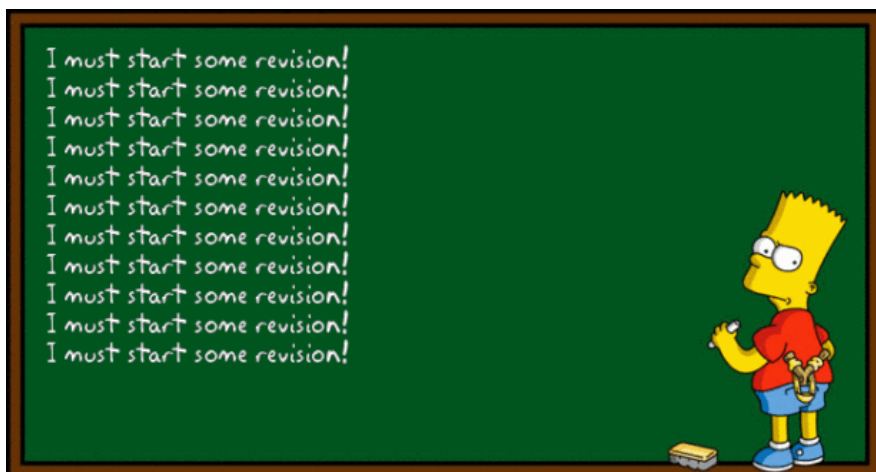


End of Year Exams

Information booklet
for students

Year 8



Dear Student

This booklet is designed to help you prepare for your end of year exams.

You will have exams of one sort or another at the end of the year for the rest of your school career, so you need to start learning now how to prepare successfully for exams and get the highest grade you can.

The main message is simple. If you prepare and plan effectively for any exam you are far more likely to succeed.

We hope you find this booklet useful.

Mr T Braybrook
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs P Clarke
Assistant Headteacher 11-14

Ten Top Tips for Successful Revision

- Find a good place to work where you cannot be disturbed or distracted.
- Draw up a plan of what you are going to revise and when. Give yourself targets to achieve when revising.
- Don't work for too long at any one time and take regular breaks of 5-10 minutes during revision.
- Eat, sleep and live healthily during revision time and during the exams. Make sure you have breakfast on the day of exams.
- Try to vary the ways you revise, don't just sit there reading a book. There are lots of ideas in this pack to help you.
- Revise with a friend, talking to someone about a topic/problem often helps your memory.
- Test yourself (or get someone to test you) regularly without looking at your notes.
- Re-visit topics/subjects regularly to help you memorise them effectively.
- Mix up your weak and strong subjects when you revise.
- Make sure whatever revision you do you make it stick - don't kid yourself you have revised by sitting in front of the TV with your book on your lap!

Beat Exam Stress

It is natural to feel anxious about exams. There is pressure to revise and do well from yourself, teachers and parents. The good news is that this anxiety can be managed.

You are not alone!

Most of your friends will be feeling similar.

Talk to them and share your worries/
Concerns with them

Talk about it!

It's not just friends you can talk to.

What about your tutor, Year Leader
or a subject teacher you like and
trust.

Talking about your worries usually
helps

Be Positive!

Focus on the positives such as
finishing your exams and doing well in
them. Don't dwell on the negatives.
You must be clear about what you
want to achieve and how you are going
to do it.

Have confidence and be prepared

Working hard for your exams will stop
you from dwelling on the problems and
will obviously make it more likely you
will succeed and enter an exam in a
confident way.

Revision Tips

The key to good revision is to use a variety of ways to revise, not just from reading books.

Here is a list of possible techniques you could use:

INDEX CARDS

The main points can be written out on cards to carry round with you. You can even design coloured symbols on the back. Then the symbols can be used as a trigger for your memory.

POST-ITS

Stick post-its with key ideas in your bedroom, hallway or around the house. They can be re-ordered on a flat surface.

POSTERS

Dramatic and colourful posters which summarise ideas visually can be placed at eye level, or above.

REVIEW TO MUSIC

An enjoyable, easy way to remember. Music with 60-70 beats per minute is supposed to be the best to help your long term memory.

