Supporting Your Child Through Their GCSEs
Introduction

At Clifton Community School we understand the importance of the exams your child will take in the summer of 2020. This importance is something we instil within our students and embed into our ethos and school life. We know that you will want your child to achieve the best grades that he or she can and we believe that this is made possible when there is a strong partnership between the school and parents/carers. There are many simple ways that you can support your child through their exams and help them to be as prepared as possible. The aim of this booklet is to offer you guidance for supporting your child in the lead up to and during their GCSE exams. We also believe that, as a parent/carer, being involved in the revision process can really help to boost your child’s confidence and willingness to spend time revising.

For many students, the exam period can be stressful and they might find the whole thing quite daunting. We know that every child is different and that there is no single approach for a parent wanting to help and support them. This booklet is here to help where it can and make suggestions that can be tailored to suit the needs of your child.
Advice for Parents/Carers:

Students who achieve well in exams are those who are confident in their knowledge, will have revised thoroughly and have people around them who take an interest in their revision. The home environment is essential to successful exam preparation. An effective study environment needs to quiet, calm, light and ventilated.

How you can help

- Speak to your child about their revision plan and help them to create a timetable or schedule
- Encourage him or her to take regular breaks, eat well and drinks lot of water.
- Make sure that your child still has a good revision/life balance – encourage them to do something non-revision related in their breaks.
- Try not to get too involved in the revision itself, but make him or her know that you’re around to help if they need you and respond positively when asked for help.
- Encourage morning revision when the brain is more receptive and can retain more information.

Things to avoid:

- Try not to constantly mention the exams – your child might find this to be an extra worry.
- Avoid questioning their revision methods and strategies – everyone works differently.
- Don’t make comparisons with older siblings and friends.
- Try to limit the amount of distractions.
- Don’t expect your child to revise all the time – rest and relaxation is also really important.
- Remember that you can’t revise for them, so avoid saying how you would revise and suggesting methods that other people use.
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How to Revise:

Guidance for students

01 Read the revision guide booklet for top tips.
02 Make sure you know the topics you need to revise for each subject - Use your exam board specification as a revision list.
03 Don’t just read notes, having a go at past papers will help you to identify strengths and weaknesses.
04 Reward yourself for revising - eating your favourite snack and spending time on social media.
05 Use available apps and watch videos to bring your notes to life.
06 Use flashcards to help you distinguish between sub-topics.
07 Personalise and colour code your notes.
08 Revise topics at home that you studied at school that day.
09 Work with friends and family to test your knowledge using your cue cards.
10 Create a realistic timetable with personal goals that you know you can meet.

Guidance for parents

01 Test them on their knowledge - using their books and notes as a guide.
02 Help your child to space their revision over time, having gaps between the repetition of a subject.
03 Encourage more detailed responses by asking more explanatory questions and asking ‘why?’ to develop their answer.
04 See specific subject suggestions in your child’s revision booklet.

Available Revision Resources

- **CGP Publications** – Educational publications including revision guides and subject-specific workbooks to test knowledge. Prices start at £9.99. [www.cgpbooks.co.uk](http://www.cgpbooks.co.uk)
- **Seneca Learning** – Free GCSE resources created to provide a fun way to boost grades. [www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com)
- **BBC Bitesize** – Revision resources, videos and quizzes for a wide range of subjects. [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)
# Exam Times

## Date | Subject | Time of day
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April 20th | Art & Design - Textiles (Gp 1) | All Day
21st | Art & Design - Photography (Gp 1) | All Day
22nd | Art & Design - Photography (Gp 2) | All Day
23rd | Art & Design - Textiles (Gp1) | All Day
24th | Art & Design - Photography (Gp1) | All Day
27th | Art & Design (Graphic Communications) | All Day
27th | Art & Design - Textiles (Gp 2) | All Day
28th | Art & Design - Fine Art | All Day
28th | Art & Design - Photography (Gp 2) | All Day
29th | Art & Design (Graphic Communications) | All Day
29th | Art & Design - Textiles (Gp 2) | All Day
May 11th | Computer Science – Computer Systems | Morning 1h 30m
11th | Religious Studies A – Paper 1 | Afternoon 1h 45m
12th | Biology – Paper 1 (both tiers) | Afternoon 1h 45m
12th | Combined Science: Trilogy – Biology Paper 1 (both tiers) | Afternoon 1h 15m
13th | English Literature – Paper 1 | Morning 1h 45m
14th | Chemistry – Paper 1 (both tiers) | Morning 1h 45m
14th | Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 1 (both tiers) | Morning 1h 15m
14th | Child Development & Care | Morning 1h 30m
14th | Computer Science – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming | Afternoon 1h 30m
May 15th | Engineering – Unit 3 – Solving Engineering Problems | Morning 1h 30m
18th | Geography – Paper 1 | Morning 1h 30m
19th | Mathematics – Paper 1: Non-Calculator / Foundation Tier | Morning 1h 30m
19th | Mathematics – Paper 1: Non-Calculator / Higher Tier | Morning 1h 30m
19th | Religious Studies A – Paper 2 | Afternoon 1h 45m
20th | Spanish - Paper 1: Listening and Understanding in Spanish - Foundation | Morning 35m
20th | Spanish - Paper 1: Listening and Understanding in Spanish - Higher | Morning 45m
20th | Paper 3: Reading and Understanding in Spanish - Foundation | Morning 35m
20th | Paper 3: Reading and Understanding in Spanish - Higher | Morning 45m
20th | Combined Science: Trilogy – Physics Paper 1 (both tiers) | Afternoon 1h 15m
20th | Physics Paper 1 (Both tiers) | Afternoon 1h 45m
21st | English Literature – Paper 2 | Morning 2h 15m
21st | Business – Business 1: Business Activity, Marketing and People | Afternoon 1h 30m
21st | Psychology – Paper 1 | Afternoon 1h 45m
22nd | Design and Technology – Component 1 | Afternoon 2h

(Morning Exams 9am - Afternoon Exams 1:30pm)
## Exam Times

**Date** | **Subject** | **Time of day**
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**June** |  | 
1st | History – Paper 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment | Morning 1h 15m
1st | Biology – Paper 2 (both tiers) | Afternoon 1h 45m
1st | Combined Science: Trilogy – Biology Paper 2 (both tiers) | Afternoon 1h 45m
2nd | English Language – Paper 1 | Morning 1h 45m
2nd | Business – Business 2: Operations, Finance and Influences on Business | Afternoon 1h 30m
3rd | Geography – Paper 2 | Morning 1h 30m
3rd | Spanish - Paper 4: Writing in Spanish - Foundation | Afternoon - 1h 10m
3rd | Spanish - Paper 4: Writing in Spanish - Higher | Afternoon 1h 20m
4th | Mathematics - Paper 2: Calculator Foundation Tier | Morning 1h 30m
4th | Mathematics - Paper 2: Calculator Higher Tier | Morning 1h 30m
4th | History – Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study | Afternoon 1h 45m
5th | English language – Paper 2 | Morning 1h 45m

(Morning Exams 9am - Afternoon Exams 1:30pm)

### Contingency day

- **Contingency day - Wednesday 26th June 2020** - all students must be available up to and including this date.