

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EXAM PREPARATION IN YEAR 11



THE THOMAS HARDYE SCHOOL

Introduction to this guide

The aim of this booklet is to offer you subject-specific guidance for supporting your child to prepare for their exams. As a parent there is lots you can do to help your child revise for their exams, from reminding them to attend after-school revision clubs to encouraging them with praise and rewards. There are also various things you can do to support your child with their individual subjects. In this guide you will find practical tips and ideas from our subject areas.

Exams, particularly important public exams, are stressful for students and probably even more so for their parents. It goes without saying that all children are different, so it follows that there is no single approach to how a parent can help out, but here are some suggestions:

Students who do best in exams:

- have revised thoroughly and carefully.
- feel confident.
- have parents who take an interest in their revision.

So, what can you do? Before we look at how you can support your child in their various subjects, some general advice is listed below:

Do

- Discuss with your child what will be involved in the revision period and what your role could be.
- Provide the environment necessary for success. Students need a place to revise which is quiet, calm and comfortable. Probably the most important is quiet. A tidy room, but a visually stimulating study centre.
- Respond positively when they ask for help. Ask exactly how you can help and if you can't help immediately, say when it's convenient.
- Give plenty of praise and encouragement. Point out what they are good at. Tell them daily what they do well. Stay calm and don't expect too much.
- Point out what they have done well if you look at their work. Don't dwell on the errors - emphasise the positives.
- Keep them well supplied with food and drinks.
- Keep a low profile.
- Be prepared to listen when they want to talk about problems as everything becomes more emotional and heightened during the exam period.
- Encourage them to take regular breaks during long periods of revision.
- Encourage morning revision when the brain is more receptive and discourage studying right up to bedtime.

Don't

- Make comparisons with brothers, sisters, friends and so on.
- Unintentionally add to their worries by constantly mentioning the exams.
- Relate too much to when you were sitting exams at school or how you did your revision.
- Worry if their revision techniques seem strange or unusual.
- Make a battle out of whether or not they listen to music when doing their revision.
- Distract them unnecessarily.
- Expect them to study all the time as taking some time out to relax will have a positive effect on their work.
- Join in the general anxiety; be a picture of serene confidence.

In Summary

There is a great deal you can do as a parent. You can't revise for them and, however much you'd like to, you can't take the exams for them, but you can be invaluable in making the exam process smooth, calm and successful.

Please remember: Don't hesitate to contact the school for help and advice.



Art

All GCSE Art students have now handed in their coursework unit (60% of the final mark) and are now developing work for the exam. The exams will take place during April and May. This is now a busy time for Art students as 40% of the marks are awarded to the exam unit and they will complete their GCSE before they go on exam leave.

Over the next few weeks students will have to respond to one of the exam questions through research, recording and drawing and developing their ideas until they have a clear plan of what they are going to make in their final exam unit.

Students will initially be given a target sheet by their art teacher which will help them to understand how much work they need to produce and what they need to do to prepare their ideas for the exams. Once the students' ideas start to flow they will be given individual target sheets to suggest how they can develop their ideas forward.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- We would like parents to ask their child to see their sketchbook, check that work is being completed in the book frequently and look at the targets set by the teacher, checking to see if their child is steadily completing them. You should see your child creating work every week.
- We would hope that parents will help make sure students have any specialist equipment they need for the 10 hour exam in advance and that they are prepared the night before the exam, making sure they take their sketchbook and any other development work into school with them. At the start of Year 10 all students were asked to provide an apron/old shirt to protect their clothes; please could parents remind their child to wear them.
- If your child becomes unduly stressed about their Art work during this time please contact their art teacher so they can be supported immediately and set back on the right path. We try to support our students as much as possible and as quickly as possible, sometimes students do not tell us when they are really anxious.
- Please could parents ask their child what they hope to make for this unit and ask them which artists they are looking at and what they will draw to support their work.

Presentation is important, however, we do not want students to spend hours colouring their sketchbook pages to make it look pretty, this will not get them any additional marks. Encourage your child to do their best. Avoid tearing out pages or doodling in their books. See if their work is consistent, they should fill the sketchbook before the exam and it should look really good; your child should be proud to show you their sketchbook.

