



**Preparing for Success  
Information Evening**



# **Exam Information**

*Helping students achieve success*

Mrs C Duffy, Senior Deputy Headteacher

# Mock Exams

# Practising to get it right

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- Year 11 mock exams begin Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November and run for 2 weeks until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- Mock MFL speaking exams are the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- Art mock exam is the 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- All subjects offer at least one paper to give students a taste of what to expect in timed exam conditions.
- Teachers go through the papers with the students with opportunities to reflect on areas of strength and areas of development to aid revision.
- There will be a mock exam results day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December.
- Year 11 Autumn report comes home Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December and will provide the most up to date prediction of final grades based on mock exam performance and teacher judgement from classwork.

**Once the mocks are over, we turn the focus to the real exams...**

# Exam Season

# The real exams

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- The **Drama** practical exam takes place **27<sup>th</sup> March** (TBC).
- **Food and Nutrition** practical exams take place in class during **February and March**.
- The **Art** exam takes place **23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> of April**.
- **MFL** speaking exams run between the **29<sup>th</sup> April -1<sup>st</sup> May**.
- These dates may flex slightly based on work completed but should be accurate within a day or two. Any changes, if needed, will be communicated to students by the class teacher.
- Subjects with NEAs (Non-Exam Assessment) have separate deadlines for controlled assessments usually around end of April to early May. These are carefully checked for plagiarism and account for a % of the final grade. For Art, teachers can only share a raw score not a grade as it is 100% NEA.
- **GCSEs** fully begin on the **7<sup>th</sup> May** and run until the **24<sup>th</sup> June**.
- Do not take holiday during these times or book appointments (medical or otherwise).
- Students will receive an assembly and bring home a booklet on exam rules and expectations. Please reinforce at home!
- Students must be available to sit an exam on the exam contingency day (**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June all day**).

# Equipment needed

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- Clear pencil case
- Calculator – not A-Level. Must be suitable for GCSE (see Maths teacher if unsure)
- Maths equipment
- Clear/transparent water bottle (no writing or motifs)
- Full school uniform (no hoodies!)
- Black pens and HB pencil (no blue ink allowed)
- No phones, watches, earbuds, smart glasses or electronic equipment of any kind permitted in the exam rooms



1

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2

**Possession of a mobile phone** or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.

3

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

**The *Warning to candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.**

*Thank you for your time.  
Further information and support can be found  
in the exams area of the college website or  
email: [uccexams@ucc.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:uccexams@ucc.rutland.sch.uk)*



