

Effective Revision Techniques



PHILIPS HIGH SCHOOL
SUCCESS, TOGETHER, ASPIRE, RESPECT

How do we revise?



Simply, make sure you eat, sleep and take time out!



Limit distractions



Find a nice space
to revise in



The more you put in
the more you get out!



Create and use a
revision planner



Set an alarm and
start early!



Revise, Repeat,
Remember

The Basics



How?



TRADITIONAL REVISION

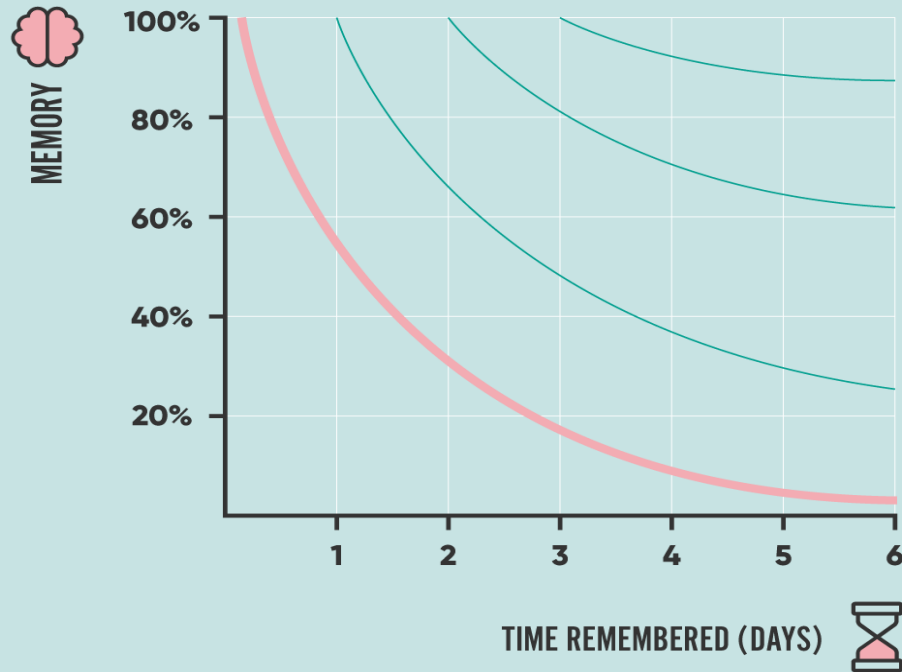
- **Completing past papers**
- **Re-reading notes**
- **Highlighting**
- **Cramming**
- **Or possibly non-existent!**
- **Last minute interventions & after-school 'free for alls'**
- **Little or no modelling of how to revise**

EFFECTIVE REVISION

- **Retrieval**
- **Spacing**
- **Dual-coding**
- **Elaboration**
- **Interleaving & spacing**
- **Concrete examples**
- **Desirable difficulties**
- **Lifelong study skills**
- **A regular habit as all strategies explicitly modelled to students across the school**



THE FORGETTING CURVE



You are going to learn how to use your memory.

70% of what you learn in a day is gone within 24 hours unless you intend to remember and practise it.

To improve your memory you need to create associations between things and stronger pathways from your senses to the information that you need to remember.

Interleaving and Spacing



Defeating the 'Forgetting Curve'



- **Space out & repeat** revision of each topic
- **Repeatedly test** yourself
- **Evaluate your mistakes** each time
- **Vary revision techniques:** writing, speaking, listening
- **Plan rewards into your revision:** breaks, fun, food

1. Create a revision plan to cover topics you need to cover (least confident first!) and then go back over them again later. Spread out your learning in small sections, 5 hours to 5 x 1 hour
2. Use your flashcards to self test yourself on old and new topics, self testing across these

Don't revise all your topics in one go (cramming), you should revise 'chunks' of a topic for small amounts of time (15 minutes) and then move onto another 'chunk' from a different topic.

This will improve your memory!

The Memory Palace



The Memory Palace is **one of the most powerful memory techniques I know**. It's not only effective, but also fun to use — and not hard to learn at all. The Memory Palace has been used since ancient Rome, and is responsible for some quite incredible memory feats.

The memory palace technique is about **changing your memories into images placed in a familiar mental location**. The idea is that you can mentally walk through your Palace looking at your memories to recall them.