Business Studies

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Certain students have been identified to re-sit the controlled assessment; this is on-going at the moment.
- Certain students have been identified to re-sit the multiple-choice exam on 21st May (am). To prepare for this, students will be conducting revision in lessons and will be given past papers both in class and for homework. Websites such as www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk have lots of revision based exercises and we are working with ICT to try and make the interactive textbook available for home access.
- Those students identified as being capable of completing the Full Course (the above two examinations equals the Short Course) will need to also complete the extended-essay exam on 24th May (am). Again, to prepare for this, students will be conducting revision in lessons and will be given past papers both in class and for homework. Websites such as www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk have lots of revision based exercises and for the more able students sites such as www.Tutor2u.net and www.Bized.co.uk will have much more detailed articles to help support students (mainly aimed at AS students but still appropriate).

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

Students tend to struggle with two things - application and analysis.

- Parents could firstly help their child by helping construct a revision timetable and help their child stick to it.
- For application, students should ensure they relate their answer to the business in the case study and not give purely theoretical answers that could be applied to any business. Parents could help by reading students' homework and questioning them on their application.
- For analysis, students should explicitly state how factors affect the business. For example, no business cares whether their workforce is happy. However, if their staff are happy there is a greater chance of retention which saves the business money in recruitment, selection and training. Additionally, a happy worker may be more productive thus lowering the unit costs for the business. Both of these lead to more profit which can itself lead to a competitive advantage. Parents could help by reading students' homework and questioning them on their analysis.
- Parents could help by looking through past papers and mark schemes with their child, see www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/Business/Business/Pages/default.aspx
- Parents could help their child understand the wider world of business by watching or reading the news with their child.

Drama

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

We are currently being assessed on the 4th piece of practical coursework – showcases at the end of January. They will then be given some preparation work for a written practice paper due by February half-term. They will move onto the final practical assessment and be assessed on 23rd and 24th April. Written work will recommence after this date and the examination is on 22nd May.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Discuss how they have created their characters and pieces. Ask them questions about specifically what exercises have been used to make development. After the performances, ask them how successful the piece has been. When discussing your child's work, use key terminology: describe, explain, analyse and evaluate.
- Ask students to read their written work aloud before deadlines and stop when moments are unclear.
- Hotseat character for practical - students should get into character and parents ask as many questions as possible.
- Run lines and monologues at home.
- Help to gather props, set and costume.

English

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Ensure that controlled assessment grades are as good as possible. Redo key pieces if necessary.
- Attend department after-school sessions (catch up for controlled assessment Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Targeted revision sessions will be running on a Thursday after half-term).
- Use online resources such as Sparknotes to develop and reinforce understanding of the Literature texts.
- Buy study guides for Literature texts. Letts guides are straightforward and provide a good general overview. Phillip Allen guides are more detailed.
- Find a study buddy.
- Read a quality newspaper regularly (at home or in the school library) and practise their textual analysis skills on any article that takes their fancy.
- Do their homework.
- Revise the literature texts little and often. Go back over the plot, character and theme. Learn some of the key quotations.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Discuss the literature texts with students (different groups study different texts - please check with your child's teacher).
- Read the passport booklet and get students practising the Language exam questions.
- Make sure that students have a quiet place to revise and that they have developed a revision timetable.
- Encourage students to read a newspaper.
- Encourage students to attend after school sessions.

GCSE Dance

For GCSE Dance, students have 2 practical coursework deadlines:

6th March 2013 - 6.00 pm - An evening sharing of coursework for parents when students are assessed internally.

19th March 2013 - Students will be visited by an external moderator from AQA. All practical coursework will be seen and moderated.

The written exam is on 15th May 2013 (pm).

Students will be asked to attend after-school rehearsals as required. It is important that they are prepared for this and have given thought to the rehearsal in preparation for it.

For the written paper, students have DVDs of the set works and should have detailed notes to revise from. Questioning by parents while watching the DVDs can be helpful.

Parents can encourage students to be prepared for lessons/rehearsals by bringing their music, log book, giving thought to the rehearsal and watching their dance on DVD/ FROG.