# **Revision support for parents**

*Helping students achieve success*

Miss R Smithson, Assistant Headteacher

# Our approach to successful revision

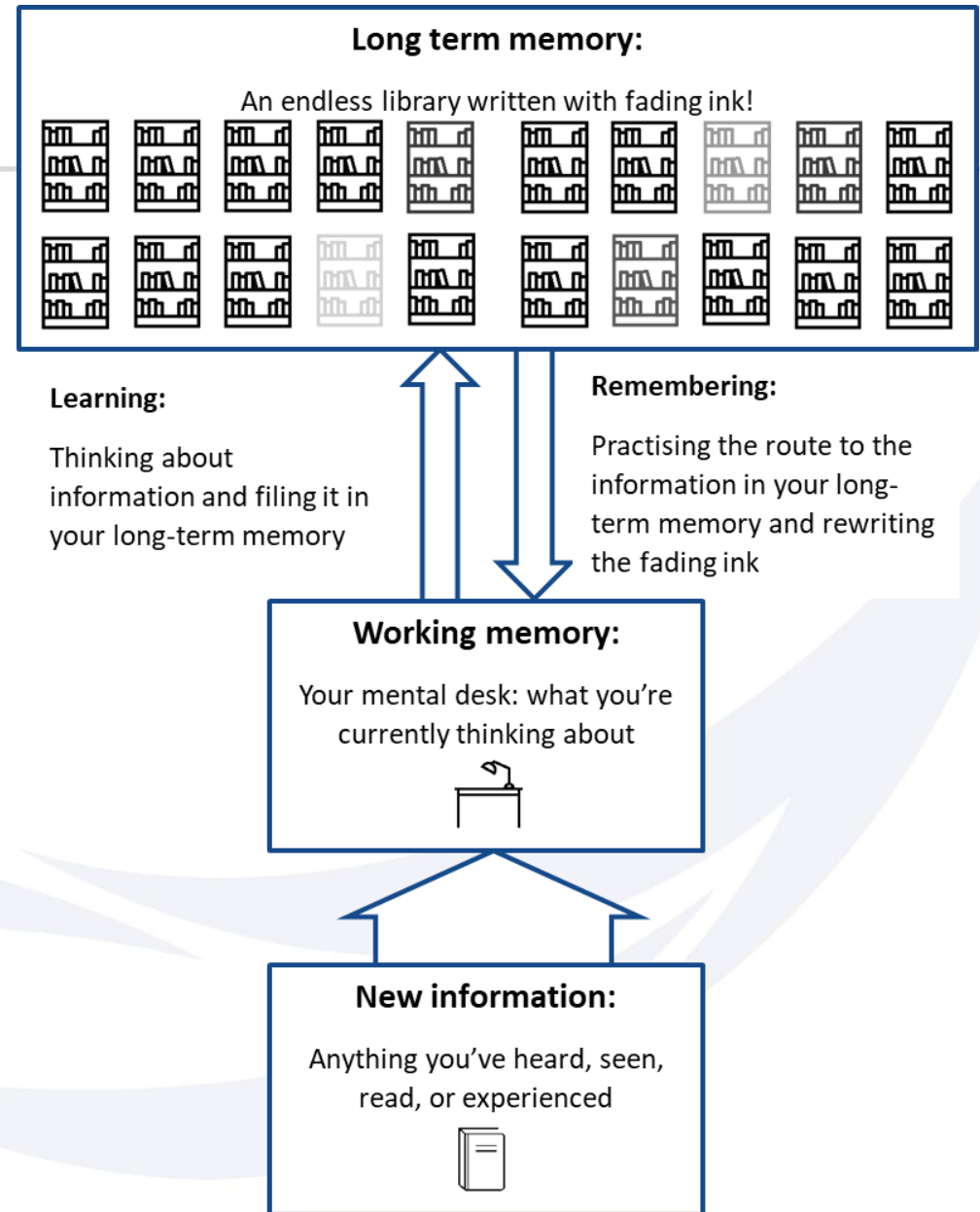
# The science of learning

**Cognitive load theory** – the working memory can only hold 3-5 new pieces of information at any one time.

**Knowledge acquisition** - relies on the transfer of information from working memory to long-term memory.

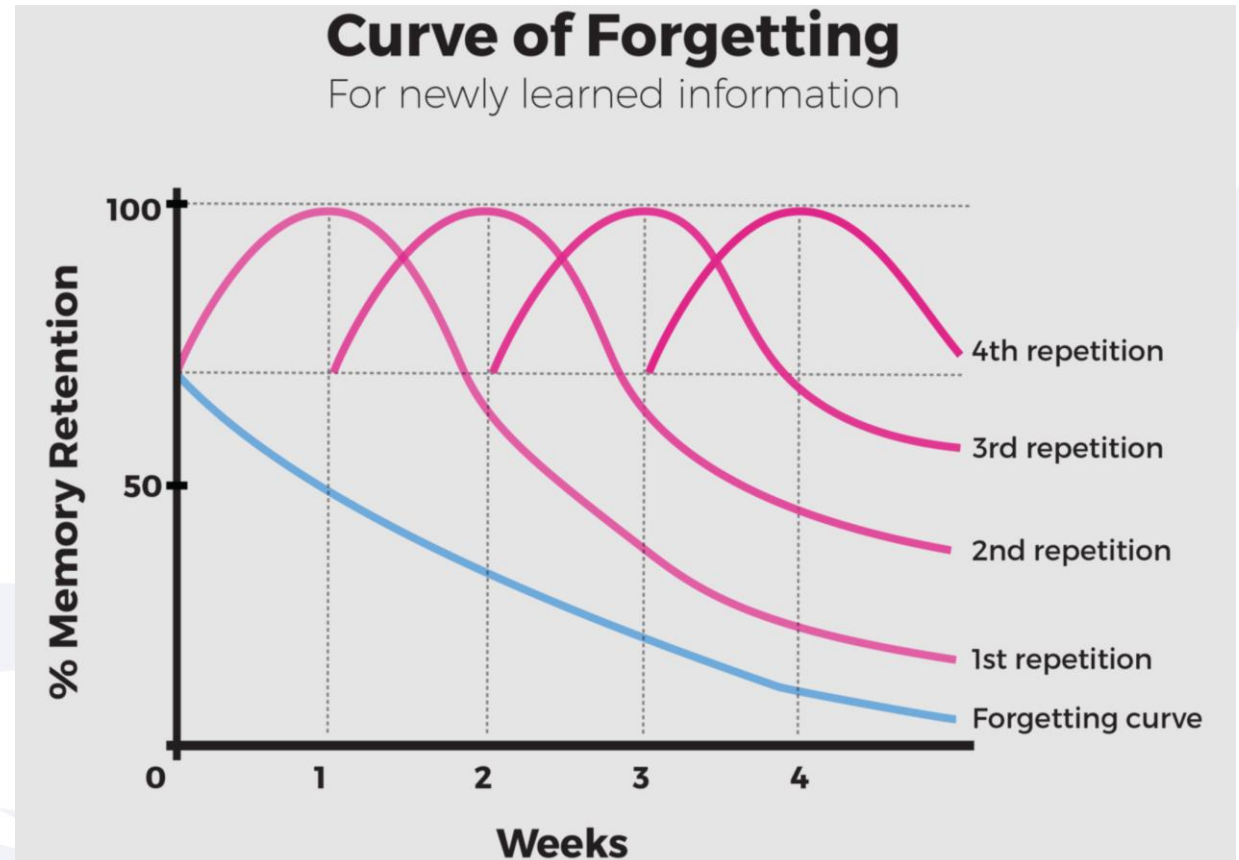
**Schema building** – connecting new information to information you already know.

