



Dear Pupil

This revision guide has been written by your subject staff to help you to achieve your full potential in Key Stage 4.

It contains valuable advice from each subject area as to the best possible way to revise in that particular subject. During your course you will also be provided with revision guides which cover the content of the course.

I and my staff hope you find this booklet useful. Please show it to your parents. They are there to help you, this tells them how.

Yours faithfully

R Phillips

**Ms R Phillips
Headteacher**

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Useful website for most subjects:

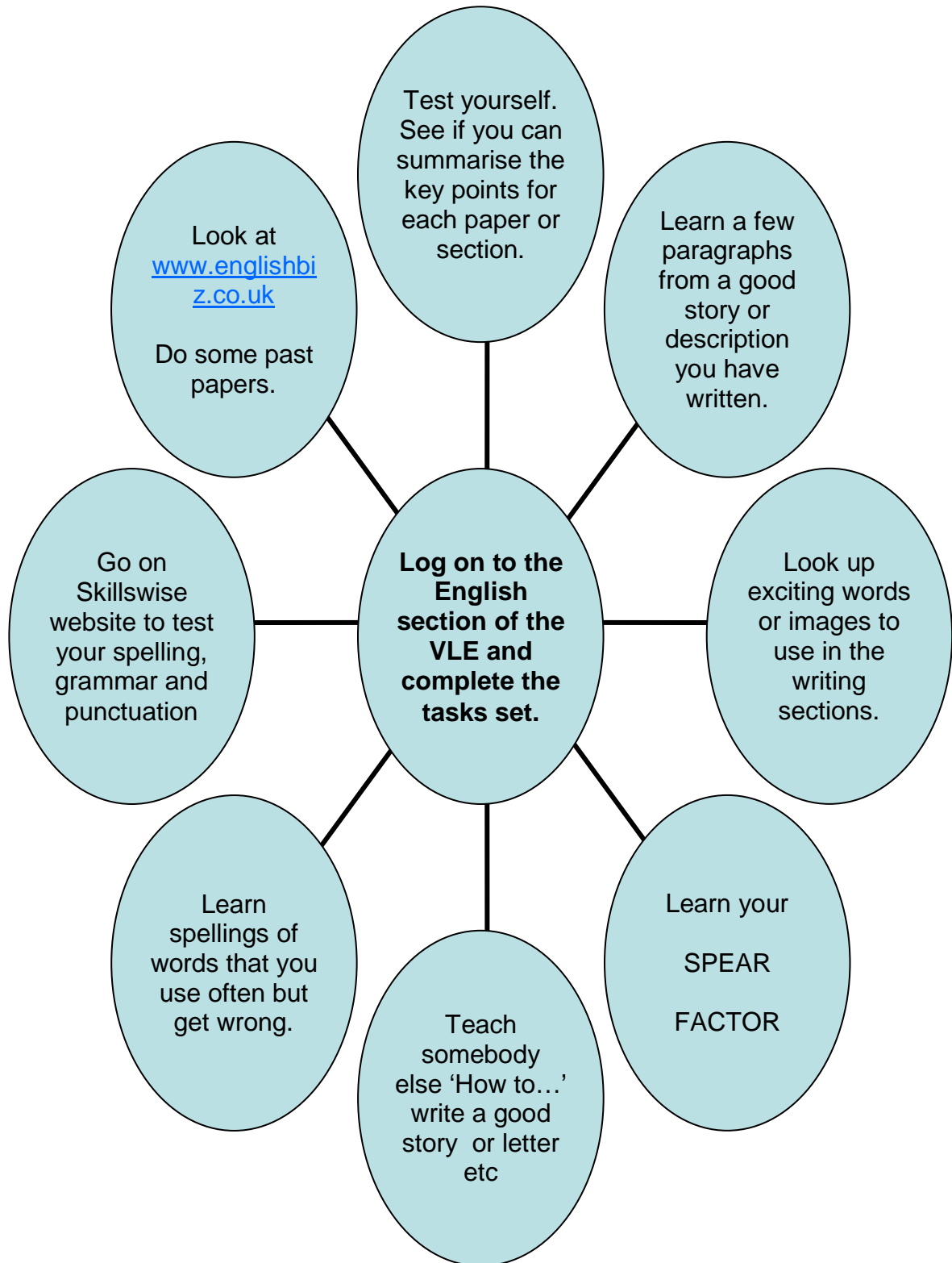
BBC Bitesize

School VLE:

There are revision materials and Internet links available for subjects on the school's Virtual Learning Environment. The easiest way to access the VLE for the first time is via the link on the school website. Pupils log in using their usual school user name and password. Any problems can be reported to Mr Bowman, Assistant Headteacher.