DRAMATIC MONOLOGUES

It can help you remember if you speak out loud, especially if the voices are outrageous.

GET A MANAGER

Make an arrangement with someone (other than a teacher) to listen to, test or interrogate you at fixed times.

HIGHLIGHTER PENS

Practice picking out the main points with a highlighter. Ask your teacher if you're right then have another go with something else.

AGAINST THE CLOCK

Make a game of answering as many questions as you can against the clock. Keep trying to beat your last score.

PRIZE BRIBES

Ask your parents to reward you with something good for reaching a target you set yourself.

VISUALISE IT

Conjure up pictures in your mind of what you are revising. Make it real. It could help.

MAKE IT SILLY

Think up silly suggestions. Things that make us smile get remembered more easily.

TALK INTO A TAPE

This way you have to think about what goes in - and listen to what comes out.

POINTS OF VIEW

In partner revision, or by yourself, take one person's point of view - then swap over and argue the other side.

INTERVIEW

Set up an interview situation - but the questions are on what you're revising.

WALKABOUT

Help your memory by learning things in different places and unusual locations. Learn different chapters of a book, say, in different rooms. Or put index cards on the floor in different sequences and walk between them, memorising as you go.

COLOUR CARDS

Colour code your revision cards to help you.

DIAGRAMS AND FLOW CHARTS

Tree charts, flow charts, spidergrams, split lists, sets - all are useful for organising your thinking.

MNEMONICS

These make words out of the first initials, e.g. CHOPINS - Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, Phosphorous, Iodine, Nitrogen, Sulphur.

READING OUT LOUD

Saying things out loud can help you by making you slow down and organise your thoughts.

TEST, COVER AND RE-TEST

Learn something, cover it and test yourself - then check. Repeat until a genius.

WORD GAMES

Use word games, e.g. a Stalagmite *MIGHT* reach the ceiling, and a Stalactite holds *TIGHT* to the ceiling.

BUDDY TESTING

Revise with a friend or group of friends. Some people do well when they bounce ideas off others.

PUZZLES

Make logic games, anagrams or puzzles out of what you're revising e.g. codes, symbols or crosswords.

POEMS

Make your subject matter into a rhythmical poem. Remember the rhythm - remember the facts!

KEEP A REVISION JOURNAL OR DIARY

For some, this allows a feeling of progress and a way to track your own progress.

COLLAGE

Make a collage of your main facts, pictures, symbols, cuttings, quotations, formulae etc.

JOURNEY ROUND THE KNOWN UNIVERSE

Put key ideas, cards or summaries at eye level around your room, in sequence. Visit them in order - then imagine you're visiting them. What do they say?

INSIST LISTS

Make lists of your *MUST DO* jobs - and carry them with you everywhere.

Exam Information

The following pages give details of all the exams to be sat in Year 8.

Please use them to help prepare your child for each exam.

Year 8 Exam - English

Length of exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Structure: Reading comprehension, analysis and a writing task

This exam will be based on the following content:

Reading Section

- Reading of unseen texts
- Answer short comprehension questions based on the texts
- Analyse the effect of writers' language choices using quotations to support ideas
- Use comparison skills to identify similarities and differences

Writing Section

- Students are given a task which asks them to write for a specific form, audience and purpose
- Students should be able to write coherently, neatly and eloquently throughout
- Students should be able to write in paragraphs; use five different types of punctuation; a range of sentence structures and ambitious and interesting vocabulary

For this exam you will need the following equipment

Black pen
Highlighter pen

Tips and Advice for success

Revision ideas

- Read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts in the lead up to the exams.
- When reading identify the form, audience and purpose (FAP) for the text
- When reading, observe how author's use different types of punctuation and sentence structures and practice applying it to your own writing
- Ask your teacher for practice writing tasks

Exam skills

Reading section

Identifying key information
Understanding a text's purpose
Analysing the effect of writers' choice of language
Comparing the content and language of two texts

Writing Section

Use of ambitious vocabulary
Use of paragraphing and varied sentence structures
Accurate spelling and punctuation.