**Retrieval** – recalling information from your long-term memory. Interrupts the forgetting.



# Retrieval to stop forgetting

- Regular **spaced** review and revision is needed to stop the forgetting and embed knowledge in your long-term memory.
- This involves **retrieval**.
- In order for retrieval to work your memory needs to work hard to remember the information – just re-reading notes does not work!
- Testing, quizzing and summarising information into new formats (e.g. mind maps, dual coding) are all effective.
- Revision timetables should allow for spaced study with repetition.



# Creating an effective revision space...

## When creating a space to revise...

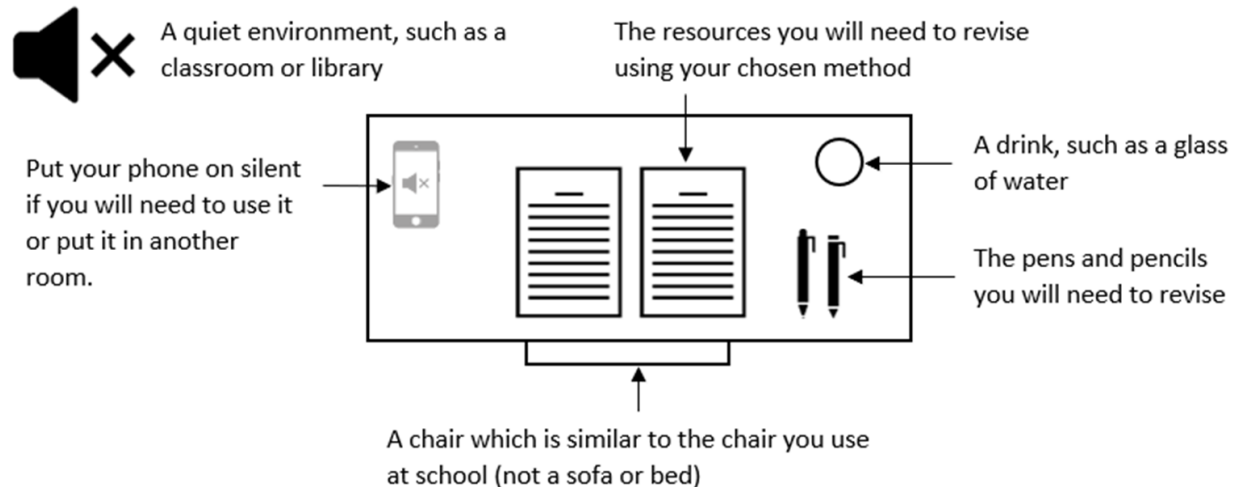
### Do:

- ✓ ...work in a tidy environment where you have the tools you need to revise effectively.
- ✓ ...work in a quiet environment.
- ✓ ...put your phone in another room or use an app on your which blocks social media.
- ✓ ...work in a space which you only use for home study, schoolwork or revision.

### Don't:

- X ...work in a cluttered environment.
- X ...distract yourself with (loud) music or noise.
- X ...work near your phone or other devices which can access social media.
- X ...work in the same space where you relax.

### An example of an effective revision space:



# Wellbeing

The exam period can be a busy and stressful time for students so it is important that they look after their mental and physical health.