GCSE Food and Nutrition

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- GCSE final practical exam to be completed during the two weeks after February half term (students have been given their date).
- Students must practise their chosen dishes before this date to ensure they work confidently and independently during the exam. This practical exam is worth half the marks for CAT2.
- CAT2 coursework deadline is Monday 18th March. Work to be submitted by then for marking, feedback and improvements.
- CAT2 coursework club is held at lunch time on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in T8, and after school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm with Mrs Voss, Mrs Godwin or Mrs Smith.
- Written examination date is Thursday 16th May (1½ hours). Revision guide booklets will be given to students after Easter.
- There will be extra revision sessions after school nearer the exam date.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Check their diaries for practical dates and homework.
- Encourage them to attend coursework club to meet CAT2 deadlines.
- Help them practise their chosen practical dishes at home. **THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT!**
- Encourage them to complete past exam questions found on FROG.

GCSE Graphic Products

The Graphics coursework date is 22nd March 2013 - by this date all coursework sheets should be fully completed (there are 14 sheets). All products should be manufactured to a high standard. Coursework is worth 60% of the final GCSE grade.

Every lesson I remind students to attend Graphics club - I have told them they can attend any lunchtime and after school. On a Thursday evening I will run Textiles club, so will not be in the Graphics room to support them, but if students know what they are doing and want to come in to do some digital design or complete cat sheets this is fine. They will not be able to use the laser cutter without me present. All other lunchtimes and after school I will be here to support them (unless a meeting or Parents' Evening is scheduled).

Students' written exam will be 15th May 2013. This will be 40% of final GCSE grade.

Topics will include:

Section A

Q1 - Product Analysis (analysis of an existing product).

Q2 - Sustainability and Legislative issues (Six R's, BSI etc).

Q3 - Designers (David Carson and Neville Brody – careers and what famous for – specific design work and dates).

Q4 - The Design Process (what order is design, make and evaluating done – usually includes a logo design/packaging question).

Section B

Q5 - Commercial manufacturing Practices (printing methods, binding, finishing).

Q6 - Knowledge of Materials and Components (materials - paper and card, typography).

Q7 - Tools, Equipment and Making (includes questions on how to score, fold, cut and glue).

Q8 - ICT, CAD, CAM and Systems and Processes (this normally includes 2 drawing questions).

Coursework is taking priority at the moment, but after 22nd March students will spend every lesson revising for the written exam.

I will be creating a revision folder on the school network that will allow them to access lesson powerpoints and other resources.

To revise, students must use class notes; they could buy a Lonsdale Essentials Graphics Revision guide and revise the above topics, read up and write about the 2 designers using the internet.

Visit the following websites for revision:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/graphics>

<http://www.mr-d-n-t.co.uk/index-page.htm>

<http://www.mr-dt.com>

<http://www.technologystudent.com/designpro/drawdex.htm>

Visit WJEC website for past papers.

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=41&level=7&list=paper>

Markschemes are available from me.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Ensure that students are equipped with HB and 2H pencils, rubber, sharpener, compass, protractor and calculator for the written exam and revision sessions (let me know of any financial issues).
- Get them a revision guide if they do not have one.
- Help them draw up a revision timetable and try and get them to revise Graphics using web links above, revision guide, class notes. Then get them to practise past papers.
- It would be helpful if they could have internet access to use above websites and to revise the designer's careers and design work and dates. If internet access is not available they can stay until 4.30 pm any day or pop in at lunch or early in the morning to use the internet in the Technology block (T7 or T8).
- Test them on different print methods; they must recognise the diagrams of the print methods and know the names of the processes, how the processes work and what type of products the process is used for.
- Test them on the paper making machine – Fourdrinier. Students will need to name the parts and the job of each part of the machine.
- Help them research/revise the careers of David Carson and Neville Brody - students will be expected to write a long essay (one side of A4) about these designers' careers and famous design pieces, their educational background and who they have worked for.
- Give them lots of encouragement. Some students feel as if they are going to fail an exam anyway so why bother trying? On the other hand, some are too confident and think they don't need to revise as they will do well. Re-enforce importance of revision.
- Contact me with any concerns or questions re their son/daughter or the course. E-mail is an easier way to contact me - emorgan@thomas-hardye.net.

