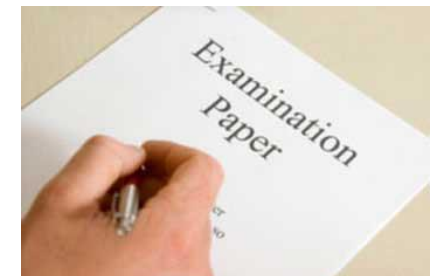
Encourage your child to create their own questions with the answers on the reverse. Then, test their knowledge.



1 Month Later

Past Papers

Encourage your child to watch GCSEPod's Pods again and then practice past papers.



Leitner System – The Method

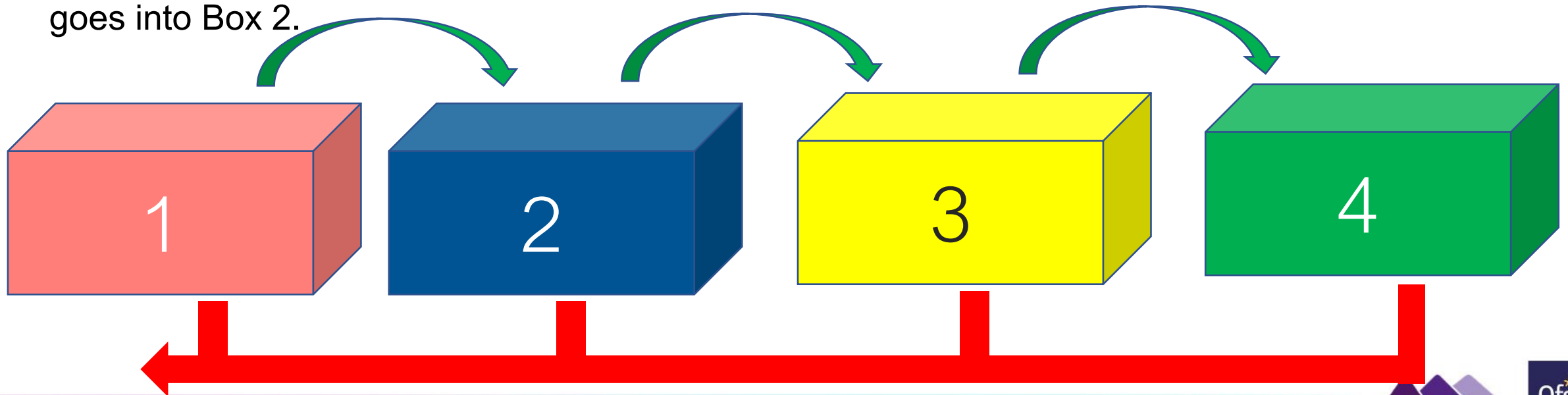
All flash cards start off in Box / Stack 1.

As you review the cards, each card you answer correctly goes into Box 2.

If you give the wrong answer the card stays in box 1.

When you review cards in Box 2, if you still get it right you move the card to box 3 and so on until all cards are in Box 4.

If you get a card wrong in any box, it goes back to Box 1.



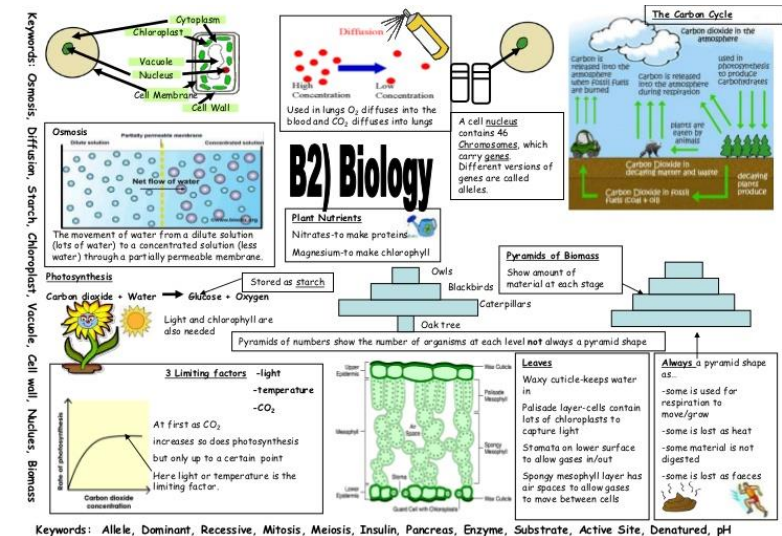
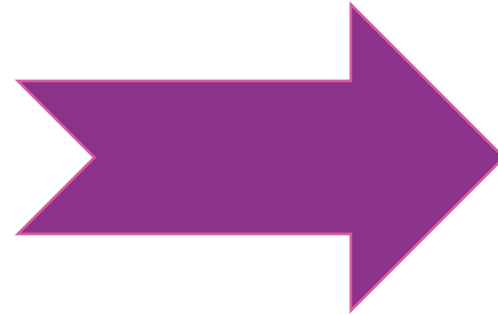
Dual Coding