**Eat** - don't skip meals or drinks as it will reduce concentration.

**Sleep** – tiredness has a very negative impact on concentration, performance and memory.

**Exercise** – building activity into your revision can help improve concentration and make you sleep better.

**Relax** – make time to switch off and do something enjoyable.

## WHEN REVISING – DOs AND DON'Ts

**Do** create a clutter and distraction free area for you to study in.

**Do** get into a regular routine, revise in short chunks of 30 minutes and take breaks.

**Do** put away your mobile phone or turn off notifications.

**Don't** revise late at night or when you are tired.

**Don't** revise for long periods of time with no break.

**Don't** listen to music with lyrics when revising as it will distract you.

# Revision timetable

# Creating an effective revision timetable

## When deciding what to revise:

### Do:

- ✓ ...gather information about the topics which you need to revise.
- ✓ ...break subjects and topics down into manageable chunks.
- ✓ ...revise topics which you don't enjoy or which you find difficult.
- ✓ ...keep a record of the topics you have chosen to revise and the revision you have completed for those topics.

### Don't:

- X ...spend more time making lists of what to revise than actually revising.
- X ...write down entire subjects or topics as areas to revise.
- X ...revise topics you enjoy or topics in which you are already successful.
- X ...expect yourself to remember the areas which you need to revise.

What topics **don't** I enjoy or feel success in?

What does my teacher think I need to revise?

What are my weakest areas on platforms like Educake?

In which topics or questions did I struggle in my last assessment?

Use interleaving throughout, revising more than one topic each session.

# Example of a revision timetable

Example Revision Timetable - Term Time

MARCH

Time	Monday 14th	Tuesday 15th	Wednesday 16th	Thursday 17th	Friday 18th	Saturday 19th	Sunday 20th
Morning	School	School	School	School	School	45 mins Bio Unit 1	Maths
							English Lit
Afternoon	School	School	School	School	School	45 mins Spanish	Homework
							Homework
Evening	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Shopping	Football
	Homework	Swimming	Homework	Homework	Homework		
	Chemistry U1		Geography	Physics U1			

# Example of a revision timetable

Example Revision Time table - During Study Programme

JUNE

Time	Monday 6th	Tuesday 7th	Wednesday 8th	Thursday 9th	Friday 10th	Saturday 11th	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>
Morning	History B – 2hrs (112)	English Lang – Unit 1 F & H 2hrs 15 mins (172)	German – Unit 1 & 3 Listening & Reading F 70 mins (4)  German – Unit 1 & 3 Listening & Reading H 90 mins (8)	Maths B – Paper 2 F 1hr 30 mins (44)	Biology – Unit 2 F & H 1hr (171)		
	Geography			Maths B – Paper 4 H 1hr 45 mins (128)	Biology – Unit 3 H 1hr (123)		
	Maths						
Afternoon	English	Maths	Geography B – Geographical Key Themes F & H 1hr 45 mins (66)	Biology	Business Studies – Unit 2 1hr (31)		
	Business	Biology		Business	Music – Listening 1hr 30 mins (11)		
				Biology			
Evening	English	Geography	Maths	Business			
	English	Geography	Maths	Biology			

# Deliberate spaced practice

- Start early and set aside a little bit of revision time everyday.
- Each day review new information but also study older information so it stays fresh in your memory.
- Divide your revision into short manageable chunks of time (30 minutes).
- Research suggests there is an 'optimal gap' between revision sessions so you can retain the information:

Time to the test	Revision gap
1 week	1-2 days
1 month	1 week
3 months	2 weeks
6 months	3 weeks
1 year	1 month

# Quizzing

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- 1. Identify knowledge** – what you wish to cover.
- 2. Review and create** – spend 5-10 minutes reviewing content (use notes/knowledge organiser/revision guide) then create 10 quiz questions or use an online resource.
- 3. Cover and answer** – answer the questions from memory
- 4. Self mark and reflect** – go over the answers and mark in green pen.
- 5. Next time** – revisit the areas where there were gaps in knowledge.

## Tips

Write your own questions and get someone to test you.

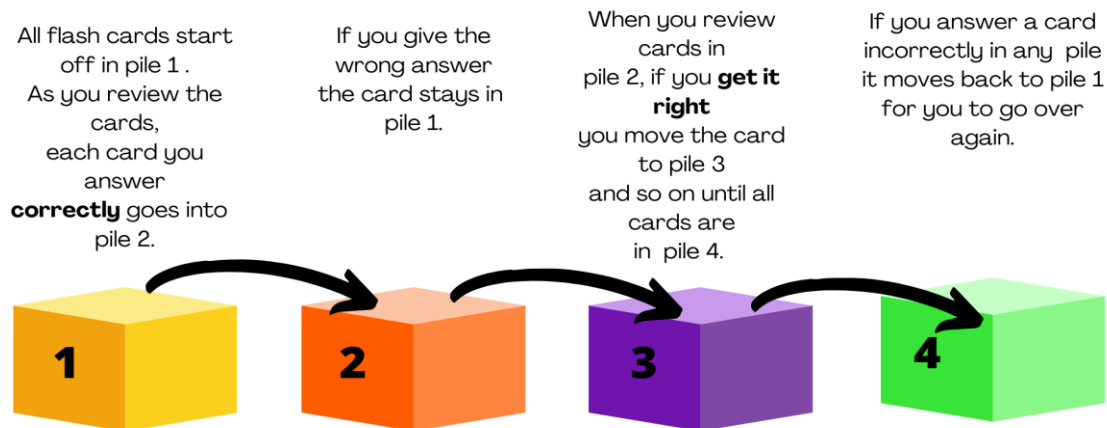
Alternatively there are lots of online resources which can produce quizzes on topics for you e.g. [Educake](#), [BBC Bitesize](#), [Seneca](#).