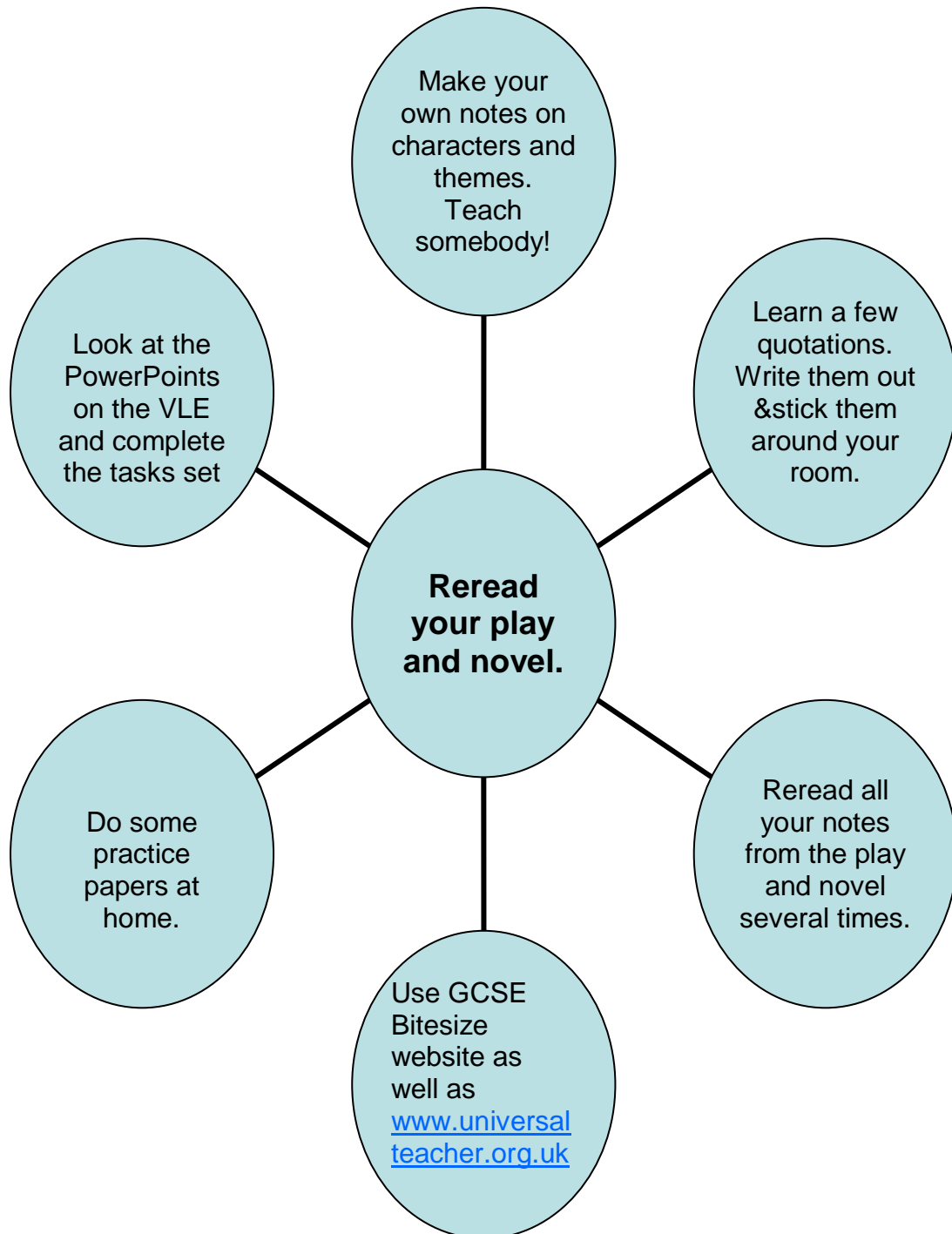
GCSE English Language

Top tips for revision success!



GCSE English Literature

Top Tips for Revision success!



Mathematics

'If I just read it through, it will be OK.' In the case of Mathematics nothing could be further from the truth.