Just reading text alone improves our memory by 10% in 3 days but looking at the picture we are likely to remember 65%.



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gsepod®
Education on Demand



Watch a Pod together, then using the images from the Pod, suggest your child draws a poster combining the images with keywords and definitions.

Copying the labelled diagrams in the Pods helps the knowledge to stick!

Interleaving

Interleave revision to remember more



Interleaved practice is a learning technique that involves switching between topics and ideas and has been shown to improve long-term learning relative to blocked study of the same idea or topic.



Interleaving



Interleave revision to remember more

- Ask your child to create a learning/revision timetable using the interleaved practice example below. They should choose topics that are similar and related either from the same subject or a different one.
- The Pods on GCSEPod are set out in a very clear and organised way. This makes it easier for your child to plan out their revision so that similar and related ideas and concepts, such as in Maths and Science, are studied together and in different orders, rather than separately and/or always in the same order.

Less Effective Blocked Practice

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4	Topic 5
Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4	Topic 5
Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4	Topic 5

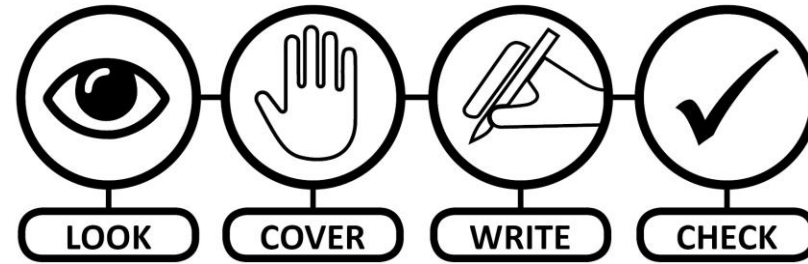
Highly Effective Interleaved Practice

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Topic 1	Topic 4	Topic 2	Topic 5	Topic 3
Topic 2	Topic 5	Topic 3	Topic 1	Topic 4
Topic 3	Topic 1	Topic 4	Topic 2	Topic 5

- Your child can watch the Pods on each topic and then complete active tasks from the previous slides.



How to Self-Quiz



Step 1: Read the section you're memorising

Step 2: Cover the section up

Step 3: Write down everything you can remember.

Step 4: Check your notes against the section you're studying.

Step 5: With a different colour pen, write down any information you missed so you can visually see the gaps in your knowledge.

Satchel One



- Online System for setting work from teachers
- Students have their homework posted straight to their account by teachers and can access it from anywhere using computer/phone/tablet
- Parents can register an account (using a parent code) and monitor homework that has been set and submitted for their son/daughter. (You should have this already, if not please contact us).

How we will use it:

- All homework will be set on SatchelOne
- Revision activities may be set from teachers through this too.

How to get registered



Parents

You will have been given a “parent code” when they started in year 7

- If you would like this re-issuing, please leave your name, e-mail address and name of your son/daughter on the sign-up sheet before you leave and these details will be e-mailed to you.
- If you have more than one child at OWS, you will need more than one parent code, but they are managed through the one SatchelOne account

Students

Use their school e-mail address and password and then “Sign-In with Office 365” option.