Don't just answer in your head – write your answers down.

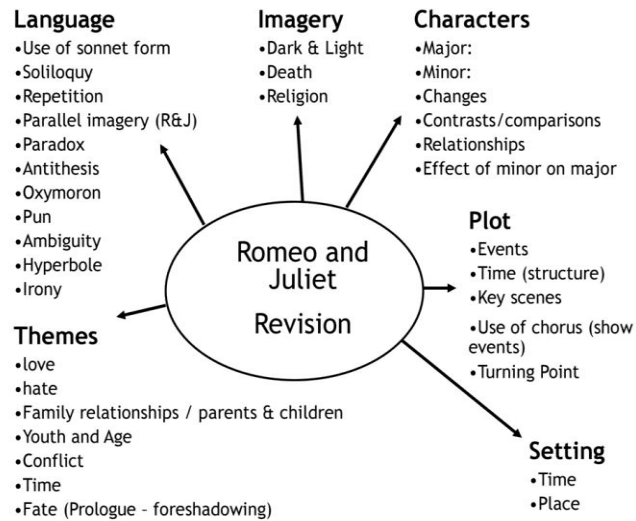
# Flash cards

Creating your own cards is better than buying them as it helps you retrieve knowledge. Try adding pictures to make them more memorable. Use colour coding to organise different topics. Try recalling the information out loud or writing it down before checking the card (research shows that just answering it in your head is not very effective for remembering). Use your flash cards in both directions. Get friends and family to test you with the cards. Use the Leitner system to recall knowledge over different time intervals:

## Introducing the Leitner System



# Mind maps



1. Identify knowledge
2. Identify sub topics
3. Branch off
4. Use image and colour
5. Put it somewhere visible

In subjects where you have to write an essay or long written response, take a question and map out your answer without writing a full response.

Check your response against the exam mark scheme.

Do this for a number of questions then choose one and complete a full response.

**Mental downloads** are similar to mind maps but you only refer to your notes at certain points:

1. Read through your notes or revision guide/knowledge organiser on a topic and then put them away.
2. Write down everything you can remember on the topic in a set period of time e.g. 15 minutes, without looking back at your notes.
3. Look back over your notes to see what information you have missed.
4. Put your notes away again and attempt to fill the gaps using a different colour pen.
5. Finally check your notes a third time and add in the missing information.
6. Each time you should find you can remember more.

# Dual coding

Combining words and images provides you with two ways to understand and remember information and helps move knowledge from your working memory to your long-term memory.

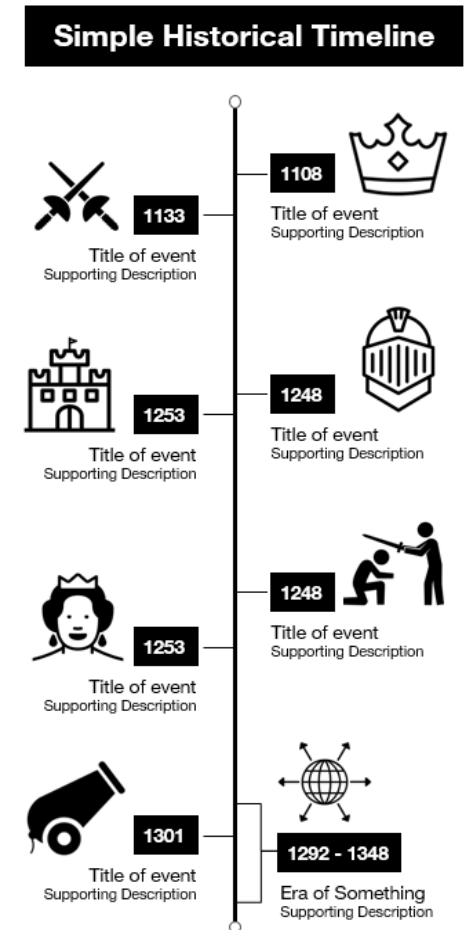
## Tips

Take information that you are trying to learn and draw visuals to go with it.