Firstly remember to start early enough particularly for the modular exam, and you can lay the foundations for good revision now by ensuring that your exercise books are always neat and well presented with clear headings and key facts highlighted. This means that when you refer back to your exercise books in the future it is a reasonably pleasant task, rather than having to wade through piles of untidy and illegible script. Give your exercise book a brief contents page or index so that you can quickly refer back to relevant topics. You can use this to indicate anything you still might still have problems with.

Next you must ensure that you learn and understand your maths as you go along. It is no good saying that you will leave it all until you revise. If you do not understand anything in your lessons ASK. This goes for simple facts that you just can't 'get your head round'. If you prefer ask after the lesson or at lunchtime -your teachers are always willing to help. Regular attendance at revision lessons helps tremendously.

Revision technique is important. At school your time is planned and organised by your teachers. Revising is different: it has to be planned by you and only you can decide when you have done enough. Split your revision time into sessions. Write down what you intend to do in each session and be honest with yourself about what you can achieve in a session.

By allowing yourself a long period of revision, you will improve your chances of obtaining a good grade. It is not a good idea to cram all your revision into a short period.

The best way to revise mathematics is to practise it. That is to say you should work through actual questions. These could be:

- Questions that you know are already correct in your exercise books. Cover up the answers, then work through the questions and see if you can get the same answers.
- Questions in textbooks and homework textbooks -it doesn't hurt to go over ones you have already done but there will be plenty that you haven't.
- Worked examples in textbooks and revision guides -these are very useful if you have forgotten (or never knew!) what to do.
- Questions in revision guides -remember to purchase your guide earlier rather than later (these can be obtained through the school). You will need for your first modular exam.
- Past papers -some will be provided by your teachers but additional papers can be bought from shops or the exam boards.
- 'Booster' questions on the MyMaths website, which the school subscribes to
- If there are topics you are stuck on look at the MyMaths online lessons.
- Maths Watch on the VLE

Make a note of any questions you can't do or don't understand. Try to look them up but if you still don't understand ask your maths teacher. If you are stuck try to think of some facts that might help you make a start on the question -getting started can be the hardest thing sometimes.

In addition there are some facts that you will just have to learn. Go through them and make sure that you can write them down the next day and the next week. Make a list of the ones you forget and keep practising them gradually crossing them off the list until hopefully there are none left!

Get into the habit of doing small amounts of mathematics regularly, using the Mymaths website is an excellent way of achieving this. www.mymaths.co.uk login: Woodchurch, password: twenty

Don't forget that marks are awarded for your working and that most marks come from the working and not from the final answer on both the calculator and non calculator papers. Even when you use a calculator get in the habit of writing down each step that you do - if you are not sure what to write down ask your teacher.

You will need a calculator for some of the exam papers and it is far better to have your own than to rely on borrowing one. The earlier you buy your calculator the longer you will have to become familiar with it - and it does take time.

Finally research has shown that quiet background music can help with your short term memory i.e. remembering facts for a short period of time, but when you are working out answers you are better working in silence (just as you will have to in the exam).

Science

Science Revision Guides can be bought through school and are very useful.

All GCSE sets have GCSE exams in Years 9, 10 and 11 counting towards the final grade.

Parents/Carers will receive progress letters indicating the current grades gained in tests just prior to the exams.

Pupils are also encouraged to use the revision material especially the PowerPoint presentations for each unit.

Technology Product Design/ Engineering

- You are advised to buy or use in the library the course book – essentials—Product Design or AQA Engineering. These have clear information with excellent illustrations and you can revise by doing the tasks and questions in each section.
- You will be able to work through a revision worksheet booklet linked to the course

book. The questions concentrate purely on the content they need to cover and the limited space forces you to choose your answer carefully.

- You will be given past exam papers. Teaching staff will work through these with you. You can then attempt the questions in school and complete them at home as a way of practising exam technique.
- Before the June exams you will be given an exam preparation sheet from the Exam Board. This will enable you to identify key areas for more in depth revision and research, which should be directly linked to questions on the exam.
- Every year the Technology Department provides the web address of any useful sites directly linked to the topic of the exam. You can then access the site in your IT lesson or at home.
- Every year the Technology Department downloads information from the Internet relating to the exam, staff talk through it and then issue it as part of the revision materials.

Course : WJEC : GCSE Catering (Single Award)

You are advised to :

Buy or borrow a basic recipe book which you can use in controlled practical tasks. Practise your practical skills as often as possible.

