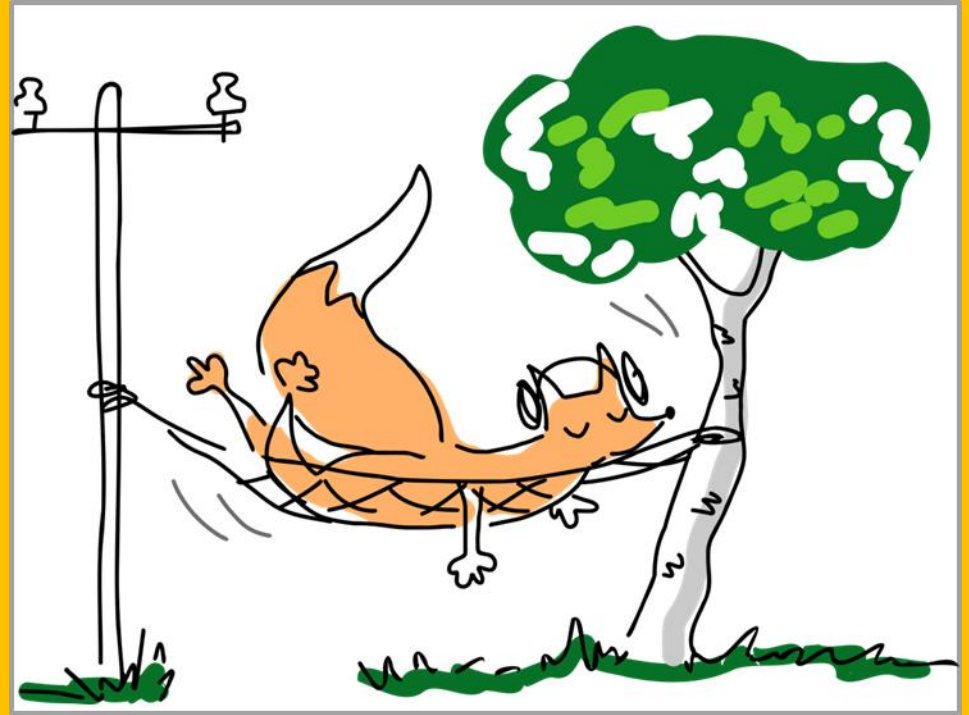


# How can I support my child through their GCSE exams?



Whenever I try to help or offer advice it just turns into an argument.

Surely they shouldn't be going out when they're exams are coming up

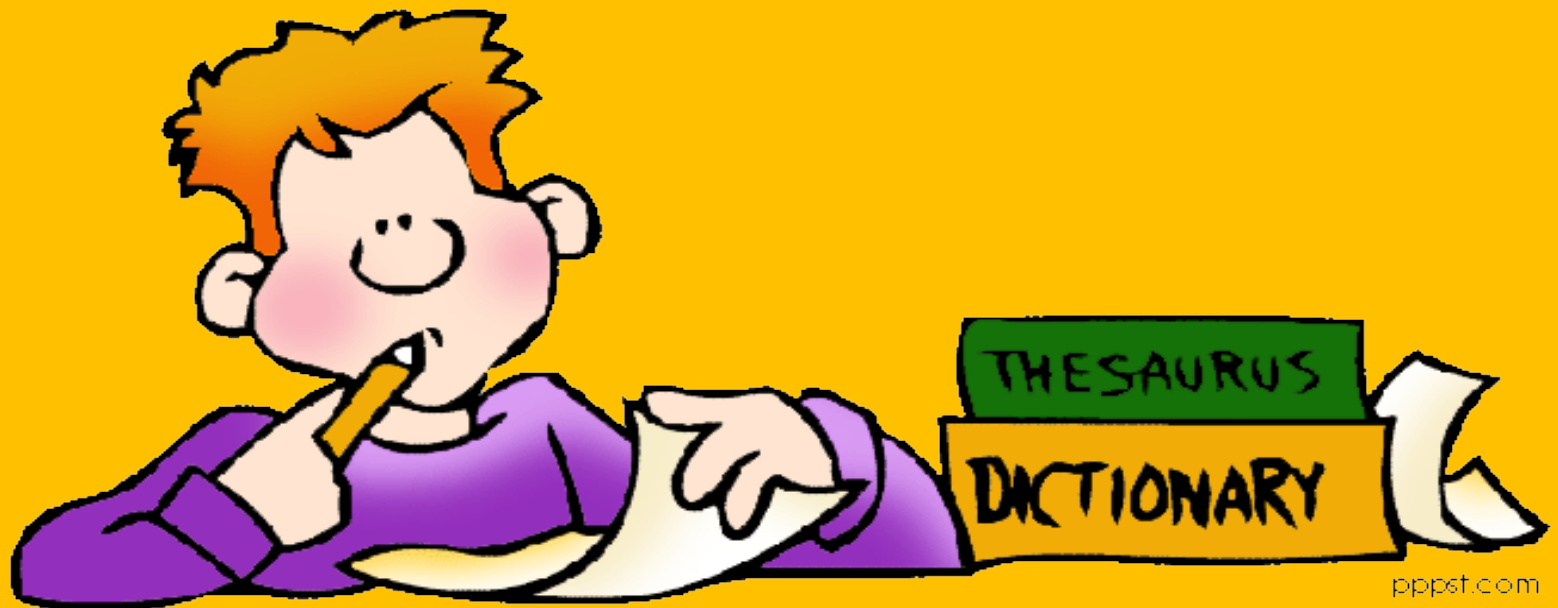
All they seem to be doing is working – surely there needs to be a balance?

