

Supporting students to revise: a guide for parents and carers



What can I do as a parent/carer to support my child?





week. **Help your child with their retrieval activities.** This can be done by quizzing them; asking the questions and checking that their answers include what's written on their flashcards/quiz books. In addition, you can always ask follow-up questions: how? Why? Always?

Reassure your child. If they are struggling, or not understanding, remind

them that their teacher will always be able to help them the day after.

Ask your child about the revision and independent learning that they

are doing each day. Talk to them about what they have enjoyed, what they have found tough, and what they've been proud to achieve this









Provide a good environment to revise. The environment should be as quiet as possible and free from distractions. Take their phone from them whilst they're revising so that they're not distracted by it.

Golden rules for revision

- 1. Copying notes won't cut it. The information needs to be converted in some way. E.g., summarised, changed from text into a flowchart, built into a flash card, or applied to an exam-style question.
- 2. Revision needs to be spaced out over time, not crammed in at the last minute. A revision planner can be used to help this. There are some top tips for revision planning overleaf.
- **3. Revise without distractions.** That means no mobile phones, no TV, and no music with words (quiet classical/ambient is okay). Place mobiles in another room; check messages etc. during breaks between revision sessions.
- **4. Take breaks.** There should be regular breaks scheduled in revision. 20 minutes is a good length of time for a focussed revision session, with short breaks in between each one. The ideal time to check phone messages or make a cup of tea.
- 5. Eat and sleep well. There should be regular breaks scheduled in revision. In addition, eating and drinking as well as possible is important for keeping the energy levels needed to be able to remain focussed during revision sessions.
 Provide the top of Constitution Academies



<u>Mind maps</u>

Top tips...

- Topic title goes in the middle.
- Key words and diagrams are linked around the outside.
- For any linking line that is drawn, <u>explain</u> how the link is made (i.e. how the two words are connected). This could be done verbally, or by writing it down.

Self-Quizzing

Top tips...

- Topic questions on the left of the page.
- Clear, simple answers on the right.
- Fold in half and quiz, quiz, quiz!
- This can be done solo or with a partner. The more frequently the quiz is redone, the more likely the answers will begin to stick.

Flash Cards

Flash Cards

Top tips...

- One word/simple phrase/diagram on one side
- Explanation on the other side, no more than two short bullet points
- Flashcards can be revised solo or with a partner.
- Organise the flashcards using the Leitner method (type "Leitner method flashcards" into YouTube for a video). This will help keep things focussed.

Exam-style questions

Top tips...

- Read each question twice.
- Highlight the command word (usually only one), quickly annotate what this tells you to do.
- Quickly note down key words that need to be used next to the question.
- Answer question, stay true to the command word.

Revision Timetable

Top tips...

- Keep sessions focussed and snappy! Three lots of 20 minutes on different subjects can often be more productive than 1 hour on one subject.
- Plan several 20 minute sessions in during the weeks before an assessment, not just the night before.
- Plan out which topics are going to be revised in each revision slot. E.g. *expanding brackets* rather than just *maths*.