1a) Read and reduce

Key question cards
Knowledge trees
Books markers
Mnemonics
Alphabet
Word banks

Make it memorable

Different colours
Different font styles
Symbols
Shapes
Headings and sub headings
Diagrams
Words – less is more
High lighting – less is more



Three common revision techniques that are **LEAST** effective

in helping you revise are:

- Highlighting texts
- Re-reading
- Summarising text



Whilst these methods may feel like you are revising, there are many better methods to help you revise.



1b) Remember

Strategies for working individually



Read & Explain

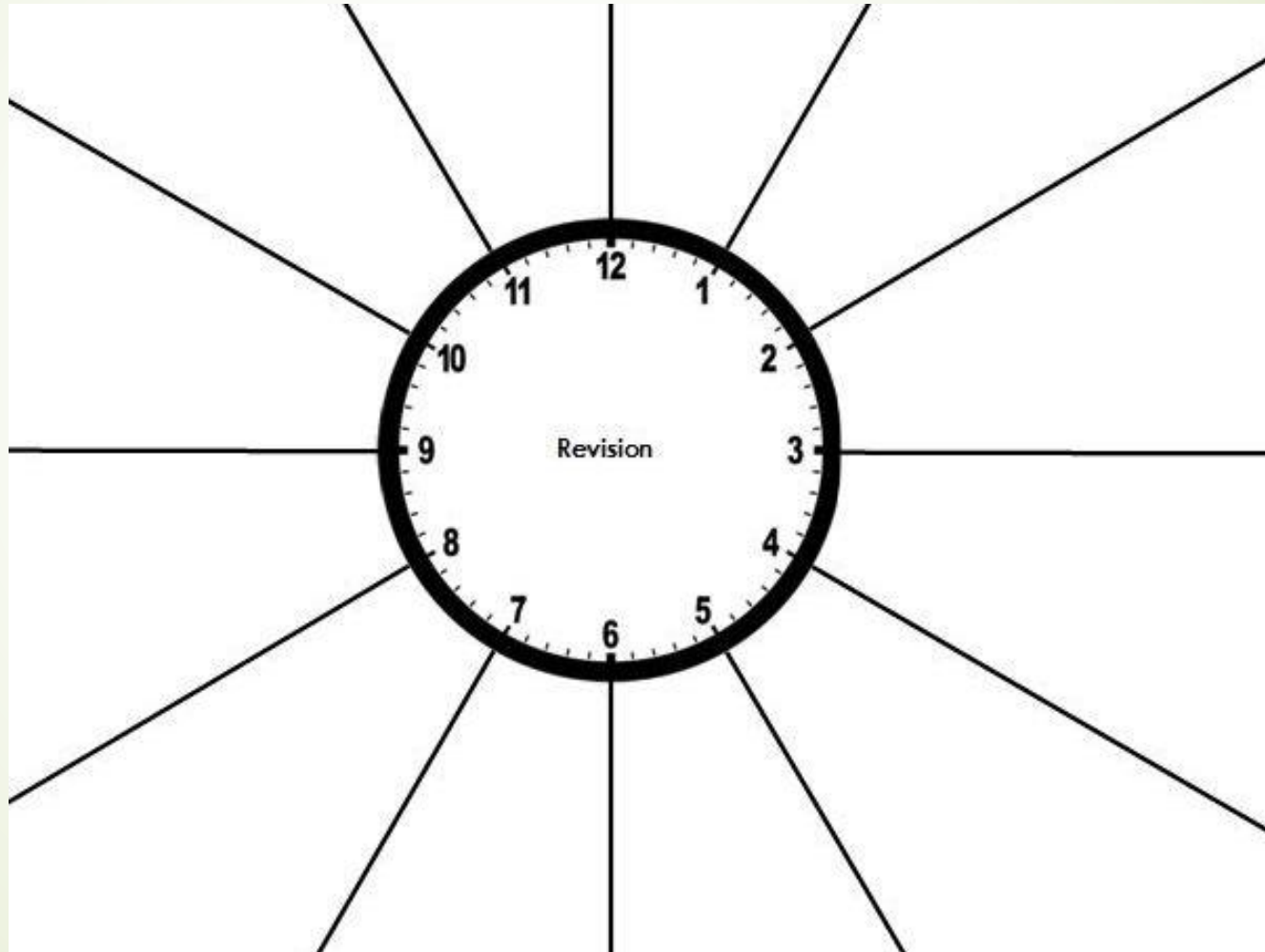
Read through some of your notes. Then give them to your parents and try to explain them to them. Because they won't know the subject they will ask you questions about it until you've explained it clearly.



