

How to revise effectively

Information for parents and carers

Did you know?



Research shows that within one hour, students will have forgotten an average of 50% of new information in a lesson. Within 24 hours, they have forgotten 70%... so it is especially important for our students that we help them to retain what they have learnt by re-visiting - a strategy for revision - and allowing them to think hard.

'Learning happens when people have to think hard'

Prof. Robert Coe, Durham University

What can you do?

The aim is to ensure that the students are **actively learning** and not being passive learners. In their exams, the students will need to recall a huge number of facts and amount of knowledge quickly - so we need to make sure they can do this effectively.

Think of revision as a three-step process:

1. Upload the knowledge content of the subject

This can be done through chunking notes into sections, rewriting, or recording notes as they are spoken out loud.

2. Transform the knowledge

This can be done by reducing notes, turning them into images or acronyms and making links between topics.

3. Apply the knowledge

This can be done by restoring acronyms and images back to their original form, practising past questions and refining answers by making use of mark schemes.

Past papers, mark schemes and exam reports

Students who make use of exam board materials can identify what they don't know and what they are going to do about it.

Some students still think that 'revision' is something that happens at the end of a course before external exams. The reality is that they should be revisiting content taught in lessons all the time. For example, in just week three of the term, they should be revisiting what they were taught in weeks one and two.

Revisiting is an ongoing process and knowledge is simply forgotten unless it is re-visited regularly.

Quizzing is a really good way of learning knowledge. Free websites like Quizlet mean that students can make their own flashcards. Seneca is also free and is an online platform with information and questions to answer. Suggest that your child has a look at each of them to help them reinforce what they are doing in lessons.

You can also help by ensuring that your son or daughter has somewhere quiet to work. Encourage them to have social media 'unplugged' when they are working. Sometimes simple things will make a difference - even just helping with old-fashioned quizzing!