



Friday 24th January 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

Year 11 Update: 100 days to go!

Today marks 100 days to go until the GCSE examinations start, and in an assembly this morning I shared with students the things they can do to help themselves in the next 100 days.

We discussed a range of opportunities available to them in school, and I have detailed these, below.

Intervention sessions

Our morning meetings, which occur in form time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, have been a fantastic opportunity for the whole year group to gain additional practice for their core subjects. We are looking at how we can incorporate history and geography into this, too.

There are lunchtime and after school sessions running most days, too, and it would be wonderful to see your child there if they do not already attend. The sessions are all run by subject experts, and will enable your child to undertake guided revision of key topics and concepts.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning meeting	English		Maths		Science
Lunchtime	Geography	History	Religious Studies	Science	
After school	Geography / Computing		3D Design / Maths / MFL	Science / History / English	

Year 11 Study Space

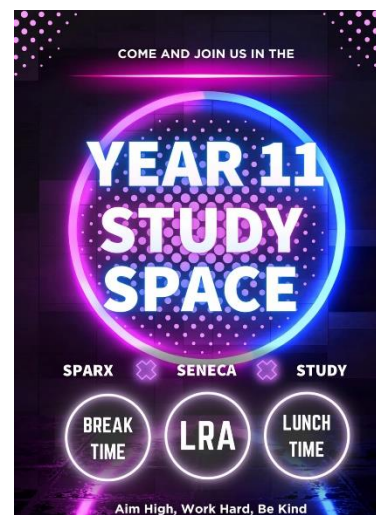
The Year 11 Study Space has become a popular resource. It opens every break and lunchtime for independent study either using Seneca/ Sparx on the computers in the LRA, or using revision guides (brought from home, or we have some spares to share, too). The space is staffed by either myself or Mr Pryke, and we also offer support if students don't know **how** to revise.

Our highest users so far – who have been rewarded for their use of the space! – are:

- Isaac C
- Sarah-Louise T
- Jack R
- Owen W
- Reuben C
- Kieran K

Well done to these students, and all those who have made productive use of the space so far.

Later this term, we will be adding a trolley of past papers to this space for students to come and complete, or collect and take home for additional practice.



Seneca and GCSEPod

We also purchase Seneca and GCSEPod access for students. Seneca is our homework platform, but can also be used for independent study. An international study showed that frequent use of Seneca enables students to gain double the number of marks in tests.

Your child can log in to Seneca by visiting <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>, or downloading the Seneca Learning app on any internet enabled device. Their username is their school email address, which is their login username plus @atrtrust.org.uk (e.g. 17InventedS-ICE@atrtrust.org.uk).

As standard, the passwords are set to Seneca2020. If this does not work or the password needs resetting, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

GCSEPod is another fantastic resource, and students nationally who use GCSEPod the most perform 2 grades better in all subjects than originally predicted. The site is filled with short videos ('pods') on their GCSE subjects. These can be downloaded using the GCSEPod app on WiFi and then watched offline – lots of students in previous years have downloaded them to watch on the way to school! To log in to GCSEPod, visit www.gcsepod.com. If your child has forgotten their username and password (they would have set this themselves), they can ask for a password reminder/ reset on the website itself. If they have never logged in, they can do so by clicking 'New Here? Get Started!' and filling in their information.

MyTutor

We are thrilled to be partnering with MyTutor again this year, and we have been able to offer private tutoring in English Language or mathematics online, in small groups, on Monday afternoons. This tutoring means that, on average, attending 12 sessions of tutoring adds one grade of progress in that subject. This is an incredible increase in such a short space of time! If your child has been selected for this opportunity you will have received a letter directly from Mr Pryke, but we are also running a waiting list if other students would like to participate. Please contact Mr Pryke directly if you are interested in adding your child to this list.

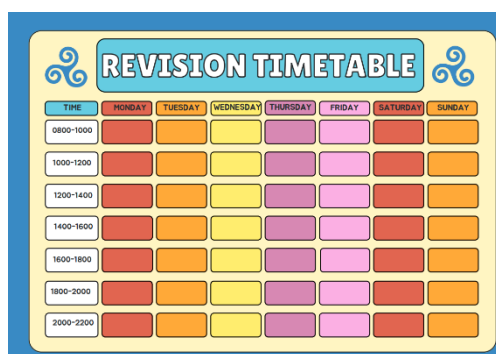


100 Day Challenge

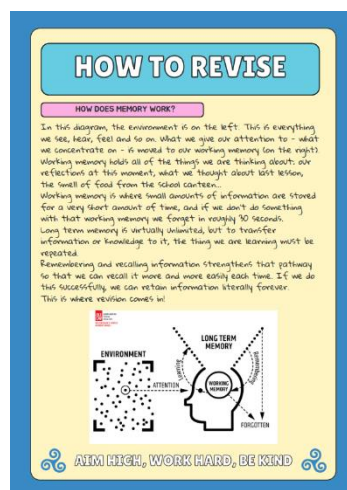
Today, your child has been provided with three 100 day challenges for English, maths and science. These give them short activities they can do each day to ensure they revise all the content for these GCSEs. This supplements other revision your child may be doing, and gives them a clear direction if they are unsure what to revise.

Revision timetable planner

We have also provided your child with an A3 revision timetable planner, and we have explained to students how they might best use their time. At this point in Year 11, we recommend that students are completing two hours of revision per evening, and some additional hours at the weekend. We have shown students how this can fit around their other activities and responsibilities, whilst still giving them down time – time to rest and recharge will be vital in the next 100 days.



The image shows a color-coded revision timetable for a week. The days of the week are listed at the top: Monday (red), Tuesday (orange), Wednesday (yellow), Thursday (purple), Friday (pink), Saturday (red), and Sunday (orange). The time slots are listed on the left: 0800-1000, 1000-1200, 1200-1400, 1400-1600, 1600-1800, 1800-2000, and 2000-2200. Each cell in the grid is a different color, corresponding to the day of the week.



How to revise

Finally, to supplement the work of MADE Training earlier in the year, your child has been provided with a 'how to revise' booklet, detailing how memory works and how different revision techniques can support their learning and understanding.

The 100 day challenges, revision timetable planner, how to revise booklet and the slides from this morning's assembly have all been added to our website. As we move through the next 100 days, and beyond into the exam season, we will continue to update the website with more revision technique and tips as well as further wellbeing information. You can find this page here: <https://icenisecundary.atrust.org.uk/students/year-11-revision-and-exams/>.

Mock results

On Tuesday 4th February or Wednesday 5th February, the mock results will be released to students in a special assembly. This is an opportunity for them to see where they are at, what they are predicted, and refocus themselves ready for the final push towards exams. We will also ensure these results are available to you on 'My Child At School' in advance of the progress evening that week.

Parent events

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the next Year 11 Progress Evening which is being held from 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Thursday 6th February. Please book your appointments in advance on My Child At School.

The following week, we will hold a further online Success Evening. This event will focus on how to support your child to reflect on their mock results, how to support them with revision at home, and how to support them as they prepare for their final GCSE exams. There is no need to sign up; please just click this link at 5.00pm on Tuesday 11th February: [Join the meeting now](#). The event will run for approximately one hour, and will be recorded if you are unable to attend live.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

Yours faithfully,

A. Staniforth.

Miss A Staniforth
Vice Principal