Hide and Seek

Write information about the topic on 12 pieces of paper. Place them on the table with the information face down. Look at a card, try to say what's written on it, turn it over to see if you're right. If you are, leave it turned up. If not leave it face down & you return to it once you've done all the other cards.

The Revision Clock



24.3.16.

HOW WAS WW1
a world war?

RECRUITMENT IN WW1
UK
BELGIUM
FRANCE
EGYPT



KEY WORDS
WW1:

GUNS
TRENCHES
BATTLES
1914
SONNE
TANKS

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES



NO FOOD

Battle of the Atlantic



WAS THERE
SOUTHPORT
BLITZ?

NO
GERMANS COULDN'T HIT
SOUTHPORT BY ACCIDENT
WHY WOULD THEY?

THEY HAD A
PICTURE OF
FORMBY

PEOPLE DIED
BECAUSE OF
FLOODING
BUILDINGS WERE
DESTROYED

GHETTOS

Small
NO FOOD
NO MEDICINE

NO MONEY

PERSECUTION
JEWISH IN 1930s

BUSINESSES
SHUT
DOWN

NOT ALLOWED
TO VOTE

NO MARRIAGE
WITH GERMANS
NO EDUCATION

WHY DID
HITLER
START WW2???

HE WANTED
TO KILL
ALL
JEWS

HE WANTED
MORE LAND.



KEY WORDS

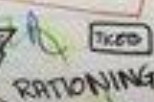
KRISTALLNACHT
GAS SHOES
CHAMBERS
JEWS
SS-MANS
CRUEL

WHY WERE
NAZIS
ANTI-SEMITIC

THEY
BLAMED
THEM
FOR THE
DEATH OF
JESUS.



RATIONING



THEY RATIONED:



CLOTHES



CHEESE



FRUIT

THEY THOUGHT
JEWS
WANTED
TO



TAKE
OVER
THE
WORLD





Engaging Parents in Revision

- Parents can act as 'revision buddies' by quizzing their child using flashcards, Cornell notes or any other revision resource where the answers are provided.
- Parents can provide an environment conducive to study (no technology, a quiet space) but with the promise of a reward afterwards.
- Parents can ask their child what went well in a study session and what their child struggled with, why that might be and therefore enter into a dialogue around the focus for the next study session.
- Consider using 'tell me three' (What are three things that went well? What are three things that need more work? What are three things you remembered easily?)

Using Flashcards



Simply create with questions on one side and answers on the other side. You can colour code for specific topics and quiz yourself or others. Post its can be also useful for key words and timelines.

The Leitner Method

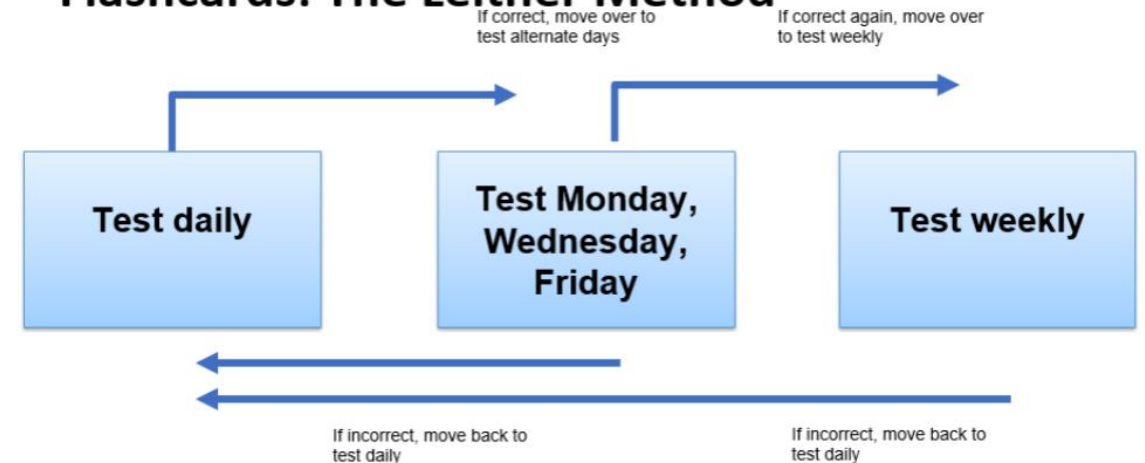
Using the Leitner Method, using the video below
<https://youtu.be/C20EvKtdJwQ>

In this method, **flashcards are sorted into groups according to how well the learner knows each one in Leitner's learning box.**

The learners try to recall the solution written on a flashcard. If they succeed, they send the card to the next group. If they fail, they send it back to the first group.