Preparing for your Year 11 Theory Examination

Keep your notes up to date and well organised, in clearly labelled sections.

Revision techniques:

- Use a wide range of techniques to record information.
- Read through your notes and underline or highlight the key words or important points.
- Make technical word cards with meanings on the back.
- Write the key points down on cards and try to learn them.
- Use rhymes or sayings to help you learn terms such as HACCP and CAM.
- Write each step of a recipe on small cards. (Use a new card for each step.) Mix the cards up. Try to arrange the cards in the correct order.
- Write important temperatures on small cards. (E.g. 100°C) Now write their meanings on another set of cards. (E.g. boiling point of water.) Mix each set of cards. See if you can match the temperatures and their meanings. You can use the same technique to learn ingredients and their function. Or the star ratings on frozen food.
- Use the exam questions you have been given.
- Look at your year 10 and 11 exam paper. What type of questions can you see? Try to adapt the questions so they include a multi-cultural ready prepared vegetable product.
- Work in pairs and test each other.

- Practice drawing and labelling some multi cultural ready prepared vegetable products.
- How could you develop, (modify or change,) each product.
- Make some of the recipes. (Check with your parents or guardian before you start cooking.)
- Use the revision timetable to focus on a particular topic.
- Before each revision lesson:-

Read through your notes or information pack in several ten minute blocks.
Write five key words or phrases on small cards and try to learn one a day.

Textiles Technology

At the end of Year 10 you will start your coursework which represents 60% of your GCSE mark

In March of Year 11 you will receive a Preparation sheet from the board. This sheet sets down clearly the context for the written paper. e.g. accessories, children's clothes, soft furnishings, toys etc.

You then need to research the given contexts at home. This will enable you to identify key areas that may be included in the paper and to practise possible design solutions.

Using past examination papers a sample paper based on the given context is produced. You, other pupils and your teacher will work through this together. Examination techniques especially timing of questions is practised both in class and as homework. All work is marked using examination criteria and feedback will be given to you.

You will have access to text books and revision notes written specifically for the given context. Information is gathered from several sources including the Internet.

Once the context of the paper is known you will be given the web address of any useful sites directly linked to the topic. This information can be accessed during your core IT lessons or from home.

Modern Foreign Languages

Coursework/writing

- Do not plan and write out in English and then try to translate.
- Do not try to look up too many words in the dictionary and if you do need to look up any, cross check the words you find by looking them up in the French/Spanish section
- Use class-work, homework and source material to adapt phrases you know to be correct to write a first draft. The Internet, if used carefully, can be a great help.
- Then try to improve the quality of the language by using the A-C checklist provided by your teacher to make sure you have included all grammar points required.
- Check for accuracy by referring to previous written work that has been marked, and by using the dictionary to check spelling, gender and accents.
- Use the back of the course book to check verb endings and correct tense formation

Listening and Reading

- Learn a small number of new words every day
- Practise your skills at the right level each week. Your class teacher can provide extra material.
- Practise predicting possible answers before listening to a passage
- Get the transcript to listening exercises once your work has been marked so that you can listen to them again and see where you went wrong.
- Practise exam technique, do not over use a dictionary. Limit yourself to no more than 3 words per question

Speaking

- Do not plan in English and they try to translate.
- Use classwork and homework to plan your task. It will all be relevant.
- Use the A-C checklist provided by your teacher to make sure you have included the required grammar points.
- Check for accuracy against classwork and homework.
- Record yourself and listen back to your task.

GCSE Religious Studies

Curriculum

Folders

Pupils are given folders which they put their lesson notes in to help with revision. Pupils must keep their folders in good order, to aid their understanding. A revision guide is also available for pupils, and a study guide outlining the course is given to them at the start of Year 10.

The VLE

The school's Virtual Learning Environment has a wealth of revision resources on it for pupils to use, from past exam papers through to podcasts and media clips. There are also mini-PowerPoint's and other resources available on it from each lesson studied during the course.

Other Resources

Pupils in Year 11 are encouraged to attend after-school revision classes. These are arranged on nights in consultation with their member of staff. We also have BBC Bitesize Revision books which are lent out to pupils and we encourage pupils to keep up to date with current affairs as this background information assists with their detailed evaluation type questions.

Parental Support

Please encourage your child to use all the resources available above to help them with their course. Past grades of work (where marked online) are available on the VLE for you to review using your child's user name and password. If it is outside of school time and pupils have queries about the work they have studied they are encouraged to email their teacher with any questions they may have.