Advice from Core Subjects



Mrs Lawson – English

Dr Kiapene – Maths

Mr Cox – Science (Combined and Triple)

English Linear GCSE



Mrs Lawson

English

- All students are studying both English **Language** and English **Literature**
- All assessment is via **terminal** exams
- This means that revision, recapping and learning are extremely important.

Which exams will pupils sit?

English Language

1 hour, 45 minutes

English Language

1 hour, 45 minutes

Paper 1

21 May am - *Fiction and creative writing*

Paper 2

5 June am - *Non-fiction and persuasive writing.*

English Literature

1 hour, 45 minutes

English Literature

2 hours, 15 minutes

Paper 1

11 May am - *Shakespeare and A Christmas Carol*

Paper 2

19 May - *Modern text and poetry*

English Language

The two exam papers contribute equally to the overall grade.

Paper 1

Tests reading response to a fiction extract and creative writing.

Paper 2

Tests reading response to two non-fiction texts and persuasive writing.

English Literature

- Modern text - *An Inspector Calls* or *Animal Farm*
- Poetry - 15 poems and 2 unseen poems
- A Christmas Carol
- Shakespeare play – Macbeth

Students will need to know the storyline very well and they will need to know some quotations from the text off by heart.

What can Parents do to help?



1. Encourage **wide** and **independent** reading - a little every day is ideal. **Good quality fiction**. Also, provide non-fiction too: regular reading of a **quality newspaper** (can be online). This is the biggest help you can give your child. (I know it's not easy – we will do all we can to cajole and encourage at school too!)
2. **Purchase revision guides** if your child is struggling – both for language and for the set texts. CGP revision guides are good.
3. Buy copies of the set texts for your child to use at home. This means they can **write**, **highlight** and **annotate**.

What can Parents do to help?



4. Keep an eye on homework – **can you help them learn quotations and key points?** Talk to them about what they are doing. Could you read their set text with them so you can discuss ideas?
5. **Keep in touch with us.** If you are worried, concerned or confused about what they are studying or their progress, then contact your child's English teacher and we will get back to you. **Contact via email is best.** The sooner we are aware of issues, the sooner we can work on them.
6. Help with revision – use mind maps, visual clues, actions, flash cards, repetition and testing to help them remember.
7. Attendance and hard work/ maximising time is the most critical thing students can do to help themselves

Revision Materials

There are a wealth of resources out there and it can be overwhelming.
Listed below are revision guides and websites we would recommend.

CGP revision guides for all the set texts are very valuable.

GCSE Pod – short clips on every poem and text that we study. These are excellent for students who may struggle to take in information through reading or find it difficult to focus for longer periods. It can also pinpoint specific weaker areas. They can be watched multiple times or used to take notes.

[GCSEPod](#)

Web browser tabs: Weblin, G x, Satche, GO: 2, My Hc, Inbox, Y11 in, Ozymi, Ozymi, The B, Oldbu, Sound, A Sou, Goog, Search, Ozymi

Address bar: https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10557/64868?exam_board_id=1010

Global Managed | Import favourites

access ▾

What would you like to teach today?

Ms Lawson ▾

English Literature / Poetry: Power & Conflict / Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley (AQA)

Share title Assign

Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe ...

5 videos • 22 minutes

1. Ozymandias: Context and the Poet's Int... 4:31
2. Ozymandias: Subject and Themes 4:31
3. Ozymandias: Key Images 3:56
4. Ozymandias: Language, Structure and... 4:39
5. Ozymandias: Literary Techniques 3:35

Switzerland

1816

Lord Byron

Mr Bruff



Mr Bruff has made revision videos for every section of the GCSE specifications. These can be very useful for students who have missed sections of the course or have struggled with a particular scene or concept.

[AQA English Language Paper 1 Question 1 \(2025 only\)](#)

[Character Analysis: The Witches in 'Macbeth'](#)

Physics and Maths Tutor



Has a wealth of past papers and resources.

This is particularly good for students who are targeting Grade 6+ and really want to extend their thinking and understanding beyond the lesson content.