It improves the memorization process of students. It facilitates spaced repetition and is relatively much easier than just cramming information in one go.

Flashcards: The Leitner Method



How to study flashcards

Retrieval Practice

Testing what you know is a powerful tool in revision, the effort to remember something really strengthens your memory

Apps such as Memrise and Quizlet allow you to use or create your own quizzes based on topics.

Create them, test yourself or get someone to test you, it's works!

There are a number of types you can create:

- Multiple Choice Questions
- True or False
- Short Explanation Questions
- Odd One Out
- If this is the answer then what is the question



Retrieval Practice



Bain call 'power tickets'

	Today	Yesterday	Last week	Last month	Last term	Last year
	Suffragettes	Suffragists	Edwardian era	Gothic tradition	Victorian era	Romantics
Write one fact						
Write a second fact						
Write a third fact						

Dual Coding

Dual coding' is the method of putting your knowledge into visual form alongside words. It increases the chances of you remembering it.

An example activity you can do is creating a comic strip to represent the events of the Battle of Hastings.



5 Ways to Use Dual Coding

by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk

Dual coding is the process of blending both words and pictures while learning, but what are some specific different ways you can do this?



1. Drawings

These boost learning by getting students to think deeply about information



2. Diagrams

These are helpful for breaking down complex concepts or processes to make them easier to understand



3. Posters

These are great for combining writing, pictures, and diagrams all within one page of information



4. Timelines

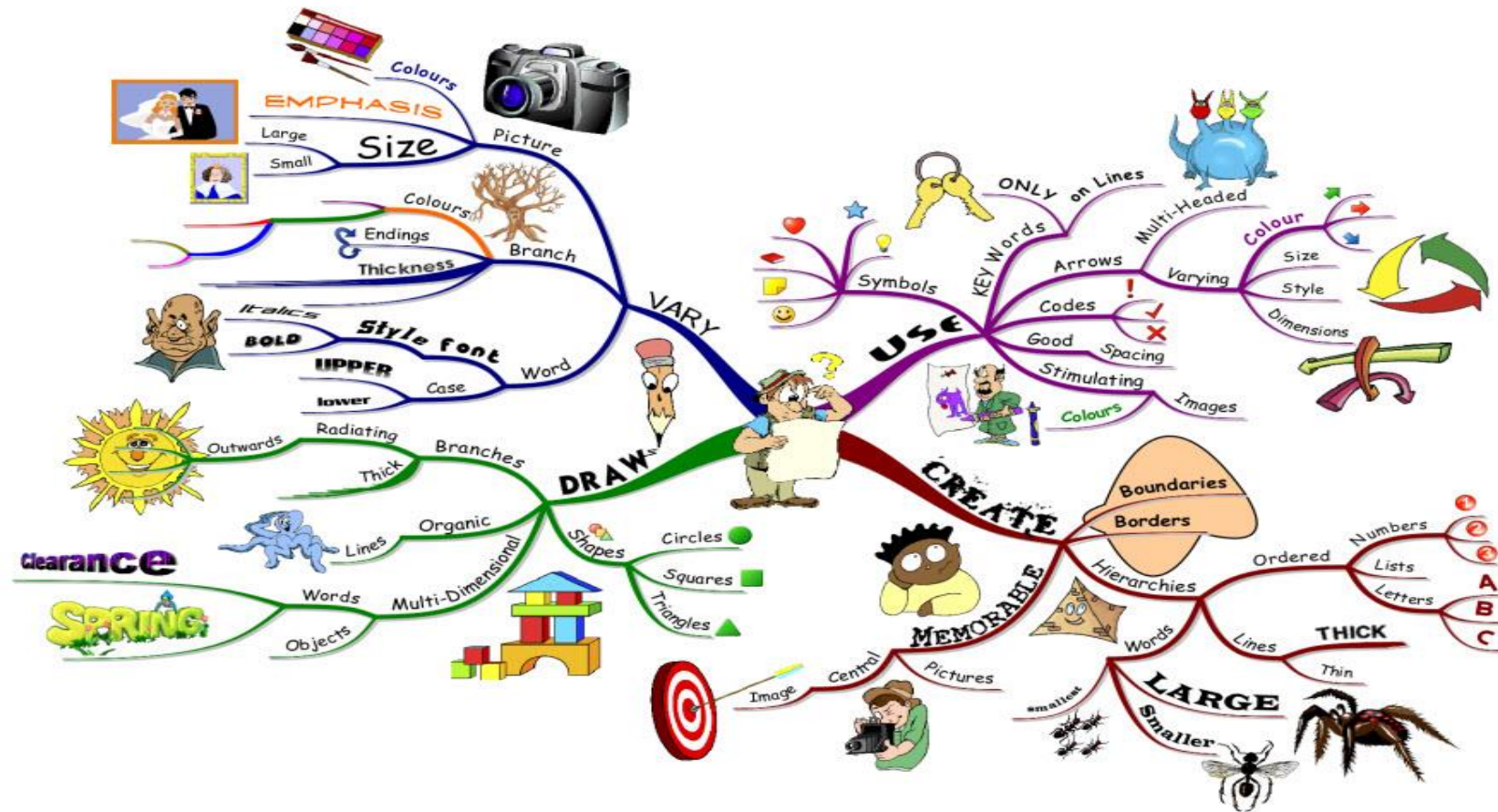
These can be used for information that happens in a particular order or sequence