Geography

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Know what is going to be in the exam. Use the bullet points from **specifications** as key headings in your revision notes.
- Know how questions will be **phrased**. Examiners build their questions from the specifications. For example, "Investigate examples of how different tourist activities can conflict with each other and local communities." will become "**Describe the conflict between tourism activities and local communities in an area you have studied.**"

You should also use the specification to **target** which areas you need to **focus your revision** on.

- **Terminology is key**. Make key term **flash cards** - key word on one side, definition on the other. Tests yourself both ways, remember the definitions and use this terminology in your written work.
- **Diagrams**. Make copies of important processes like hurricane formation. Study the diagram for a minute, then look away and try to **recreate** it. Remember, annotations are crucial to show understanding.
- To get top marks for questions of 4 marks or more, it is crucial that you **develop your points**. Again using the specification headings, use **flow diagrams** in your revision to practise developing your points.

For example:

From the spec: "Explore the range of social and economic factors, including greater wealth, mobility, leisure time, technology and changes in lifestyle that impact the changing nature of tourism."

The development of the internet → more independence as travellers → means people can find different, more exotic destinations → development of more small scale tourism development → greater range in tourist destinations.

- **Case Studies** are crucial, particularly for the A*- B grades. From your class notes, pick out key points from case studies to go into **10 lines**. Then write the same information in a more **concise manner** and shorten it to fit a **post it note**. Then, shorten it again into **10 words**. This will help you to remember key facts.
- Use the **old VLE**. We have scanned in all the pages from the textbook.
- Do **not** buy Geography revision guides, as they are not specific to the specification. We will sell for **£1 two revision guides** containing activities related to our course. These will be available in April.
- Be in a **positive frame of mind**. Revision enables you to be at the **peak of your intellectual powers**, so revel in it. Do it with friends, family, out loud, outside and in raps and songs - but have purpose, structure and get stuck in.

Health and Social Care (Single Award)

Students have taken Unit 1 exam last summer (Understanding personal development and relationships). This was worth 40% of their total marks which now go towards their final grade.

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

Focus between now and exams: Students have started their **controlled assessment task for unit 2** (Exploring Health, Social Care and Early Years Provision). This is **worth 60% of their final grade** and will make the biggest difference to their overall grade.

In class they are writing their report about the needs of a service user of one service (ie an early years setting or residential care setting). They are guided on what to cover for each of the four tasks listed by the exam board in their CAT help booklet which is also found on the T-drive for students to use.

It is essential that students:

- use their class time constructively to write their report.
- use previous class notes and other independent research to support their knowledge base. This can be completed in preparation lessons and/or as homework.
- **CATCH-UP WITH ANY LESSONS MISSED.**
- Use the **coursework club** for any work missed or simply for more help to understand and complete tasks.

COURSEWORK CLUB is held on THURSDAY evenings in T15.

Coursework will be completed by FRIDAY 26th APRIL.

As students have already taken their exam, in lessons after coursework is completed, students will be able to bring revision to lessons and use this time to revise for their summer exams in subjects still yet to be taken.

History

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Do your homework! We will have very little time for revising Nazi Germany so re-enforcing your current work will help it stick.
- Start revising your USA depth at the same time as you are revising it in class. You must come to revision classes well prepared, don't expect the teacher to do it all!
- If you are disappointed with your Year 10 module, you need to discuss with parents and your teacher about the possibility of retaking it on 10th June 2013.
- Check with your teacher if and when they will be offering revision sessions and be selective about which topics you may need help on.
- Check and learn your glossary terms and check that you have covered all the content in your notes as specified in the syllabus.
- Your two depth papers are on **Monday 3rd June 2013** (pm), each 1 hour 15 minutes. Make sure that you know which topic is coming up in section A, the sources question.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER - revision is not just about *what* but also *how*.

Encourage students to use the school's FROG History website links. Other good revision sites are the BBC bitesize and activehistory (the History teachers will provide the password). Type in 'History revision' into You tube and explore what comes up!