[Ozymandias - Percy Shelley - Poetry - AQA English Literature GCSE](#)

Maths GCSE



Dr. Kiapene

The focus of Maths Department
this year is:

"collaborative working and
fostering Independence".

Information about the exam

Date of Exam	Thursday, 14 May 2026	Monday, 03 June 2026	Monday, 10 June 2026
Paper	1 (Non-Calculator)	2 (Calculator allowed)	3 (Calculator allowed)
Length of Exam	1hr 30 mins	1hr 30 mins	1hr 30 mins
Content / Topics	All topics can be tested on any of the 3 papers. All 3 papers will consist of some questions which test mathematical knowledge in a straightforward way, questions which expect you to explain your reasoning, and questions which require you to solve complex problems. All 3 papers test easier topics at the beginning and more difficult ones at the end.		

What is new in Maths?

- A greater emphasis on problem solving and reasoning.
- This means that practicing exam questions is just as important as revising individual topics.
- All assessment is via 3 terminal exam papers at the end of year 11. These papers cover everything from the beginning of year 9.
- This means that they need to start their revision now.

Tiers of Entry

- Exam Board – Edexcel
- Students taking the foundation paper can achieve grades 1-5. A 4 is a pass.
- Students taking the higher paper can achieve grades 3-9. The questions start at grade 4 level and half the marks are at grades 7, 8 and 9.
- We use mock exams to decide which tier of entry will get students the best grade.
- All tier decisions will be made before Easter.

GCSE Further Maths



- Exam Board – AQA
- This is meant for set 1 students only and a few other students who want the challenge and who are ready to explore mathematics further.
- We run lunchtime revision sessions to augment what happens in the normal classroom, focus on level 8 and 9 and additional mathematics.
- There are two exams. Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) is on 08 June 2026 and Paper 2 (calculator paper) 15 June 2026.
- Each paper is out of 100 and graded from level 4 to 9.
- Some students attend the sessions not for the additional qualification alone but also in support of the GCSE revision.

Revision Resources



- MathsWatch website
- Corbettmaths
- Maths Genie
- Practice papers which teachers will be giving out in lessons and for homework.
- Weekly after-school revision sessions that started on the 11 September 2025 - better late than never.
- We are planning to run two Saturday revision sessions – 30 May and 06 June 2026. Just before papers 2 and 3.
- Revision guides will be available for sale after the first mock exam.



How can I help?

1. Keep encouraging year 11s to attend after-school revision sessions.
2. Be positive with them.
3. Encourage them to start revising now, and to schedule short, regular sessions throughout the year.
4. Encourage them to make full use of the online subscriptions and other resources we have provided. Revision cards are great but practicing past paper questions is better.
5. Provide them with the right resources: scientific calculator, revision guides
6. Encourage them to keep up an excellent attitude to learning. Their 9 hours of curriculum time plus home learning set by teachers are still the most important part of their exam preparation.

We hope to celebrate the
successes of our current year 11s
on result day

Thank you
from the Maths department

Science GCSE

Triple and Combined (Trilogy)



Mr. Cox

All students will sit 6 exam papers

Triple Science

- 2 in each Science Subject
- Each paper is 1 hour 45 mins
- 100 marks

Combined Science

- 2 in each Science Subject
- Each paper is 1 hour 15 mins
- 70 marks

Upcoming Mock

1 x P1 / 1 x OWS P2

Triple Science

P1 1h 45

P2 50 mins

Combined Science

P1 1h15

P2 35 mins

Based on the topics you have done

Triple Science

Can choose different entry tiers for each subject

Combined Science

All papers have to be taken at the same tier

Higher papers grades 4 to 9 (or 4-4 to 9-9)

- Need to be sure of a grade 4 (or 4-4)
- Very narrow compensatory grade 3 (or 4-3)

Tiers will be confirmed by staff following the second mock exams in March

The exams need a vast amount of preparation.

- It is worth dividing them up into topics so that nothing is missed – use revision guides to help.
- The full specification can be found on the [AQA](#) website and Sharepoint Students Out.
- Exam dates for these Units are on the school website.