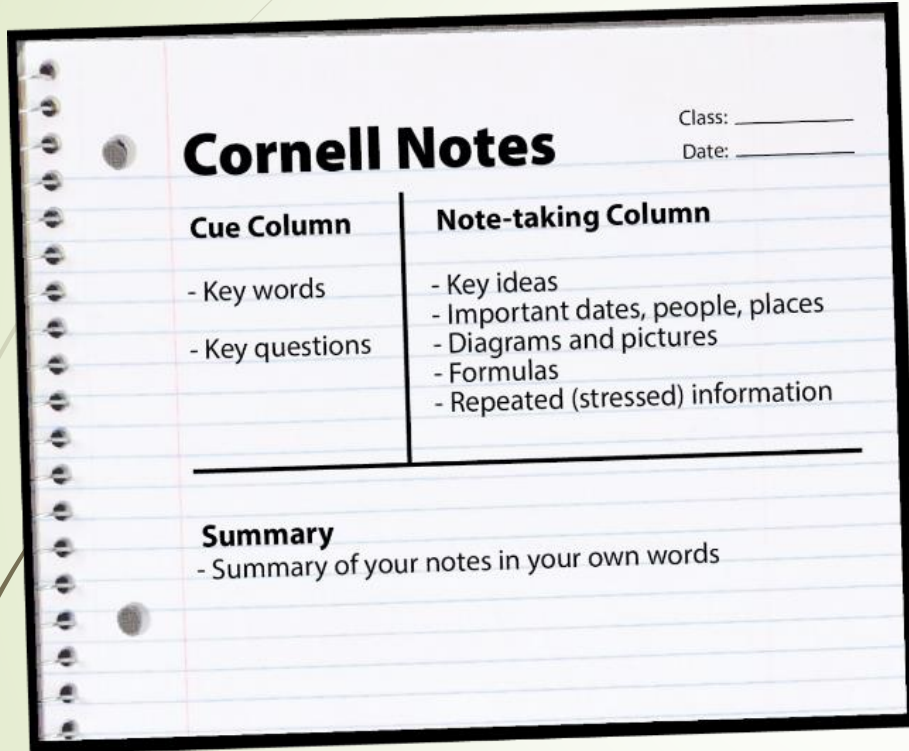
5. Graphic Organisers

These organise verbal and visual information by the relationships between different concepts. Examples include tree diagrams, mind maps, and Venn diagrams

Mind Maps



The Cornell Method



Cornell Notes Class: _____
Date: _____

Cue Column	Note-taking Column
- Key words	- Key ideas
- Key questions	- Important dates, people, places
	- Diagrams and pictures
	- Formulas
	- Repeated (stressed) information

Summary
- Summary of your notes in your own words

This method can be used in your revision books as a great method to get you to 'think' about your revision. Simply split your page into 3 sections as shown on the diagram on the left:

- Note Taking
- Cues
- Summary

Use it to summarise a whole topic or theme, for example

- How did medical treatment change or continue over time?
- How Elizabeth tackled threats to her throne
- How Hitler became Dictator by 1934

COMMAND WORDS

These are the words in your exam questions which tell you what the examiner wants you to do. By understanding these exam words, you are on your way to understanding how to approach the question successfully.



Analyse

To examine something in detail.



Compare

To say how two things are similar or different.



Describe

To give a detailed account that includes all the relevant information.



Discuss

To include many points of view in your response.



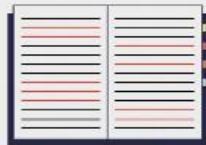
Evaluate

To review the information and discuss the quality of it.



