# January 2023

### Dear Parents,



We know that preparing for GCSE examinations can be a stressful time for both parents and students and you will probably have lots of questions regarding how you can help your child in the lead up to their exams.

With this in mind, the St George's English Department wanted to provide you with reassurance, support and guidance on this using the most up to date educational research.

Firstly, maintaining good physical and mental health during this time is of the utmost importance and to do this we advise students to create a revision timetable where they revise their knowledge little and often.

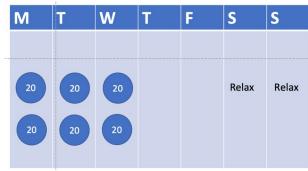
- You can help by devising a revision timetable with them where you work out time slots that they are going to revise.
- Initially, we would advise a minimum of 2 hours a week broken up into 20-minute slots. You can organise this in whatever way best suits your child's schedule so that they are still making time for hobbies and relaxation. There are two examples below for what this might look like for your child.

### Diagram 1:

# M T W T F S S 20 20 20 20 Relax 20

By breaking up your revision into **20** minute chunks and spacing out the time between revision, you will consolidate what you have learned and retain the material much more effectively.

# Diagram 2:



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# I know when to revise, but how do I do it?:

The first stage of revision is identifying the gaps that need to be plugged.

For each topic, your child needs to know:

- the plot
- the themes
- the context the text was written in
- information about the characters and how they change.

Creating timelines for each of the above for each of their texts is really useful (see an example timeline below) so that your child can then identify their gaps.

They should then, ideally in a different coloured pen, locate the knowledge from their curriculum booklets/ homework booklets/ revision booklet/ poetry anthology or the websites listed below.



# Example timeline



### Useful websites:

The following websites are really useful in covering all of this information:

https://mrbruff.com/ (this includes worksheets with questions, video links and exam questions) https://www.youtube.com/@mrbruff/videos

https://www.stormfax.com/dickens.htm (The full novel online)

http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html (the full play of Macbeth online)

www.sparknotes.com www.cliffsnotes.com www.yorknotes.com https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zx ancwx (BBC Bitesize - select AQA Exam Spec and then the text they wish to focus on)

### **Revision Cards:**

Learning quotes is a crucial component of revision for Literature and to make it stick it needs to be a daily activity.

Creating revision cards with <u>quote gap fills</u> are very effective or that ask questions focusing on specific quotes.

On one side of the card, you would need a question or part of a quotation and then on the other side, the answer.

Your child's revision booklet and/or homework booklets have a list of key quotes for each character and theme in them and act as a fantastic starting point for which quotes to learn. Testing and quizzing your child on quotes would be a fantastic way to support their recall fluency. See the example below of a revision card.





### Finally, essay plans and questions.

### https://revisionworld.com/

https://mrbruff.com/ (click on worksheets and then select the text you require)

Use the above website to locate past papers so that your child can practise planning and answering the questions in timed conditions. Select GCSE Past Papers and then English Literature and then AQA English Literature Past Papers. Alternatively, remind your child to ask their teacher for an exam question if you struggle to find a question on the website.

There are also links to Exam Advice on there for further support.

# What resources have the school provided?

**Saturday school**: 2 hour sessions taking place initially on alternate weekends (please encourage your child to attend as many as possible)

Homework booklets: Look, cover, check quotations for each topic and key questions

Curriculum booklets: core content completed in class with teacher instruction

Educake: pupils can set themselves quizzes on every single text that we study

# Speaking to your child's class teacher:

The most important role that you play in your child's revision is making sure that they start now and do not put it off. If there is anything else we can do to support you with this, please contact your child's teacher:

10G1: Miss Hines and Mrs Colson	10S1: Miss Hines and Mrs Moreea
<u>Jennifer.hines@cidari.co.uk</u>	<u>Jennifer.hines@cidari.co.uk</u>
Gill.colson@cidari.co.uk	Sumaiya.moreea@cidari.co.uk
10G2: Miss Bilsbury	10S2: Miss Frain
Victoria.bilsbury@cidari.co.uk	Susan.frain@cidari.co.uk
10G3: Mr Scott	10S3: Mrs Tingey
Christopher.scott@cidari.co.uk	Bea.tingey@cidari.co.uk
10G4: Mr Baugh	10S4: Mrs Colson
Alexander.baugh@cidari.co.uk	Gill.colson@cideari.co.uk

We hope that you have found this a useful starting point in supporting your child in their English Literature GCSE.