



ORCHARD MEAD ACADEMY

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Executive Principal: Mr M Oldman

2022 04 29

Dear Parent or Carer,

As you will be aware, the GCSE examination season is about to begin. Below are the details for how the school day will be changing for your child and the expectations for their upcoming lessons and examinations.

Lessons lead up to the exams

As subjects finish teaching after their exams have taken place, pupils will be taking part in **focused revision lessons** where they will be able to revise for their other subjects independently. These will be supervised by teachers, but your son/daughter will need to bring in their own revision materials to ensure they have everything they need to help with their revision. Please ensure that your child brings their **Chromebook** to school each day from the **16th May** to ensure that they can access revision resources during their lessons.

Equipment for the exam – what to bring and what to not take into the exam

Please make sure that your son/daughter brings their usually school equipment with them to their exams as well as any other subject specific equipment they will need e.g., scientific calculator. Staying hydrated is important and your child can bring a water bottle so long as it is clear (if plastic) and does not have a label on it. It is essential that your child **does not carry their phone, smart watch or MP3/4 player** with them into their exam. Any technology that could potentially be used as a source of information is banned from the exam hall completely. Having a device could lead to disqualification from the exam or overall qualification. To ensure that we comply with exam conditions, pupils' bags and coats will be stored in a locked classroom near to the sports hall, so please do not bring in unnecessary valuables.

The Final Days for Year 11

The final day of 'normal' school day for Year 11 is **Friday 17th June**. Your child will arrive at school as normal to their lessons and then attend a Year 11 Leavers Assembly. In the afternoon Year 11 will either attend their languages examinations in the afternoon or leave school at **12.15** to revise at home. From **Monday 20th June** **Year 11 will only need to attend their examinations** and any revision sessions they wish to attend hosted by their teachers. These will be communicated to your child in lessons.

If you would like some guidance on how you can support your child to revise at home, please see the questions you can ask at each stage and the revision guide below for strategies that will help them to retain key information.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C. Harley

Assistant Principal



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Supporting Revision at Home

Questions to ask before your child starts revision:

1. What went well the last time you did an activity like this?
2. How are you going to make sure you use your time well?
3. Do you understand all the key terms before you start?
4. What can you remember about this topic without looking?

Questions to ask during your child's revision:

1. Is your revision going to plan?
2. Now you have started, are you feeling confident about the task?
3. Are there any more resources you need to complete this work?

Questions to help your child evaluate how their revision has gone?

1. Is this piece of work your best effort?
2. What went well?
3. What will you do differently next time?
4. Do you feel confident in this subject, or do you need to ask your teacher for more support?

Self-Quizzing

This technique is something you may remember from your own school days. This is essentially looking at the information, covering it up and then writing down what you can remember with it in front of you.

This is great for key words and diagrams

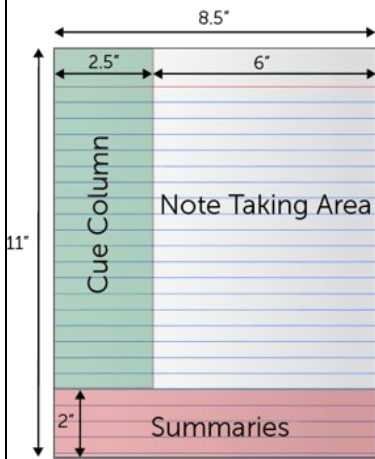


Practice Questions

Using class books, online resources or BBC Bitesize look at the types of questions your son/daughter could be asking in the exam and time them answering their questions.



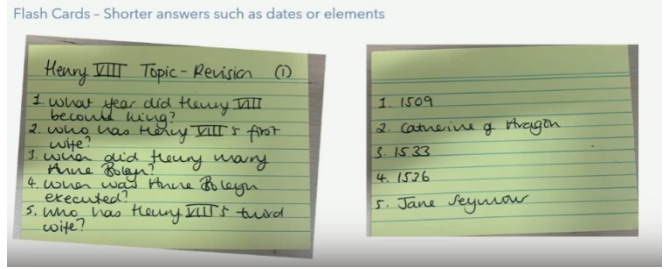
Cornell Notes



You can check that your son/daughter is writing their revision notes effectively by working with them to use the Cornell Notes method. Your

son/daughter will be much more likely to retain the information when its set out like this.

Flash Card Quizzes



Making flashcards helps your son/daughter to process the information they need to revise. You can then test them on their knowledge; revisiting questions they get wrong more regularly to help them improve.

Post Its – Matching Q and As

1. Look at the pages of notes or find the topic on BBC Bitesize. Write down or all highlight the facts your child needs to learn
2. Get some post-it notes and write out lots of questions, with the answers on another post it
3. Time your child- how long does it take them to march up all the questions with the correct answers?