Explain

To say why by giving reasons and causes.



Identify

To select or recall relevant information.



Justify

To include the reasons behind your thoughts and decisions.

12 marks =
12 points!

Look at the
marks for
each
question!



Key Words

Key Events

Key Concepts

A 2x2 grid with a light green background. The top-left cell contains a red triangle pointing to the right. The other three cells are empty.[illegible]

How do we revise with our Knowledge Organisers?



Record It

Record yourself on your phone or tablet reading out the information. These can be listened to as many times as you want!



Teach it!

Teach someone your key facts and then get them to test you, or even test them!



Flash Cards

Write the key word or date on one side and the explanation on the other. Test your memory by asking someone to quiz you on either side.

Hide and Seek

Read through your knowledge organiser, put it down and try and write out as much as you can remember. Then keep adding to it until it's full!



Sketch it

Draw pictures to represent each of the facts or dates. It could be a simple drawing or something that reminds you of the answer.



Back to front

Write down the answers and then write out what the questions the teacher may ask to get those answers.

Post its

Using a pack of post-it notes, write out as many of the keywords or dates as you can remember in only 1 minute!

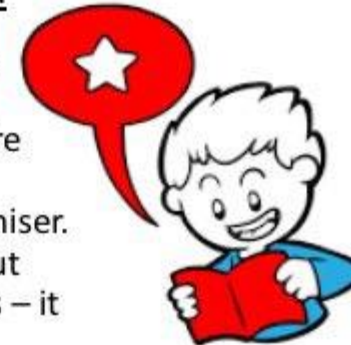


Practice!

Some find they remember by simply writing the facts over and over again.

Read Aloud

Simply speak the facts and dates out loud as you're reading the Knowledge Organiser. Even try to act out some of the facts – it really helps you remember!





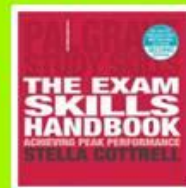
Successful Student: Tip of the Day

Sleep is your best friend before an exam

1. Your brain needs sleep to absorb all that material you have been revising.
2. Sleep reduces anxiety, helps you think, improves your mood & helps memory.
3. Put enough time aside to power down before sleep – away from devices.
4. Be open to taking a cat nap!



(For revision strategy, see *The Exam Skills Handbook*, Stella Cottrell, 2012)



Top 10 Revision Apps For Students

TEACHER
TOOLKIT



1. Keep



2. Quizlet



3. Padlet



4. Popplet Lite



5. Spark Post



6. Clips



7. Classic



8. Texting Story




9. Gojimo



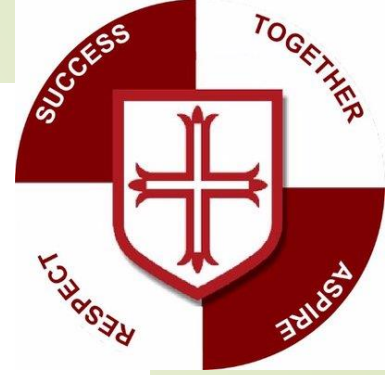
10. Paper

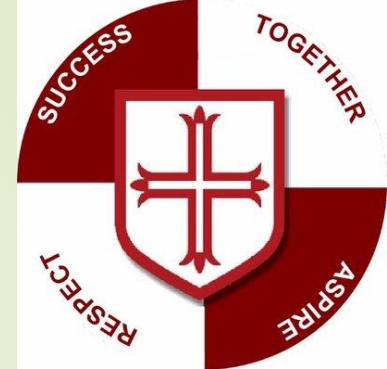


www.TeacherToolkit.co.uk/RevisionApps

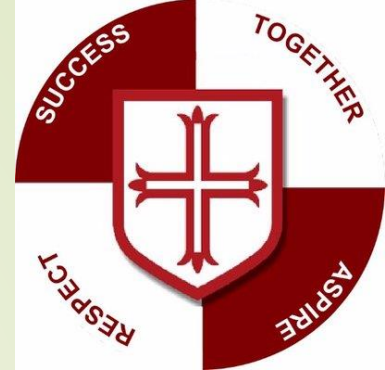


We remember
10% of what we read
20% of what we hear
30% of what we see
50% of what we hear and see
70% of what we say
90% of what we say and do





- Effective Revision Techniques booklet – please take one home. Buff copies and enlarged copy is available.
- Blank revision timetable included – please use them!
- The booklet and presentation will be put on our website.



**THANK
YOU!**