Use existing visuals and add words to explain them in more detail.

Try to come up with different ways to represent the information e.g. infographics, timelines, cartoons, diagrams, symbols.

Work your way up to drawing or writing what you know from memory.



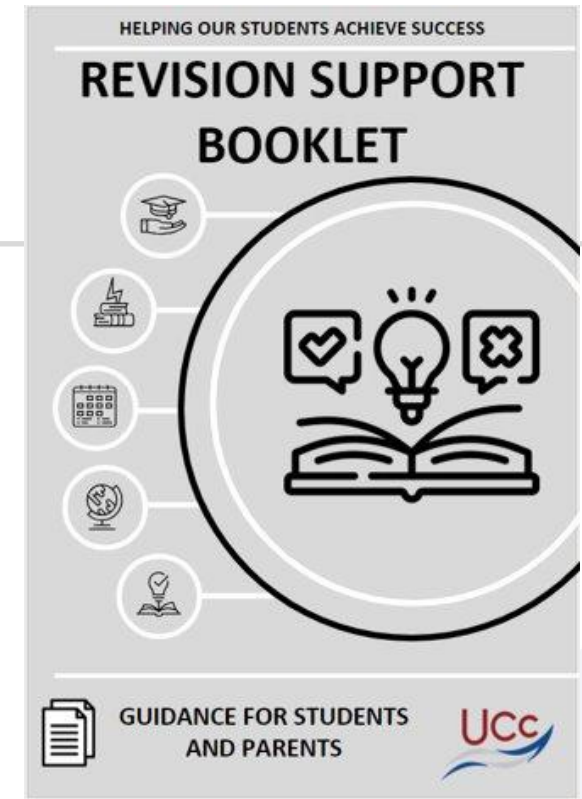
# Student support in school

## TEACHING REVISION SKILLS

- In the run up to mock exams, year 11 students are given a revision support booklet which explains a variety of revision strategies along with wellbeing tips.
- This helps prepare them for their mock exams in November.
- This is supported by a five-week revision programme delivered by form tutors during form time which focuses on:
  - writing a revision timetable
  - auditing their strengths and areas for development
  - learning how to use a variety of revision strategies well
  - useful revision websites and resources

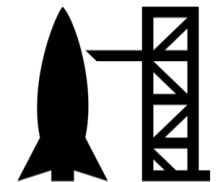
## YEAR 11 STUDY PROGRAMME (Summer Exams)

- During the exam period year 11 receive further support through our study programme of revision sessions.
- Information on this will be provided in the Spring term.



Launchpad into  
exams

2025/2026



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tutor group: \_\_\_\_\_

UCC Uppingham  
Community College



# Final tips

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- Help your child to make studying a habit – making learning at home a normal, routine part of life is vital.
- Encourage your child to revise where you can see them – this allows you to offer supportive checking in and they will be less likely to be distracted by their phone.
- Become familiar with what your child is learning – see the [curriculum maps](#) on the school website and exam specifications.
- Help your child by quizzing them on topics, for example using flash cards with them or reading a set passage and asking them questions on it, then discuss the areas they got wrong.
- Supervise practice tests, helping your child with timings etc.
- Encourage your child to trial different ways of revising to find what works best for them in different subjects.
- Encourage your child to put their phone away whilst revising.
- Remind them to take frequent breaks preferably outside or away from screens.

*Thank you for your time.  
Further information and revision support  
can be found in the student area of the  
college website.*

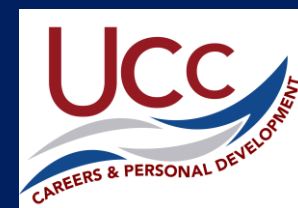


## **Life after UCC**

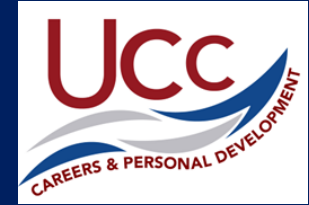
*Helping students achieve success*

Mr. P Rhodes, Assistant Headteacher

# Careers – Post-16



# Careers



**What do we mean by Careers Education, Information and Guidance and who is responsible?**



**What services are we discussing?**

Within the lexicon of Careers, CEIAG can be broken down into its individual components as follows:

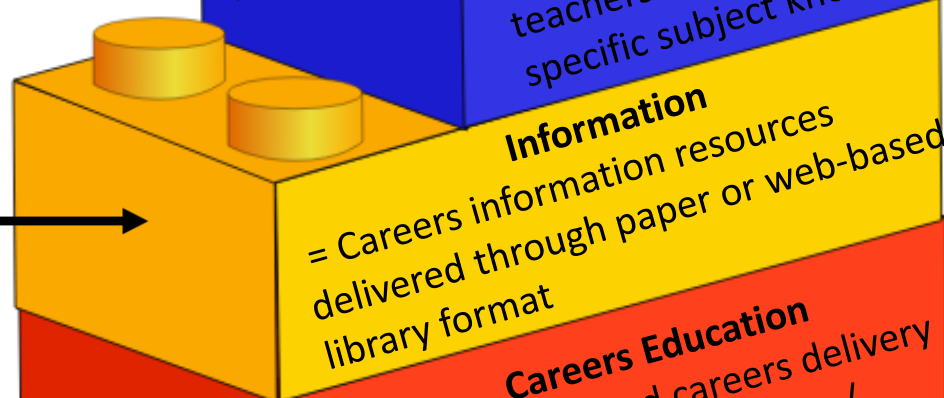
Cheryl



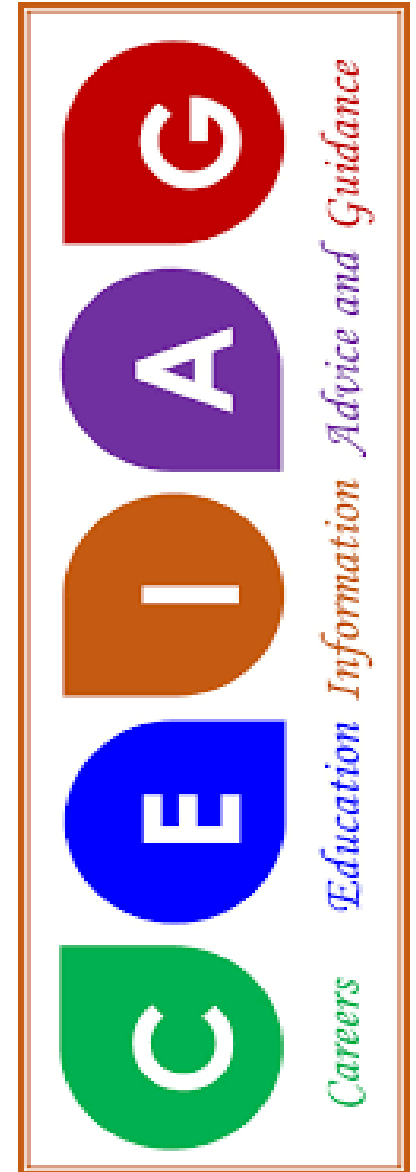
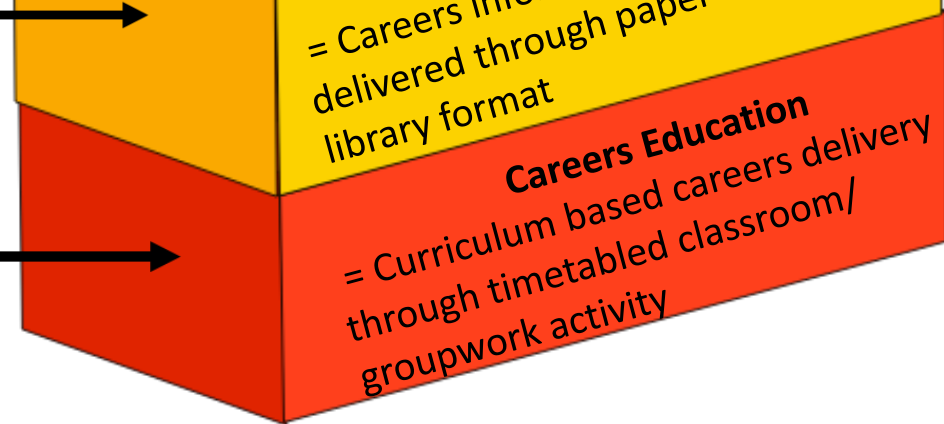
Trusted Adults