- Revision should be *active*; reading a book/notes for an hour is largely ineffective. Encourage making shorter notes from notes, do timelines, brain storming, spider diagrams, use the reverse of old posters, write post-its around bedrooms with key facts, dates, people, test glossary terms. Link revision with smells, colours, make raps, pod casts (can be listened to on the way to school). Little and often works!
- Buy the WJEC revision guide from school, available at the Parents' Evening while stocks last!
- Encourage students to re-read past tests and questions and ask them to explain what they did well and what they can do to improve their answers.
- History can be very content based, students should be encouraged to develop different ways to identify key issues, rather than struggle with information overload. So encourage; making up 'odd ones out' eg 4 dates of Hitler getting into power, or three words to summarise issues; eg President Hoover = '2little 2late mate', or 'go for 5' – list 5 causes/effects of an event, or draw a circle for a 'wheel of blame/shame', eg proportion the factors in a circle showing why prohibition failed. These can be done on cards and even colour coded for topics.

"It's not what you know, it's what you do with what you know."

Information and Communication Technology

GCSE Edexcel Double Award

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Completion of the Controlled Assessment Brief (CAB) before end of Spring Term.
- Completion of theory for Unit 3: notes, revision and past papers for summer exam.
- Theory notes, revision guide and practice papers are all available on the T drive.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Ensure that students do not miss CAB lessons for appointments whenever possible.
- Check that students attend catch up time after school for CAB if lessons have been missed for absence.
- Discuss and create a proposed revision schedule with students.
- Act as a tester to check students learning from revision guide.

OCR Nationals in ICT level 2

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Completion of units for 1 GCSE equivalent ie units 01, 23, 04 and 20 by 14th February 2013.
- Completion of units for 2 GCSE equivalent ie units 22 and 2 by 23rd May 2013.
- Pay attention to assessment feedback and act upon it.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Check that students attend catch up time after school if lessons have been missed for absence.
- Support teachers by ensuring students attend any catch up sessions if requested to do so by staff.

Mathematics

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

All students are preparing for an exam in the summer. There are many students retaking a unit on 28th February or 4th March 2013 and they have been given a revision pack for this. The summer exam is a calculator paper and all students should have their own calculator to use in lessons.

Some students will sit two papers in the summer and have had a letter home explaining this.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Please make sure they have the correct equipment. Calculators, protractors, compasses and other stationery are available to buy in the Maths shop. CGP Revision guides and workbooks are also available from the Maths shop for £2.75.
- Some students make revision books in school and use these to help with past papers. They might find it useful to copy out the bits they forget on to revision cards and use colours to help them remember key formulae.

Students are set regular homework and also have past papers for revision. Please encourage them to complete these on time.

Maths revision can be done on the internet. Students have access to MyMaths via the school's VLE. Students could use this or other revision sites to help with their homework or to work on their own choice of revision topic.

Encourage students to attend Maths club; these are the current after-school and morning clubs. After-school clubs run until 4.30 pm.

Monday	Mrs Ward	M14
	Mr Lansdale	M9
Tuesday	Mr Lansdale: this club is at 8.00 am and is for students doing the Foundation Linear course only	M9
Wednesday	Mr Curren/Mrs Hughes	M15
Thursday	Mr Lansdale	M9
	Mr Goddard: Unit 3 Foundation	M8
	Mrs Daly: Unit 1 Foundation	M12
Friday	Mr Orchard: this club is at 8.00 am	M4
	Mrs Morrison/Miss Tanner/Mr Nicholls	M7

