



31st March 2026
CSh/SSn

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final stretch before the GCSE examinations, we would like to thank you for your continued support. The Easter break and the weeks that follow is a crucial period for students to consolidate their learning, build confidence, and refine their exam technique. Below, we have outlined practical guidance to help you support your child effectively during this important time.

1. What Effective Revision Looks Like

One of the most important ways to support your child is by encouraging *active revision*. This is far more effective than simply reading notes or highlighting. Here are three key strategies students should be using:

Past Paper Practice

- Completing exam questions under timed conditions
- Marking answers using mark schemes
- Identifying gaps and improving responses

How you can help: Ask your child to explain how they approached a question or check whether they are improving on repeated attempts.

“Be the Teacher” Technique

- Students teach a topic aloud as if explaining to someone else
- This strengthens understanding and reveals gaps in knowledge

How you can help: Ask your child to “teach” you a topic for 5-10 minutes. You don’t need subject knowledge, just listen and ask simple questions.

Brain Dump (Blank Page Retrieval)

- Students write down everything they can remember about a topic on a blank page
- Then use revision guides or notes to fill in missing information

How you can help: Encourage your child to review what they missed and repeat the process later.



2. Planning Revision Over Easter

A clear, realistic revision timetable is essential. Students should aim for short, focused sessions with regular breaks.

Easter Holiday Example Timetable

Time	Activity
09:00 – 10:00	Maths (past paper questions)
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:15	English (essay planning)
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:30	Science (brain dump + review)
Afternoon	Light revision / rest / exercise
Evening (optional)	Flashcards / recap (30 mins)

Key points:

- 3-4 hours of focused revision per day is effective
- Build in rest, exercise, and downtime
- Mix subjects to maintain focus
- Printable blank [templates](#)

3. Planning Revision During the School Term

Once students return to school, revision should fit around their daily routine.

In-School Week Example Timetable

Time	Activity
After School (4:00 – 5:00)	Period 6 / independent revision
Evening (6:00 – 7:00)	Homework + targeted revision
Evening (7:15 – 8:00)	Light revision (flashcards, recap)

Key points:

- Focus on quality over quantity
- Prioritise weaker subjects
- Maintain a consistent routine

The Role of Homework

Homework set by teachers during this period is carefully planned to support students in the lead up to their exams. It often focuses on key content, exam practice, and areas that need further development. It is important that:

- Homework is completed alongside independent revision
- Independent revision does not replace homework
- Students use feedback from homework to inform their revision priorities



Completing both ensures students are receiving the full benefit of teacher guidance as well as developing independent study skills.

4. The Importance of Attendance in the Final Weeks

In these final, crucial weeks before the GCSE examinations, attendance is more important than ever. Every lesson, intervention, and revision session is carefully planned to maximise students' progress and address key areas of need.

Why attendance matters now:

- Teachers are focusing on exam technique and high-impact content
- Students receive immediate feedback to improve their work
- Gaps in knowledge can be quickly identified and addressed
- Confidence builds through regular practice and routine

Absence at this stage can mean missing vital preparation that is difficult to replicate independently at home. We ask for your support in ensuring your child:

- Attends school every day
- Arrives on time and ready to learn
- Makes full use of additional sessions offered

5. Core PE Masterclass Sessions (Final Weeks Before Exams)

In the final weeks leading up to the GCSE examinations, we will be utilising some Core PE lessons to deliver targeted masterclass sessions in:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History

What these sessions will involve:

- A clearly identified key topic or exam skill that students need to secure
- Teaching delivered by a subject specialist
- Opportunities to revisit common misconceptions
- Focused independent practice time, allowing students to apply their learning immediately

Why these sessions are important:

- They maximise curriculum time during a critical period
- They provide highly focused, high-impact revision
- They help students build confidence in the topics that matter most
- They ensure all students receive expert guidance on key exam skills
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We strongly encourage all students to engage fully with these sessions as they form an important part of their preparation.



6. Easter Revision Sessions in School

We are offering a programme of Easter revision sessions in school to support students.

Why students should attend:

- Expert guidance from subject teachers
- Focused revision on key topics
- Opportunities to practise exam questions with feedback
- A structured and productive environment
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Easter Revision Session Timetable

Day	Session	Subject	Notes		
Tuesday 7 th	Morning	History	Open to all	10 am - 12 pm (B17)	B17
	Morning	Business	Invite only	9.30 am - 12 pm Theme 1	P2
	Full Day	Art, 3D Art and Photography	Open to all	9 am – 12 pm 12 pm – 3 pm Students can attend both sessions	B13
Wednesday 8 th	Morning	Maths	Open to all	10 am - 12 pm	Higher: R16 Foundation: R15
		Textiles	Open to all	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	B15
	Afternoon	Business	Invite only	Theme 2	P2
Thursday 9 th	Morning	Psychology	Open to all	9.30am - 2.30pm (TSS)	TSS
	Morning	English	Open to all	10 am – 12 pm	R11
Friday 10 th	Morning	Science	Open to all	10 am - 12 pm	Higher: R8 Foundation: R7
Monday 13 th	Full day	Music	Open to all	9 am – 3 pm	M1-6
	Morning	Sport	Open to all	9 am – 12 pm	B5
Wednesday 15 th	Full day	Dance	Open to all	9 am – 3 pm	Drama studio
	Morning	Computing	Open to all	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	B4
Thursday 16 th	Full day	Drama	Open to all	9 am – 3 pm	Drama studio
	Morning	HSC	Open to all	9.30 am -12 pm (T6)	T6

7. Period 6 (After-School) Sessions

We will also continue to run Period 6 sessions after school.

Benefits of attending:

- Additional teaching time in key subjects
- Immediate support with challenging topics
- Helps establish a consistent revision routine



Current Period 6 Timetable

Day	SUBJECT	Location
Monday	Maths	R13
Tuesday	Science	Higher: R8 Foundation: R7
	Business	P2
	Sociology	T7
Wednesday	English	R11
	Computer Science	B4
	French & Spanish	Languages corridor
	History	B17
Thursday	Psychology	TSS
	Geography	B16
	Drama / Dance / Music	M6
	Sport Science	
	Virtual Maths Sessions	17:00–18:00: open-invite (Foundation & Crossover topics) 18:30–19:30: invite-only (Higher Tier)
Friday	Maths (Higher)	R16

8. Expectations Around Uniform and Exams

We ask for your support in ensuring that students continue to attend school and all examinations in **full school uniform**. Our experience shows that this helps students to:

- Maintain a sense of routine and normality
- Approach lessons and exams with the right mindset
- Feel prepared and focused to perform at their best

9. How You Can Support at Home

- Help your child create and stick to a revision timetable
- Provide a quiet, distraction-free space to work
- Encourage regular breaks and healthy routines
- Show interest by asking about what they are revising
- Support attendance at school revision sessions

10. Further Support for Parents

We recognise that supporting your child through this period can be challenging, particularly when it comes to structuring revision effectively. If you would like guidance on:

- Creating a revision timetable
- Supporting effective revision strategies
- Helping your child stay organised and motivated

please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 pastoral team, who will be very happy to support you.



Additional Information

A separate letter is being sent out with further details regarding:

- The revised timetable that will follow the May half-term break
- Arrangements for the end of year celebration barbeque

This period can feel challenging, but with structured revision, consistent effort, strong attendance, and your support, students can make excellent progress. Encouragement, routine, and balance are key.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Shirley
Assistant Headteacher

