



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



Things to do



Speak to your child about their revision plan and help them to create a timetable or schedule.



Encourage him or her to take regular breaks, eat well and drinks lots of water.



Encourage morning revision when the brain is more receptive and can retain more information.



Give plenty of praise and encouragement with all forms of revision.



Make sure that your child still has a good revision/life balance – encourage them to do something non-revision related in their breaks.

Things to avoid



Don't expect your child to revise all the time – rest and relaxation is also really important.



Try to limit the amount of distractions.



Don't make comparisons with older siblings and friends.



Avoid questioning their revision methods and strategies – everyone works differently.



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

Help with revision:

Maths revision sessions are delivered every Thursday night 2:40pm - 3:40pm. Ask your class teacher for room details.

GCSE Revision guide:

Available from the school shop we have CGP Revision guides at £2.50 each and Exam Practice Workbooks at £2.50 each.

Check with your teacher which level you need Foundation/Higher.

Log onto www.hegartymaths.com to complete quizzes to practice answering exam style questions.

Receive instant feedback.

GCSE English Literature

Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes [64 marks overall 40% of GCSE]:

Section A: Macbeth

You will be provided with a short extract linked to the question and required to analyse 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 extract, and how it links to the rest of the novella.

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

Section A: An Inspector Calls

You will be given a choice of two questions to answer; usually about a character or theme in the play.

Section B: Anthology Poetry (Power and Conflict)

Comparative question – you will be given one poem in the exam and are required to compare it with any other poem in the anthology.

Section C: Unseen Poetry

Question 1 - Essay on an unseen poem

Question 2 - Comparative essay on unseen poem one and unseen poem 2

Help with revision:

Useful websites:

- www.getrevising.co.uk
- www.studywise.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zckw2hv

GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Fiction Question 1: 5 minutes [4 marks]

LIST 4 things about the _____ from lines ___ to ___.

Question 2: 10 minutes [8 marks]

How does the writer use language in the extract to describe the _____?

Question 3: 10 minutes [8 marks]

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

Question 4: 25 minutes [20 marks]

'Statement about text' To what extent do you agree? Evaluate how the writer has created the impressions in the statement.

Question 5: 45 minutes [40 marks – 24 for Content and Organisation/16 for technical accuracy]

You will be given an image as a stimulus to write about and a choice of two descriptive/narrative questions.

Aim for at least 5 paragraphs.

Paper 2: Non-Fiction

Question 1: 5 minutes [4 marks]

Choose 4 TRUE statements.

Question 2: 10 minutes [8 marks]

Use details from BOTH sources to write a summary of the differences between...

Question 3: 15 minutes [12 marks]

2-3 PETAL paragraphs on the LANGUAGE the writer uses in the ENTIRE source.

Question 4: 20-25 minutes [16 marks]

Compare how the writers convey their different perspectives/attitudes on...

Question 5: 45 minutes [40 marks – 24 for Content and Organisation/16 for technical accuracy]

Write a non-fiction piece based on a similar theme to the Reading questions.

Help with revision

- www.englishbiz.co.uk/
- www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/en30stru-game-make-a-sentence
- www.curriculumbits.com/resources/english/
- www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_01.htm
- www.grammar-monster.com

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 Christmas 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 -

£2.85 for each subject.

Contains all key content required by students.

Exam Practice Workbooks - £2.85 for each subject. Practice exam questions linked to each unit of work.

'10 minute' Test booklets - £2.25 for each subject. Range of small quizzes focussing on key units.

Revision Question Cards - £5.40 for each subject. Packs of short answer question cards.

Online resources

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 Christmas 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) - £5.60

Contains all key content required by students

Exam Practice Workbooks (F and H tier) - £5.60

Practice exam questions linked to each unit of work.

'10 minute' Test booklets (F and H tier) - £3.25. Range of small quizzes focussing on key units.

Revision Question Cards - £4.20 for each subject. Packs of short answer question cards.

Online Resources

BBC Bitesize – Excellent content, videos and activities

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h

Year 11 Key Dates

Date	Event
WB Monday 18 th November	Y11 mocks
WB Monday 2 nd December	Sixth Form taster week
Monday 9 th December	Y11 careers event (P5)
Thursday 12 th – Wednesday 18 th December	Y11 intervention week
Monday 16 th December	Mock results day & Sixth Form interviews
Monday 13 th January	Y11 Parents' Evening
WB Monday 24 th February	Y11 Mocks

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.

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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