Required Practicals

There are a number of these that have been covered during the course:

Triple

Biology 10 practicals

Chemistry 8 practicals

Physics 10 practicals

Combined

8 Practical

6 Practical

7 Practical

15% of marks on all papers will be based on questions linked to these practicals

Maths Content

- All papers have a significant maths content
 - 10% Biology
 - 20% Chemistry
 - 30% Physics
- Foundation Papers
 - Level of KS3 Maths
- Higher Papers
 - Level of Foundation GCSE Maths
- Topics include algebra/numerical computation/graphs/handling data

Support from School

- Explicit teaching of revision and reflection skills
- Lunchtime/ after school revision sessions
- Science revision revolution
- Mind maps and knowledge organisers via Sharepoint
- Revision and videos for all required practicals
- Weekly revision classes from May 2025
- Time blocked for revision before mocks
- Aim to complete content around Feb Half term
- AI - the one that does the thinking gets the learning

What can Parents Do?

- Ensure your child is preparing adequately for all the written papers.
- Ensure that they have a detailed revision plan or timetable in place well before exams.
- Ensure that your child dedicates time to know all the required practicals, methods and data.
- Practise the maths skills, particularly graphs.
- Practise timing – pace needed is 1 mark per minute.
- Do not waste any revision time - check what they are doing - are revision sessions 'active'?
- Ask questions.

Science Support – Revision Materials

A typical week's worth of revision might include a mixture of these:

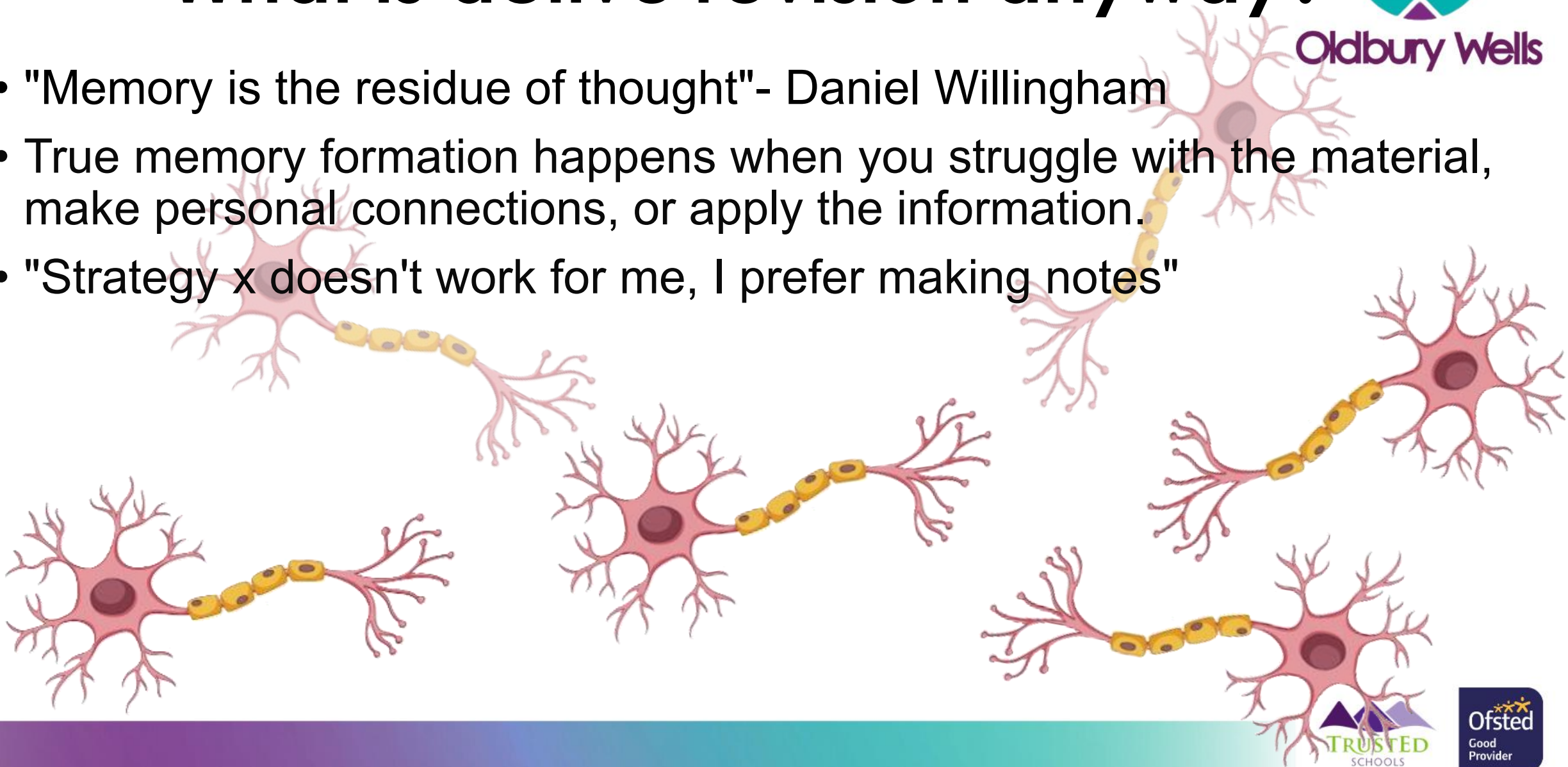
- Production of around 6-8 key word revision cards or complete 1-2 mind maps.
- 30mins - 1 hour spent on BBC Bitesize.
- 30mins - 1 hour spent using the revision guide.
- Several past paper questions (equivalent to about 1 completed past paper).
- As much maths practise as possible, particularly data analysis and graphs.