Geography Revision

Attend after-school and holiday revision sessions.

- Use GCSE Geography Section of the VLE which contains Revision PowerPoints and Revision Programmes in conjunction with Revision Checklist provided by Geography Department.
- You should make full use of all past test papers – with corrections – from Years

10 and 11.

- You should compile a file of revision notes for each of the topics shown on the VLE and Revision Checklist.
- After revising a topic you should ask family/friends to test your knowledge and understanding by asking appropriate questions.
- You should visit relevant topics on GCSE Bitesize website which provides Revision Notes, Test Questions and Answers.
- You should follow relevant examples widely reported in the media e.g. Natural Hazards, Environmental issues as on TV and use newspapers to improve knowledge of case studies which can be quoted in the exam.
- You are recommended to use supplementary revision materials provided by published texts.
- You must learn the recommended case studies to support your written answers in the exam.

Materials will be given to you on the following topics for Papers 1 and 2

Year 10	Term 1	Unit 1: Physical Geography
The Restless Earth:	Tectonic hazards, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions?	
	Term 2	
Weather and Climate:	UK Weather and Climate 'global warming and climate change.' Tropical storms (Hurricanes, Cyclones and Typhoons)	
	Term 3	
Water on the Land:	River Valley Landforms. River Floods. UK Water Supply.	

Assessment of Unit 1: Physical Geography:
37.5% 1 hour 30 minute examination (June 2011)

Fieldwork: **Term 3 (continued)**
Controlled Assessment:
25% of GCSE based on coursework (continues into Term 1 of Year 11)

Year 11	Term 1	Unit 2: Human Geography
Population Change	The challenges of population growth and migration?	
	Term 2	
The Development Gap	Contrasts in Development and Global Inequalities.	
	Term3	
Tourism	Global and UK Tourism. Tourism in extreme environments.	

Assessment of Unit 2: Human Geography:
37.5% 1 hour 30 minute examination (June 2012)

Parental Support:
Pupils should be encouraged to take interest in the news on TV and in (Broadsheet) newspapers. The recommended textbook for the course is GCSE Geography AQA A Specification - The Revision Guide ISBN 978 1 84762 378 2

- Why did people go on 'hunger marches' in the 1930s?
- Make use of resources staff recommend to you:
 - School produced and published revision guides
 - Bitesize website and television programmes
 - The VLE and links to websites on the VLE
 - Extra revision classes offered by staff

Music

At GCSE level you will be asked to identify a wide variety of musical instruments, periods, styles, and techniques/composers. You should be able to identify different areas of ethnic music, music for Piano forte, the voice and dance music styles. The best way of revising for the listening component is to use the "Elements of Music" as a reminder of things to look for when you listen to music. The other two components of Performance and Composition require no revision as such.

You will receive a "Listening Guide" with a summary of all the basic information you need to be able to understand in order to fully access the course. All music staff will be happy to supply recordings for you to listen to at home. You should have access to a radio as well if possible. You should make use of "Music Ace 2" to help you develop your understanding of musical theory. It is very important that you learn technical language and musical symbols thoroughly. Other useful websites include "mtrs" pupil area, Ricci Adams music theory, "spotify" for identifying different genres of music.

Art

There are no actual revision techniques required for Art, although regular attendance at after school sessions is essential for success.

Make sure that you have the correct equipment for homework –
 Pen drive for research
 Pencils (2B)
 Erasers
 A1 Folder
 Sketchbook

Physical Education

- **GCSE PE Revision Guides:** These are very useful and well presented books which contain all the key topics required for the examination. Although they are available in most book shops, the PE department will order them in closer to the examination. The Revision Guides cost £5.
- **Pupil Folders:** Pupils files are checked regularly to check that they are organised and in clearly defined sections, and that pupils do not have any outstanding or

missing work. This is one of the most important resources for pupil's revision.

- **VLE:** The School's VLE is a new tool to aid pupils with revision. Past examination papers from the last four years are accessible from the PE section as well as other short tests and work sheets. This is a revision tool that pupils can access at home and during study periods or lessons at school.
- **Revision Sessions:** Revision sessions are held once a week after school on the run up to the exam. Sessions are planned based on pupil's requests and on areas they have struggled in on previous past papers.
- **CD Roms:** Three CD Roms are available; Sports Studies, Sport Examined and Folen's worksheets for GCSE PE all of which are on the school Intranet system. All CD's have self testing units covering the entire syllabus.
- **Practical Sessions:** Extra practical sessions are held throughout the two years and pupils are expected to attend to boost their grades and help with the analysis of performance module.