Modern Foreign Languages

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Controlled assessments in speaking and writing need to be finished before Easter. If there are students who are missing an assessment or who we feel could significantly improve their marks by doing a further assessment, we will write to parents letting them know and asking for their support and encouragement.
- Aside from controlled assessment, students should be preparing for the listening and reading exams in May/June. They should focus their efforts on revising and learning vocabulary by topic, reviewing the grammar points that have been covered and attempting past papers. Resources to support all of the above are available on the MFL French/German/Spanish Frog pages through the GCSE link. The 'Useful websites' section in each language features recommended links along with usernames and passwords where needed. Revision clubs focusing on listening and reading will be available after Easter.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Help your child to learn vocabulary by testing them, making revision a more active process.
- When your child is preparing for the controlled assessment they will need to learn lengthy written or spoken answers. Again, parents can help by testing or just listening to their child.
- Show them that it's okay to make mistakes by having a go yourself and letting them teach you. This helps them to reflect on what they know (often more than they think). Also, it may identify gaps that they need to ask their teacher about.
- Little and often works well for languages. Little cue cards showing words, phrases or verb forms can be carried around in a pocket and looked at frequently. Online resources such as Quizlet can be used to make simple and fun revision activities which can be accessed on mobile devices. Try it!
- In general terms, encourage a routine of daily revision time and ask them to tell you what they remember at the end of the session.

Music

GCSE Music

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

Coursework still left to complete:

- Composition 2.
- Ensemble performance.

Both of these must be done in lessons before Easter.

Revision:

- Ensure students have a copy of the CGP revision guide (Edexcel Specification).
- Students need to learn the key features of all the set works.
- Students should listen repeatedly to all the set works (available on Frog).
- Students should use revision materials (available on Frog) in combination with notes in their folders.
- Students should practise writing about their set works under timed conditions.

The date of the final exam is Friday 24th May 2013.

BTEC Music

Coursework left to complete:

- Unit 2: Professional Development in the Music Industry. Monitor professional development plan.

Coursework to review/redo in order to raise grades:

- Unit 1: Working in the Music Industry.
- Unit 2: Professional Development in the Music Industry.
- Unit 7: Exploring computer systems used by musicians.
- Unit 11: Rehearsal techniques for Musicians.

ALL COURSEWORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY EASTER. THERE IS NO EXAMINATION.

Physical Education

Practical Exam- Controlled Assessment

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- To develop their fitness and practise their final four sports which will be examined and moderated mid to late March.
- To work with their teacher to improve their Controlled Assessment should they need to.
- To ensure they have the correct kit, equipment and have a positive attitude for their Practical Exam.
- To complete classwork, homework and revision with an inquisitive attitude and a smile.
- This will help students to consistently achieve at least their target grade and hopefully surpass it.
- For revision, learn knowledge, develop understanding and then apply it to the **Revision Workbook using the Revision Guide provided by the department.**
- Complete all past paper questions from 2009-2012.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Mark your son/daughter's work in the Revision Workbook and give feedback to help them improve.
- When stuck on a question, ask your son/ daughter to verbally answer it which will hopefully help them to write down a better answer.
- Encourage a "little and often" approach to revision.
- To ask broad questions which will help your son/ daughter link their knowledge, for example, "Why is it that you see people breathe really quickly after they have sprinted?" or "How can I get fitter if I go to the gym?"

Resistant Materials

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Coursework deadline - 28th March 2013.
- Exam date - 15th May 2013 (Exam 40% of final GCSE).
- CAT sheet 1-14 (coursework 60% of final GCSE).
- Topics to revise: Product analysis; sustainability and legislative issues; designers (the work of Phillippe Starck, Ross Lovegrove); the design process; commercial manufacturing processes; materials and components; tool, equipment and making; ICT, CAD/CAM systems and processes.
- Coursework clubs available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and some Tuesdays.
- Useful websites Resistant Materials - Frog page.
- WJEC website Resistant Materials, course resource <http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc/2009-10/vocational/cynnal-resistant-materials/>.
- WJEC website Resistant Materials website, past paper and mark sheet <http://www.wjec.co.uk/uploads/publications/6888.pdf>.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Assist them to complete a planned programme of revision.
- Encourage them to attend at least one after-school coursework club per week.

Science

Controlled Assessments

Biology, Chemistry and Physics (triple award) - some students will be doing another ISA between now and the exams. Some students have been asked to come in to compulsory support sessions after school (Wednesday for Physics and Thursday for Biology) until an improved ISA has been completed. Other students may be doing ISA improvement in lessons. These students will need to learn ISA key words and revise work given by their teacher relating to the ISA they are doing.

Additional Science (double award) - some students are undertaking a further controlled assessment, but this will mainly be in lessons. Support at lunchtimes or after school can be arranged with individual science teachers.