I don't understand what they need to do. How can I help them?

They always leave everything to the last minute then it's stresses and strops when deadlines approach

# 11 weeks until the majority of GCSE exams start

What are the next steps?



```
graph TD; A((How can I help?)) --- B((Revision)); A --- C((Practical support)); A --- D((Emotional support)); A --- E((Logistics));
```

Revision

Practical  
support

How can I  
help?

Emotional  
support

Logistics

# The next steps – what can I do?

- **Attendance officer:** the best preparation for exams is ensuring your child is in school and attending lesson
- **PA:** some practical exams will take place before the written exams start – art, drama, music, PE, DT, dance, MFL speaking. These need preparation too – are the dates on the calendar?
- **Project manager:** review their revision timetable, find a quiet space, what equipment is needed?
- **Go-between:** contact teachers if your child can't or won't ask questions



# The Impact of Attendance!

This is James. He has 90% attendance  
Is that good?



- In one year, 90% attendance means 4 lost weeks of school – or 20 days!
  - A full GCSE is taught in less than 20 days per academic year
- Across 5 years of secondary, that is half a year missed!

# What did the **mock exams** tell me?

- Students receive their results on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- Make sure you see them and discuss them.
- What lessons were learnt?
- Were there any surprises?
- Parents evening Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN THINGS AROUND**





# SAVE THE DATE!

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Poltair School**

**5pm to 7.30pm**

**Please come along to the**

**GCSE Success Fair**

**where we will provide support  
and resources for both you and  
your child to successfully prepare  
for the GCSE examinations.**

**Is your child unsure of where  
to start?  
Is the stress of the  
examinations having an  
impact on their health?**

**Are you unsure of how to  
help your child? Do you  
lack the confidence or time  
to help them?**

There will be refreshments and plenty of opportunities for informal conversations with the teachers and support staff. On your arrival pop this in the box to be in with a chance to win a family treat!

Examples of the stands we will have during the evening are:

- How to revise in Maths, English and Science
- Managing stress
- Ensuring good sleeping patterns and keeping healthy
- Creating revision timetables
- Subject specific revision techniques
- Where to source GCSE exam questions
- Careers guidance
- Local colleges

- PLAN
- PREPARE
- PERFORM

# Create a plan for revision

- We have broken revision into small **MANAGEABLE** steps
- We have provided a realistic timetable – cross off each one you do
- Little and often
- Plan in rewards
- Mix it up




