

## Preparing for the Year 8 Exams

### First Steps

- Make a list of the subjects you will sit exams in
- Put the most difficult ones for you at the top of your list

### Prioritising

- What will be in the exam – which aspects of the work will be tested?
- You need to identify strengths and weaknesses
- Which topics have you struggled with most? They will need to be tackled first
- What are you unsure of:
  - Facts and figures? Borrow someone else's book to check if your notes are complete
  - How do the pieces fit together and make sense? Ask someone in your class you know is good in that subject to explain it to you OR ask the teacher

### Organise your time

- How much time do you have available?
- How many half hour segments can you fit into each evening in the time you have?
- **DO NOT PLAN TO DO HOURS OF REVISION EACH NIGHT**
- **BE REALISTIC...1 - 1½ hours an evening is realistic**
- You might find that as you become used to the revision process that you can add on another session - learning about how **YOU WORK BEST** is also part of the exam process.
- Start by giving priority to your weaker subjects as you slot in subjects to your revision timetable
- Allow yourself some time off at the weekend

### Different revision strategies and techniques

We all learn in different ways and discovering how you learn best is very much part of the exam process. You might find that different ideas will work for different subjects. It is up to you to try out some of the ideas and find out what works for you. Whatever method you choose, one thing is certain - **learning is an active process and involves you DOING something**. Your exams in Year 7 will help you to prepare for your GCSEs - use them to find out what works well for you and which methods bring you results. If you don't get it right this time, you can still learn from your mistakes.

### Some practical suggestions

- Put your timetable up in your room - tick off the sessions as you complete them
- Don't just read through your exercise book...revision needs to be **ACTIVE**
- Sort each subject out into key topic areas or units of work
- Reduce the information on topics to key bullet points or headings – use different colours for headings/sub-headings/key words
- Use highlighters or crayons to identify key information
- Put information into a mind map, spider diagram or flowchart – use **DIFFERENT COLOURS** for different types of detail/categories/topics

- Make lists of key words or terms and what they mean. Put the words on one set of flashcards and meanings on another set, then try matching them up.
- Make cue cards for key topics - use bullet points to record key details for each topic - try putting the topic on one side and the key points on the back so you can test yourself
- Teach it to someone else - a patient parent/grandparent or brother/sister - if you can make them understand then you have memorised it well
- Try and remember key details against the clock
- Read it...say it...write it...Memorise key points
- Check text books and revision guides for hints and look out for unit summaries
- Invent rhymes to help you remember key points
- Do you prefer to LISTEN to information? - Record key points and then listen to it - try pausing the recording and see if you can continue from memory

**DON'T FORGET if you are struggling with revising a topic or with making sense of an aspect of the work you need to learn to ASK your teacher.**