Timing Advice

English Exam 1 hour and 30 minutes	
Reading Section: 45 minutes	Writing section: 45 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spend 15 minutes reading the texts• Spend 30 minutes answering the questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spend 10 minutes planning• Spend 30 minutes writing• Spend 5 minutes proof reading

Year 8 Exam – Mathematics

Length of exam: Two 1 hour papers and a mental maths test

Structure: One paper will be a calculator; the other will be a non-calculator. Both of these will consist of a mixture of long and short questions with a variety of marks. The mental maths test will also test basic numeracy skills.

This exam will be based on the following content:

- Number – money, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, sequences (higher tier includes standard form)
- Algebra – solving equations, expanding brackets, collecting like terms, (higher tier includes simultaneous equations, solutions from a graph, straight line graphs, inequalities and changing the subject.)
- Shape, Space and Measure – area, transformations, measurements, unit conversion, angles, circle problems (higher tier includes similar triangles, trigonometry and Pythagoras.)
- Handling data – probability, averages, graphs include frequency diagrams, pie charts, scatter graphs. (higher tier includes cumulative frequency diagrams)

For this exam you will need the following equipment

- Pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Compass
- Protractor
- Calculator

Tips and Advice for success

- Look through previous key assessments, this exam will be very similar. Try and complete your corrections.
- Look at the VLE for revision tools.
- Take your time on the paper, however keep an eye on the time so you can complete all the questions
- Ensure you go through your paper at the end to check for mistakes.
- Come to maths club for additional support on topics you struggle with or complete MyMaths activities at home. If you do not know your login details speak with your class teacher.

Year 8 Exam – Science

Length of exam: 1 Hour

Structure: Variety of questions – SATs Style – long and short answers

This exam will be based on the following Topics:

- Ecosystems
- Variation and Classification
- Energy and Life
- The Periodic table
- Simple Chemical Reactions
- Heat and Space
- Light and Sound

For this exam you will need the following equipment;

- At least 2 blue or black pens
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Pencils, pencil sharpener and rubber

Tips and Advice for success:

Thorough revision is essential. The following web-sites can be used for revision:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/science/> - a series of revision resources, quizzes and tests.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/topics/secondary.shtml#science> - short videos covering a series of topics.
- <http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/science/> - series of quizzes.
- Make diagrams
 - Labelled drawings
 - Time-lines (for history)
 - Mind maps
 - Charts and flowcharts (for processes)
 - Audio tapes (great for languages)
 - Outline cards
 - Use colours and highlighters
- Read copy of textbook - accessible via VLE

Year 8 Exam – PE

Length of exam: 2 hour practical assessment

Structure: Practical performance in 2 different activity areas each lasting approximately 40 minutes.

This exam will be based on the following content:

Students will complete 2 different activity areas.

Game, where students will perform in a competitive team game.

Fitness, where students will complete a timed run, co-ordination test and muscular endurance test.

For this exam you will need the following equipment

Full correct School PE kit.

Tips and Advice for success

The biggest tip is to come prepared to give everything your maximum effort on the day. To prepare for this, students should spend some time attempting to jog / run for at least 4 minutes without stopping or walking for that time period and practice sit ups. In the game session, the best advice is to try to get as involved as possible in the game. Boys will be playing football and girls will be playing netball for that session.

Year 8 Exam - Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Length of exam: 60 minutes

Structure: Choice of two out of FOUR topic areas, depending on what you have studied in lessons. Short and long answer questions.

This exam will be based on the following content:

Founders	-	Who founded the main world religions? How did they start their religion? What can we learn from them? A focus on Buddha
Pilgrimage	-	What is pilgrimage? What happens on pilgrimage? Where do people go, and why?
Judaism	-	What are the key Jewish beliefs about God? Why is Jerusalem important to Jews? Where and how do Jewish people worship?
Rites of Passage:		Birth Rites Initiation Rites Marriage Rites Death Rites
		} How do different religions celebrate key moments in the life of a believer?

For this exam you will need the following equipment

Pens

Tips and Advice for success

- Collect a guidance sheet from your Religion, Philosophy and Ethics teacher.
- Revision material will be on the VLE