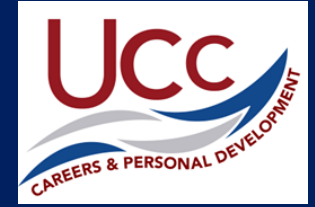
Reliable and Trusted Sources



All of Us



# Reflect



**Reflect on your own experience – What did you get?**

**Would it have made a difference to what you are doing now?**

**What other things impacted your career choices?**



# WHY DO WE EXIST?

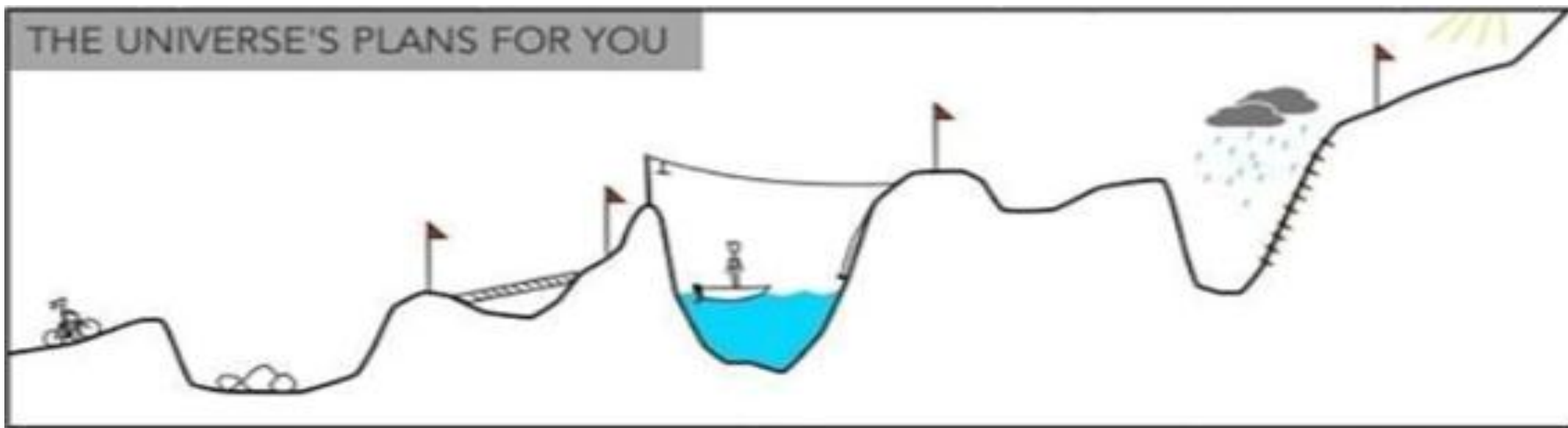
*Our mission is to provide an inspirational, inclusive and high quality education, in an environment where everyone is known and valued, that enables our students to lead successful and fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society.*



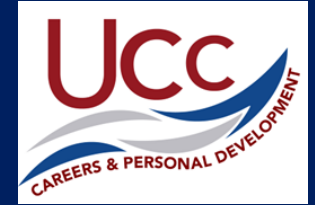
# YOUR "PLANS"



# THE UNIVERSE'S PLANS FOR YOU

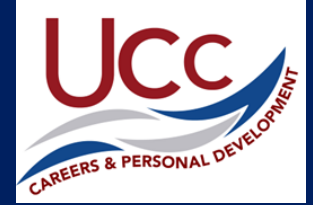


# Provision



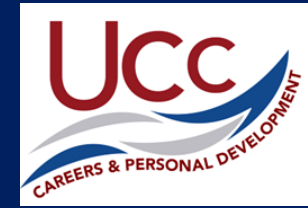
- PDE – Careers Pathway
- Job of the Week including LMI
- Enrichment Experiences
- Group Sessions with Cheryl (Year 9/10)
- Meaningful Encounters with Employers
- Subject Career Opportunities

# Upcoming



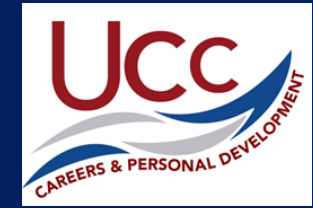
- 1:1 with Cheryl (Every Year 11 Student)
- Post-16 Providers/Options in Assemblies
- Post-16 Evening – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October
- Careers in the Curriculum Lessons

# Post 16 Options



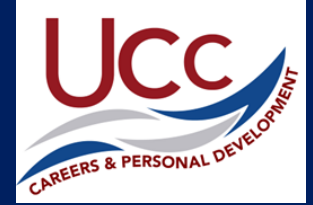
- A Levels
- B-Tec/Vocational
- T-Level
- Apprenticeship
  
- All Pathways lead to Further Education or Training
  
- Everyone must stay in education or training until the age of 18.

# Reflect



- Need to start researching and visiting providers.
- Applications are made directly to colleges and sixth forms.
- Our deadline is end of December, colleges say end of January
- Leicestershire applications, apart from Robert Smyth, you need to use the PS16 portal for all applications.
  
- Most providers will ask for a personal statement
- An interview may be required
- Predicted grades are used on the application forms (these will come from the student's first report of the academic year)

# Reflect



- Decision Making
- Plan A and Plan B
- Find what works for you
- Research
- Personal Profile v Academic Profile

*Thank you for your time this evening.  
We hope you found the session informative.*