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Use a revision guide and exercise books to write short notes. Make revision ACTIVE, not just reading!
- Write 5 questions on a revision card on each topic. Write the answers on the back and ask your parents/friends to quiz you.
- Use resources on FROG – look at the webpages and do all the activities.
- Print off the exam questions from FROG. Have a go at answering them and then mark your own work using the mark schemes also on FROG.
- Answer exam questions in BULLET-POINT form, even the 6-mark questions. Do NOT feel you have to “fill the space” in exam papers!

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Access to internet so students can go onto FROG website. In “school departments”, click on science and then the subject. There are webpages for each topic, including exam questions for each topic.
- Access to a printer so students can print off exam questions and the mark schemes.
- Help students mark work using the mark schemes on FROG.
- Purchase CGP revision guides (available from the science department and online).
- Encourage students to write 5 questions on each topic on a revision card with answers on the back and then use these to quiz students.

Systems and Control

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

Our priority up until the end of term is coursework.

- The most important thing is that students make the best use of their on-going homework to prepare for each of their CAT sheets. At the moment this will involve using the resources on the T-drive and on <http://www.syscon.tk/>.
- If students are at the circuit design stage then make sure they have a copy of 'Circuit Wizard' at home in order to develop their circuits and have them checked when they come to lessons. If they are designing their case they need 'Pro-Desktop'. Student versions of both of these programs are available **free** from the T-Drive.
- If students are not up to date with CATs or making - come to Mr Popkin's after-school club on Wednesdays and Fridays to help catch up.

After Easter we will be doing past paper questions in class.

- Students would find looking at the resources on the WJEC website very useful, in particular the 'Systems and Control Syllabus' to make sure that they understand what they need to know and the 'Exemplar examination material' to give them an idea of the standard needed in the exam.
- Closer to the exam, make sure the student is getting a worthwhile revision experience by supervising agreed revision activities and informally testing them on it. (Remove/restrict personal electronic entertainment gadgets during agreed revision time - Phones/iPods/laptops/pads/etc or the student **will** be on Facebook).

Textiles

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- **Important deadlines:**
CAT manufacturing should be completed by 15th March 2013.
CAT sheets should be completed by 22nd March 2013.
Revision lessons will start straight after Easter.
GCSE Textiles examination is on 15th May 2013.
- **Dates/times of afterschool clubs:**
Textile clubs are held most days. Students will need to see individual teachers. As a guide:
Mrs David holds clubs on Mondays and Thursdays from 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm.
Mrs Hutchings holds clubs on a Monday (Week 1) from 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm and on a Wednesday (Week 2) from 3.40 pm – 4.30 pm.
Ms Morgan holds clubs on a Thursday from 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm.
- **Topics**
Developing, planning and communicating ideas.
Product analysis.
Sustainability and legislative issues.
The work and influence of Vivienne Westwood and John Galliano.
Commercial and manufacturing practices.
Materials and components.
Tools, equipment and manufacturing.
ICT, CAD, CAM.
Systems and processes.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

Parents can help their child succeed in Textiles by encouraging them to do the following:

- Attend Textiles clubs to meet the CAT deadline (this is the weekly homework set until Easter).
- Purchase a revision guide to help them with the examination in May.
- Download the revision folder from the school's T drive.
- Attempt as many past papers as possible using the resources available to help them.
- Work through the sheet of revision tasks.

Theology and Ethics

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Ensuring that any missed notes in each of their 4 course/unit booklets are copied up and the practice GCSE questions in the back of each are completed. (No coursework, all exam based).
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- Attendance at the lunchtime revision sessions held on Wednesday lunchtimes in the Theology and Ethics department from the beginning of the Summer Term.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER:

- Go over the key words at the front of each of the four booklets.
- Go over the key beliefs at the end of each of the four booklets.
- Discuss the issues that each booklet deals with.
- Prompt your son/daughter to take an interest in the news to show how the issues they have been dealing with in their studies are current in that news.
- Ensure that 1½ hours per week is set aside for revision of Theology and Ethics and that it is in the student's own revision planner.