



Supporting your child through their GCSEs

*'Excellence doesn't
just happen'*

www.brinsworthacademy.org.uk

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Part of
LEAP
Multi Academy Trust

Introduction

We hold a strong belief that the achievement of our students comes from a unique partnership between the school and parents/carers. There are many simple ways that you can support your child through their exams and help them to be as prepared as they can be - this guide aims to give you ideas, guidance and suggestions.

For many students, the exam period can be stressful and they might find the whole thing quite daunting. We know that every child is different and that there is no 'one size fits all' approach for a parent wanting to help and support them. This booklet is here to help where it can.

How you can help

Students who have people around them who take an interest in their revision and progression provides that added support during the busy exam season. An effective home environment is also essential to successful exam preparation – an area that is quiet, calm, light and ventilated is perfect.

Revision Resources

BBC Bitesize

Revision resources, videos and quizzes for a wide range of subject:

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Seneca Learning

Free GCSE resources created to provide a fun way to boost grades. Pick from 1000+ GCSE courses based on exam board specifications. The content is condensed to what you actually need to know for your exams:

www.senecalearning.com/

Exam Board Websites

www.aqa.org.uk

www.Edexcel.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk

www.cbac.co.uk - Eduqas/WJEC



Revision Tips



Mind maps. These are a great way of condensing information and showing links between topics.



Teach someone else. Explaining a topic to another person helps check if you really understand it.



Test yourself. Use past papers and example questions to apply what you have learned.



Make notes. Writing about a concept in your own words will help you to remember it.



Interleaving. This is where you revisit older topics and revise them. It can help you to connect your learning.



Spacing. This technique involves leaving increasing gaps between revising the same topic. This helps to boost your long-term memory.



Make posters. Creating the poster and seeing it every day will help topics to stick in your mind.



Use flashcards. These can be a useful way of condensing information and easily testing yourself.



Look after yourself. Make sure you take regular breaks, drink plenty of water and eat well!



Plan your time. Make a revision plan and try to stick to it. This will help to make sure you have enough time to learn everything.

**EVERYONE HAS
DIFFERENT
WAYS OF
REVISING.
TRY OUT THESE
TECHNIQUES
AND FIND
METHODS THAT
WORK FOR
YOU!**



Core Courses

GCSE Mathematics

The mathematics GCSE is made up of three exam papers. All of the papers are 1 hour and 30 minutes long and are all equally weighted.

Paper 1 – Non-Calculator

Paper 2 – Calculator

Paper 3 – Calculator

Both Foundation & Higher tiers follow the AQA Mathematics course.

Remember to practise using your scientific calculator regularly. We recommend purchasing a Casio calculator to avoid losing easy marks in your exam.

Help with revision:

Period 6: Maths revision sessions are on a Thursday after school during core week. Ask your teacher for more details.

GCSE Revision guide:

Higher - The Collins 3 in 1 revision guide. A revision guide, workbook and practice papers.

Foundation - Ready, Set, Go. Crossover Revision guide and workbook

Both are available from the school shop

Useful websites:

- www.sparxmaths.uk to complete quizzes and receive instant feedback on your progress.
- www.mathsgenie.co.uk to access all the past GCSE papers. A link to YouTube is available for each paper alongside a student friendly mark scheme.
- www.corbettmaths.com for additional questions and videos.

GCSE English Literature

All exams are 'closed book'. This means that you do not take texts in with you to the exam and therefore must learn the quotes that you might want to use.

Paper 1: 1 hour and 45 minutes [64 marks – 40% of GCSE]

Section A: Macbeth - You will be provided with a short extract linked to the question and required to analyse the writer's ideas and methods in the extract, and how it links to the rest of the play.

Section B: A Christmas Carol - You will be provided with a short extract linked to the question and required to analyse the writer's ideas and methods in the extract, and how it links to the rest of the novella.

Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes [96 marks – 60% of GCSE]

Section A: An Inspector Calls

You will be given a choice of two questions to answer, about how Priestley present a character or theme in the play.

Section B: Power & Conflict Poetry

You will be provided with one poem from the Power & Conflict anthology and required to compare it to another poem that you have studied.

Section C - Unseen Poetry

Question 1 - Essay about an unseen poem

Question 2 - Comparative answer using the poem from question 1 and a further unseen poem.

Help with revision:

Useful websites:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>
- Mr Bruff - Youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w>

GCSE English Language

The English Language GCSE is made up of two exam papers. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long. They are equally weighted.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Fiction)

Question 1: [4 marks] List four details

Question 2: [8 marks] How does the writer use language in the extract to _____?

Question 3: [8 marks] How has the writer structured the text to interest you as the reader?

Question 4: [20 marks] Statement about text is given: Evaluate to what extent the statement is...