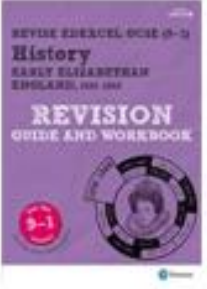
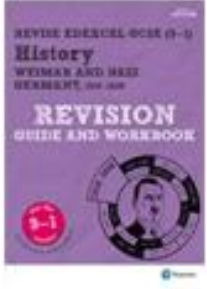
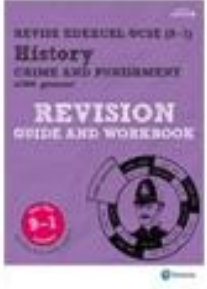
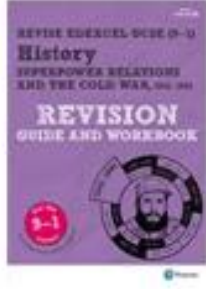

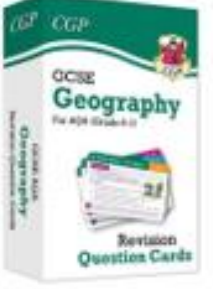
# What is available to support revision?

- School website
- Classwork notes/ workbooks/ past assessments
- On-line resources – ask teachers to recommend the best
- Lots of revision guides on School Gateway
  - Revision books have activities and exam tips to complement revising from exercise books/notes
  - Buy them asap so that students get the most benefit from them. No use buying two weeks before!
  - They are usually cheaper to buy in school

# Recommended Revision Guides

<p><b>Mathematics</b></p>  <p>£3.99</p>	<p><b>English</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>	<p><b>English</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>	<p><b>English</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>	<p><b>English</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>
<p><b>English</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>	<p><b>Science – Trilogy F or H</b></p>  <p>£3.00</p>	<p><b>All Science</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>	<p><b>Science - Triple</b></p>  <p>£2.75</p>	<p><b>Science - Triple</b></p>  <p>£2.75</p>
<p><b>Science - Triple</b></p>  <p>£2.75</p>	<p><b>French</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>	<p><b>French</b></p>  <p>£2.85</p>	<p><b>French</b></p>  <p>£2.50</p>	<p><b>Food</b></p>  <p>£3.99</p>

# Recommended Revision Guides

<p><b>DT</b></p>  <p>Collins <b>AQA GCSE 9-1</b> <b>Design and Technology</b> All-in-one revision + practice</p> <p><b>£3.99</b></p>	<p><b>History</b></p>  <p>REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE 9-1 <b>History</b> EARLY ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND, 1555-1568 <b>REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK</b></p> <p><b>£2.70</b></p>	<p><b>History</b></p>  <p>REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE 9-1 <b>History</b> WILLIAM AND MARY, 1689-1702 <b>REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK</b></p> <p><b>£2.70</b></p>	<p><b>History</b></p>  <p>REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE 9-1 <b>History</b> CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, 1789-1848 <b>REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK</b></p> <p><b>£2.70</b></p>	<p><b>History</b></p>  <p>REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE 9-1 <b>History</b> SUPERPOWER RELATIONS AND THE COLD WAR, 1945-1991 <b>REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK</b></p> <p><b>£2.70</b></p>
<p><b>Geography</b></p>  <p>Collins <b>AQA GCSE 9-1</b> <b>GEOGRAPHY</b> REVISION GUIDE</p> <p><b>£5.99</b></p>	<p><b>Geography</b></p>  <p>CGP <b>GCSE Geography</b> For AQA (9-1) Revision Question Cards</p> <p><b>£4.50</b></p>			

# Experiment with Revision Techniques

- Use the subject specification
- Have a revision folder for every subject
  - Make notes throughout the rest of the course
  - File things daily
- Teach someone else what you've learnt
- Make notes brief – don't copy longhand
  - Index/flash Cards
  - Trigger words
  - Colour coding
  - Visual cues or mind-maps
  - Put these revision aids up around the house

# Experiment with Revision Techniques

## Advice to students:

- Revise the topics you are weak on – not the stuff you know!
- Use past questions / papers
  - Stuck? Use your notes the first time and then re-do later without your notes
  - Time yourself!
- Get people to test you – friends or family



# The Golden 3 Weeks

The last 2 weeks before exams are a key period

- Subject revision should be finished
- Notes/revision tools should be organised and ready to use as a prompt
- Use these two weeks for (timed) exam practice
- Take advantage of **every** support opportunity at school **but**.... these should be to help you with areas you are struggling with. These do not **REPLACE** revision at home