



# Revision Newsletter

## Exam Timetables

Several of you have been in contact with me to ask for a copy of the summer GCSE exam timetable. The full version can be found on the school website: <https://www.ringwood.hants.sch.uk/academic-curriculum/revision/>. Students will be issued with their full personalised exam timetables just before the Easter holidays.

## Post-16 Plans

Every single Year 11 student should now have a plan for their education post-16. Many students have had a 1:1 careers appointment over the last couple of weeks to help them clarify their applications but these should now have been completed and submitted. If you need any assistance with finishing these, please ask for help in school ASAP. Many of our students have applied to more than one establishment (eg. a sixth form and a college) to ensure they have a back-up plan in case they don't quite get the grades they need for their first choice. I know some students/parents have worried that this isn't allowed, but please be reassured it is - there is nothing wrong with having a plan B and then deciding on results day which place you want to take up. If you think you might need a back-up plan but aren't sure what to do, please ask our careers team for some advice ([becky.baker@ringwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:becky.baker@ringwood.hants.sch.uk)) or speak to Mr Cooper who will give you further guidance.

If your child needs to be absent from school for an interview please do let us know ([attendance@ringwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@ringwood.hants.sch.uk)).

## Revision timetables

During CORE PE lessons this week and/or next, students will spend half an hour signing up and

starting to create an online revision timetable. Students will be able to populate their timetable with their specific exams, personal commitments, coursework deadlines and edit it to send personal reminders to their school email account as well as a printing function. It would be fantastic if they could continue to create this in their own time and log in to show you what they have scheduled.

## Revision strategy to try:

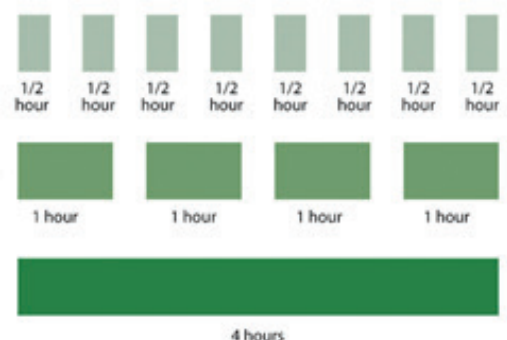
Using a revision timetable: spacing and interleaving – two techniques to use.

### Spacing:

Using spacing to organise when to revise each subject is straightforward. Put simply, it means that each block of time (for example a one hour revision slot) that you set aside to study one subject is split up, spaced out and put onto different days of the week, rather than being put altogether on one day. Therefore, if you have 10 blocks in which to revise French, you would put one block onto Monday of week 1 on your timetable; the next one might go on the Friday of week 1, the third one the following Tuesday, and so on. (Obviously, the time you can leave between each one depends how many weeks you have to revise and how many blocks of revision for that subject you are planning to do.)

It is much better to have some shorter sessions which you can split up over several days, rather than revise one subject for several hours in

one go. This is called cramming, and whilst



you might feel like you have remembered lots straight after you have revised, the next day, much of it will have been forgotten. In the diagram, the students who arranged their revision in half hour slots would be expected to get a much better grade than the one who spent the same amount of time, but did it all on one day.

Think about how you 'study' if you are learning a musical instrument or learning to become a better footballer: you get better from practising little and often, not doing one big practice on one day and then never returning to it.

## Interleaving:

This means not only splitting up your blocks of time for one subject across different days, but also that, in any one revision session, you mix up the topics you are revising and don't spend the whole time revising one topic. For example, if you had timetabled one block to revise English, you might spend 30 minutes revising key quotations for 'Romeo and Juliet' and 30 minutes revising points you would make about the character of Dr Watson in 'The Sign of the Four'.

Interleaving your topics within one block of revision is thought to be so effective for two reasons – firstly it means that you are less likely to try and cram all your revision for one topic into one session, and secondly switching between different topics makes your brain work and think harder. When you spend time on one topic only, it might seem like you are engaged in deep learning, but in fact, the more of one thing you do, the less you really have to think about it. The more robotic your brain becomes, the less your memory is working.

Massed presentation



Spaced and interleaved presentation