Question 5: [40 marks, 24 Content & Organisation/16 Technical Accuracy] You will be given an image as a stimulus to write about and a choice of two prompts. They may be descriptive or narrative.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Non-Fiction)

Question 1: [4 marks] Choose four TRUE statements

Question 2: [8 marks] Use details from BOTH sources to write a summary of the differences

Question 3: [12 marks] How does the writer use language to describe _____?

Question 4: [16 marks] Compare how the writers convey their different thoughts and feelings about _____. You should analyse the language and structural methods of BOTH sources as you compare their different viewpoints.

Question 5: [40 marks, 24 Content & Organisation/16 Technical Accuracy] Respond to a statement (linked to the topic in Section A) by effectively arguing a point of view.

Help with revision:

Useful websites:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>
- Mr Bruff - Youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w>

GCSE Separate Science

Students take three GCSEs – Biology, Chemistry and Physics. To succeed students will need to identify the techniques that allow them to retain as much content as possible. From March half-term all lesson time will be dedicated to targeted revision schemes of work, concentrating on key content and its application to exam questions.

Published revision resources - available from shop.

Revision Guides - Contains all key content required by students.

Knowledge organiser and Retrieval Bundle

Exam Practice Workbooks - Practice exam questions linked to each unit of work.

'10 minute' Test booklets - Range of small quizzes focussing on key units.

Online resources

- Educake - Students can use the logins provided by school to produce key content revision quizzes <https://www.educake.co.uk/my-educake>
- BBC Bitesize - Excellent content, videos and activities
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3

GCSE Combined Science

This course is worth two GCSE grades and contains a huge amount of content. To succeed students will need to identify the techniques that allow them to retain as much content as possible. From March half-term all lesson time will be dedicated to targeted revision schemes of work, concentrating on key content and its application to exam questions.

Published revision resources – available from shop.

Revision Guides (F and H tier) - Contains all key content required by students

Knowledge organiser and Retrieval Bundle

Exam Practice Workbooks (F and H tier) - Practice exam questions linked to each unit of work.

'10 minute' Test booklets (F and H tier) - Range of small quizzes focussing on key units.

Online Resources

- Educake - Students can use the logins provided by school to produce key content revision quizzes <https://www.educake.co.uk/my-educake>
- BBC Bitesize – Excellent content, videos and activities
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h

Year 11 Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday, 16th October	Y11 Parents' Revision Evening
WB Monday, 6th November	Y11 Mocks Begin
WB Monday 27th November	Sixth Form Taster Week
Tuesday, 5th December	Y11 Careers Event
Tuesday, 12th December	Mock Results Day & Sixth Form Interviews
Thursday, 16th January	Y11 Parents' Evening (in person) 4pm-7pm
WB Monday, 19th February	Y11 Mocks
WB Tuesday, 7th May	GCSE's begin

Brinsworth Sixth Form

Brinsworth Academy Sixth Form is a popular choice, with a vibrant and growing community of students. Our success is based on a strong focus on achievement and exam success. We offer a wide range of A Level and BTEC courses and wider Academy activities to enable students to develop personally and socially.

An exceptional 37% of A Level students achieved A* or A grades and 70% achieved grades A*-B in 2022. 89% of students achieved grade C or higher.

Our students' BTEC results continue to be a real strength of the Sixth Form. 64% of students who studied BTEC L3 Extended Certificate qualifications achieved a Distinction* or Distinction.

We pride ourselves on the academic and pastoral support we offer all students and we are passionate about every student's achievements and about celebrating their successes. We are extremely proud of the successful routes our students take beyond the Sixth Form.

We have a team of dedicated and experienced staff who are available to guide and support our students throughout their courses. Students are

required to achieve grade 4+ in English and Maths, plus 4 other subjects at grades 4-9 in order to access the A level courses.

We are proud of our reputation for excellence but do not rest on our laurels and our approach is forward looking to ensure that our provision continues to be of the highest quality.

Our results continue to rise with many students securing places at top universities.

Before courses begin, students will be provided with enough information to make informed decisions about courses - meeting their individual needs and aspirations. We stage an open evening and hold interviews following the initial application. Following GCSE results in August, we invite students for another personal interview to discuss the options available before enrolling into the sixth form.



The LEAP Vision

Achieving excellence is the overriding ambition of our Trust. We place students at the centre of everything we do, creating a culture of success and a love of learning which enhances students' achievements and their personal, social and emotional wellbeing.

We achieve our vision through:

Excellence for our Students

Inspiring, challenging, engaging and supporting all of our students to achieve excellent outcomes irrespective of their starting points. Every student is provided with a clear progression route to the next stage of their education and career.

Excellence for our Staff

Driving excellence in teaching and learning, and implementing a knowledge-rich curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of all students.

Excellence for our Schools

Enhancing central and shared services to maximise organisational and cost efficiencies.

Excellence for our Communities

Building positive partnerships with our parents, primary schools and the wider community.





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