What is active revision anyway?

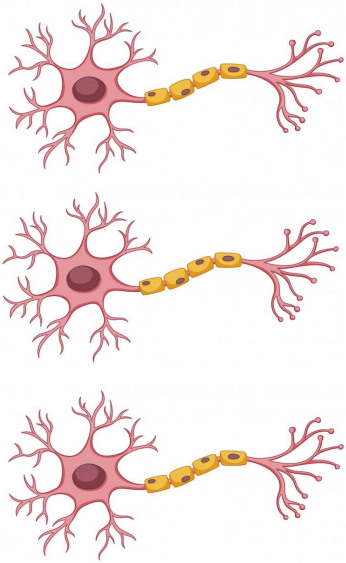


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- "Memory is the residue of thought"- Daniel Willingham
- True memory formation happens when you struggle with the material, make personal connections, or apply the information.
- "Strategy x doesn't work for me, I prefer making notes"



How does a mind map work?



2nd subheading

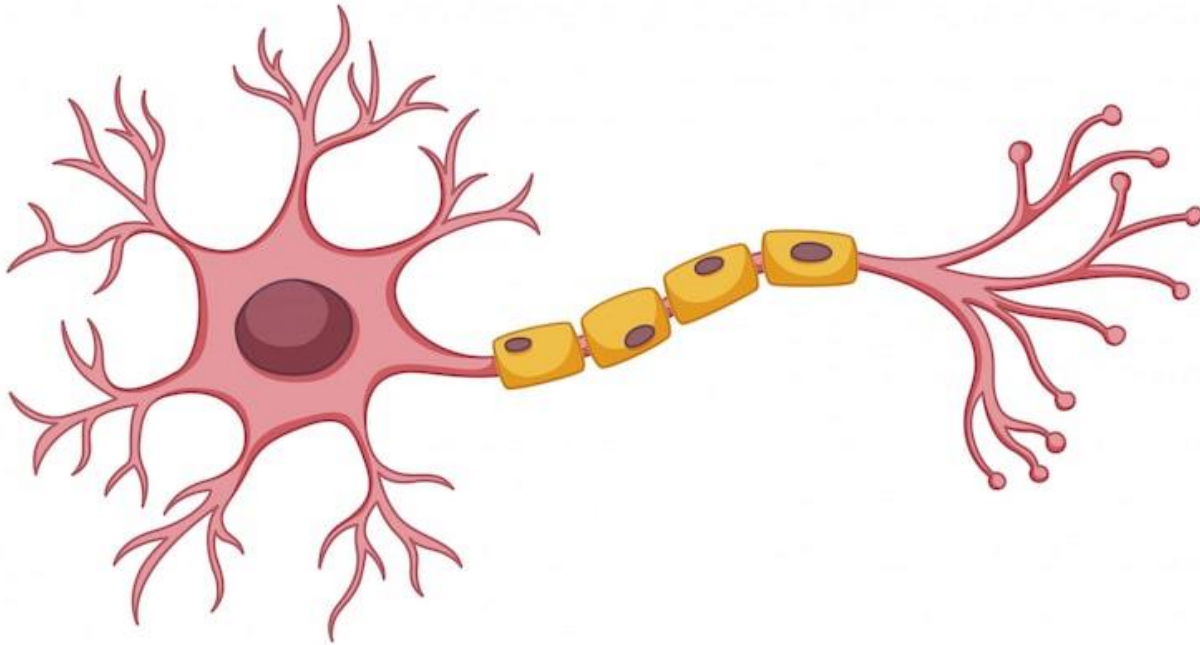
2nd subheading

1st subheading

SCHEMA



Retrieval Practice



- Retrieval flashcards
- Past exam questions
- Quiz your friends
- GCSE POD
- Revision and practice books
- AI - Take a picture
- PROMPT- "Convert to text and ask me 10 retrieval questions"

Don't take my word for it!

John Hattie - 0.4
represents a significant
positive impact on
achievement

**Deliberate
practice=
0.79**

Metacognition = 0.6
How am I doing?

Cooperative learning
= 0.55

Not being labelled
0.61

Teaching each
other = 0.74

Effort= 0.77

Science Support – Revision Materials:



- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/aqa/>
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>
- <http://www.my-gcscience.com/revision/additional> *(this now charges a subscription fee to access some videos)*
- <https://www.youtube.com/@Freesciencelessons>
- Search for required AQA required practicals
- <https://www.stem.org.uk/triplescience/maths>
- <https://www.savemyexams.com>



Other Key Information



Mock Exams

- The first set of mock exams will run from:

24th November to 12th December 2024

- The **Written Exams** will take place in the West Hall and will be done in the first 2 weeks and 1 day.
- The final week is mainly made up of the GCSE Art Mock and the French Speaking Mocks Exams
- Mock exam grades will be the basis for 16+ applications and references

Exams information

- The GCSE exams run from **04 May to 26 June 2026**
- **28 June** - Exam contingency day
 - Don't book holidays!!!!!!
