

Swanwick Hall School



Supporting your child at Home

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What do we know about the brain and learning?

- On average the brain needs to be exposed to items four times before transfer to long-term memory happens.
- Forgetting information is not only normal but a very important step in the learning process.
- Every time we draw on a memory, we increase its strength and longevity.
- Interruptions slow learning and increase our chances of making mistakes so it is very important to limit distractions during study sessions.
- Revision topics should be spaced out and mixed up.
- Content can be broken down into chunks which are easier to remember.
- Learning is an active process and students must take deliberate steps to remember important information.
- Effective revision requires effort and recall of information from memory.
- Cramming is not effective as information that is quickly learned is also quickly forgotten.

Effective ways to learn

Questioning

Look through the information in your child's book/notes and create questions. When? Where? Who? Why? Can you elaborate?

Dual coding

The brain finds it easier to process pictures. Mind maps, graphic organisers and text maps are three ways students can use images to help them remember. Transferring material into a different format strengthens connections in the brain.

Story telling / mnemonics

The brain finds it easier to recall stories so some content could be turned into a story that is easier to recall.

Quizzes or challenge grids

Students can easily create these from their notes but they should make sure they create an answer sheet to go with them. Identifying what they cannot yet recall is a vital part of their learning journey. Encourage your child to regularly create these after class so that throughout the whole course they will have a bank of resources they can use at any time.

Brain dumps

On a plain piece of paper encourage your child to write, draw or list any information on the chosen topic as they can. Once they have recalled everything they can, they should check their notes to see what they have missed.

Flashcards

Flashcards are a very useful revision tool as they are portable, easy and cheap to make. Each flashcard should contain only one piece of information and students should test themselves in both directions.

Mini whiteboards

Mini whiteboards can be used to learn pieces of text such as a quote. The text can either be reduced down to the first letter of each word or students can remove a word one at the time whilst repeatedly saying the quote.

Past papers / exam questions

When tackling a past paper, students should stick to the exam times. Correcting the paper is a vital part of effective revision and students should always correct any errors and view them as an important next step in their revision.

Creating the right environment for learning at home

- Encourage your child to complete revision early morning or straight after school, late night revision should be avoided.
- Ensure that your child has somewhere quiet to revise so that they are able to focus.
- Research suggests that having technology available during revision can, lower concentration, negatively, reduce memory and effect sleep patterns. Ask your child to avoid technology during their revision sessions.
- Make sure your child includes appropriate breaks between revision sessions and make sure that you are stocked up on some healthy revision break snacks to keep them going between meals.
- Use flash cards to do a quick fire quizzes to test learning once your child feels confident and ready to give it a go. You could also ask your child to teach you about something they have been revising.
- Talk to your child and find out what areas they feel confident in and what are the subjects they are concerned about.
- Encourage your child to see the benefits of working hard and doing well in their exams.
- Some parents like to offer rewards, but it's also important that your child wants to succeed for themselves and not just for the reward.
- Perhaps organise a nice surprise for the end of Mock exams to celebrate together.

Revision guides information

Maths

Revision guides and Workbooks £2.50 each or £5 for both.

Flash cards at £6.25 a pack which include links to exam questions and videoed explanations.

All revision resources are available from the Maths Faculty.

English

If students want to buy revision guides for their Literature texts (Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, Romeo and Juliet and Animal Farm) we recommend York Notes - these are available from Amazon and any book shop.

Science

Revision Guides £3 each

Revision workbooks £3 each

Purchase all six guides and workbooks for £15

CGP Revision question cards are available from the Prep Room in Science - £10 buys three packs (one for each subject)

Information for all other subjects will be on the school website by Friday 10th May.

Exam information by subject

Subject	Title of course	Exam Board	No. of exams	Duration of each exams	Notes
Art	GCSE Fine Art	AQA	1	10 hours	The exam is split over 2 days. Internally assessed portfolio work completed throughout the course.
Astronomy	GCSE Astronomy	Edexcel	2	1 hour 45mins	Written exams only
Biology	GCSE Biology	Edexcel	2	1 hour 45mins	Written exams only
Business Studies	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise	Edexcel	1	2 hours	This course also has 2 internally assessed components of 36 guided learning hours.
Catering	L1/L2 Vocational Award in Hospitality & Catering (spec A) June 2018	WJEC	1	1 hour 30 mins written	This course also has a 3 hour practical exam
Chemistry	GCSE Chemistry	Edexcel	2	1 hour 45mins	Written exams only
Combined Science	GCSE Combined Science	Edexcel	6	1 hour 10mins	Written exams only
Computing	GCSE Computer Science	OCR	2	2 hours	Written exams only
Construction	WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Constructing the Built Environment	WJEC	1	6 hours over a 2 week window	This course also has 2 internally assessed units with 60 and 30 guided learning hours attached
Drama	L1/L2 Technical Award in Performing Arts (acting)	AQA	1	1 hour 30 mins written	This course also has 2 internally assessed units
Engineering	Level 2 First Certificate in Engineering Technology	EAL	1	1 hour onscreen	This course also has 4 internal assessments which are 60 hours each along with 2 externally assessed units and an internally assessed synoptic assessment which is 30 hours.
English Language	GCSE English Language	OCR	2	2 hours	Written exams only

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English Literature	GCSE English Literature	OCR	2	2 hours	Written exams only
French	GCSE French	AQA	4	Speaking approx 15mins	Exams only
				Reading F - 45mins H - 1 hour 5 mins mins	Exams only
				Writing F - 1 hour 25mins H - 1 hour 10 mins	Exams only
				Listening F - 35mins H - 45 mins	Exams only
Geography	GCSE Geography	AQA	3	x2 1 hour 30 mins and x1 1 hour 15 mins	Written exams only
Health & Social Care	Cambridge National Certificate in H&SC	OCR	1	1 hour	This course also has 3 other internal assessments of approx. 10 hours each
History	GCSE History	OCR	3	x1 1 hour, x2 1 hour 45 mins	Written exams only
ICT	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Awards in Digital Information Technology	Edexcel	1	1 hour 30 mins	This course also has 2 internally assessed components of 36 guided learning hours.
Japanese	GCSE Japanese	Edexcel	4	Speaking approx 15mins	Exams only
				Reading F - 50mins H - 60 mins	Exams only
				Writing F - 1 hour H 1 hour 10 mins	Exams only
				Listening F - 35mins H - 45 mins	Exams only
Maths	GCSE Maths	AQA	3	1 hour 30 mins	Written exams only
Media Studies	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production	Edexcel	1	1 hour	This course also has two internally assessed components of 36 guided learning hours.

Subject	Title of course	Exam Board	No. of exams	Duration of each exams	Notes
Music	BTEC L1/L2 First Award in Music	Edexcel	1	1 hour	This course also has 3 internally assessed units with 30 guided learning hours attached to each.
Physics	GCSE Physics	Edexcel	2	1hour 45mins	Written exams only
Spanish	GCSE Spanish	AQA	4	Speaking approx 15mins	Exams only
				Reading F - 45mins H - 60 mins	Exams only
				Writing F - 1 hour H 1 hour 10 mins	Exams only
				Listening F - 35mins H - 45 mins	Exams only
Sports Studies	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport	Edexcel	1	1 hour onscreen	This course also has 3 internally assessed units with 30 guided learning hours attached to each.
Tech - Product Design	Eduqas Design & Technology (9-1) (from June 2019)	WJEC	1	2 hours	There is also one non examination assessment of approx. 35 hours
Tech - Textiles	Eduqas Design & Technology (9-1) (from June 2019)	WJEC	1	2 hours	There is also one non examination assessment of approx. 35 hours