Dance

- You will be supplied with revision notes. Your files will be regularly checked to ensure that you do not have any outstanding or missing work.
- Attendance at after school theory and practical sessions is essential for success and you are expected to attend.
- You will be expected to attend practical sessions prior to your final practical assessments.
- You will be encouraged to practise past exam papers.
- Practical coursework marks are vital! You should do your best to achieve the highest grades.

Business Studies

- You should check you have all the notes that have been given out over the two years!
- Check that you have the Glossary of words for Business and ICT.
- You should read through examination questions that have been done in class and then re-write them from memory, including corrections and additions that have been made after marking.
- Coursework marks are vital! You should do your best to do a good coursework project. This will use a great deal of the theory that has been covered in lessons and will be excellent revision.
- You will be expected to attend after school classes for extra help.
- You should revise small chunks at a time and always write it down from memory afterwards.
- You should learn key vocabulary words -how to spell them and what they mean!
- Use the subject VLE which will give you a link of useful websites
- Revision guides £3.00.

Information Technology

You will be provided with course notes.

Revision books are available from school – price £3.00. You are encouraged to buy one if you can. These follow the course closely, have revision questions at the end of each chapter and are highly recommended. Also if you bring in a blank CD, revision notes can be downloaded.

There is revision software on the School VLE which you can access. This includes all notes with question and answer sections.

You will be given a list of useful websites. E.g. Teach-ICT.com

You must attend after school revision sessions.

Media Studies

GCSE Media Exam

A Controlled Assessment is taken at the end of the course in May/June. This test accounts for 40% of the marks available for your GCSE grade. You will be taught about this topic from February until you are given the pre-test materials, which is about 4 weeks before the exam take place. These materials will tell you about what you can expect to be asked to produce in the test, but does not give you the questions themselves.

During the 4 week period prior to the test you are advised to:

- Re-read all notes and handouts provided by your teacher
- Research your test topic through the internet, library or other appropriate resources
- Prepare your work for the test, based on the pre-test materials. Show these to your teacher who can guide you in your preparation
- Attend all lessons between receiving the pre-test materials and the test itself. Many problems and details are discussed in these lessons

BTEC Media is similar to GCSE Media Studies in its study of the media, including advertising, films, websites and pop music. BTEC Media course consists of two major pieces of coursework that account for 80% of the marks available for the course (40% for each piece of coursework) and one smaller piece of coursework that accounts for the remaining 20% of the marks.

Coursework Assignment 1 – Advertising (40%)

- Analyse printed and filmed adverts
- Create your own sequence of adverts for a new product
- Give a presentation to explain your advertising campaign

Coursework Assignment 2 – Film (40%)

- Write a 'pitch' (your ideas) for a new film
- Make a storyboard for a trailer for your film
- Film and edit the trailer for your film

Coursework Assignment 3 – Research

- Show your knowledge of research techniques
- Show your research for your Advertising and Film assignments

Drama

Revise thoroughly all notes made during practical work for the devised piece in preparation for Section A of the exam "practical work completed during the course". Make sure all notes are carefully revised under the headings 'Describe', 'Explain', 'Analyse', 'Evaluate'.

Ensure you have a thorough knowledge of the play studied for Section B of the exam 'Study and Performance of a scripted play'. Revise the drama vocabulary required to describe how characters can be effectively portrayed on stage.

All lines for practical pieces must be thoroughly learned. It is essential that you always turn up to your group after school practices. It is essential to attend all revision classes for the written exam.

You must also look over the structure techniques for the writing of essays required for the written examination.

Travel and Tourism

This two year course is assessed by pupil portfolio instead of external examination.

Pupils completing three units will be awarded the equivalent of a grade A - C at GCSE level grades being awarded from Distinction (A) and Merit (B) to Pass (C).

Pupils completing 6 units of the course, worth 30 credits will be awarded the equivalent of two GCSE's at grades A - C.

Pupils complete assignments based on investigations into the UK Travel and Tourism industries. These include a number of visits to Travel and Tourism providers in the North West.

The course is an excellent preparation for post-16 work in the travel and tourism industries and/or further study.