 - If they have sat all their exams by 12th June then the contingency day will not be needed.
- Equipment:
 - Pencil cases and water bottles must be clear.
 - Exam packs (£2) and calculators (£9) available to purchase in the library.
 - Phone turn them off completely, including any alarms etc if the phone is on silent.
 - Wearing watches is no longer acceptable for exams.
 - No drawing and writing on hands/arms which isn't acceptable.
 - All toilet breaks will be logged next year as a new JCQ requirement so patterns can be monitored.
- These are external exams with external invigilators – any infractions have to be reported to the exam board

Exam Stress

Year 11 can be a very challenging time for pupils coping with the stress of exams.

It is important that they take care of both their physical and mental health – getting a good night's sleep and reducing screen time are a key part of this.

Pupils needing support and advice with this can speak to head of Year, Mr Cowburn, Pastoral Support, Mrs Shakespeare or their form tutors.

Results Day

Thursday, 20 August 2026

8.30am to 12.30pm

- Pupils not collecting in person must send a letter of authorisation with whoever is picking them up.
- Provide Miss Pattison (Exams Officer) with a stamped addressed envelope to post them home.
- Or it can be a students personal e-mail address, this cannot be a parents
- Our Careers Advisor and Exams Officer will be there to assist and advise. It will also be possible to enrol at our Sixth Form on the day.



Year 11 Prom

Date 19 June 2026

New Venue The Telford Hotel, Golf and Spa Resort
Great Hay Drive

Who gets to go

- Everyone is invited, however they must earn their ticket through the prom passport.
- The aim will be achieve 100 achievement points by May to earn your ticket.

Paying for prom

Payment will be on ParentPay - the cost will be around £40.





If you have any questions please do not
hesitate to contact the school