

14th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this email finds you well and that you've had a good week. To ensure you are kept informed of all the relevant and important information pertaining to your child's GCSEs I will now begin sending out frequent emails home to update you on a regular basis.

I hope you found the GCSE Information evening useful if you attended and if you have any further questions relating to your child's GCSE courses then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We have now made all the resources from the evening available online. The link below will provide you access to videos for all the key presentations from all subject faculties and senior leaders. There are also accompanying presentation slides and the videos we have posted go into further detail than we were able to on the night due to time constraints. Please find those [here](#).

I would appreciate it if you were able to spend a couple of minutes completing the below questionnaire relating to the GCSE Revision evening if you attended or simply watched the videos/presentations online.

[Questionnaire](#)

I thought I'd use this letter to reiterate what I believe are the core revision apps/websites that your child can use to really help support their learning at home. This is applicable if they are in Year 10 or 11.

We have a wealth of incredibly useful and proven revision resources at our disposal to help GCSE students attain highly. I also understand that as there are so many ways to revise and apps to use that this can perhaps be a bit overwhelming for both pupils who are expected to revise and you as parents who are supporting them at home.

Therefore, as a key starting place, I would suggest pupils use **GCSEPod** and the **Acle Academy Revision Zone** as the main two revision support apps.

GCSEPod is a fantastic online resource which we have introduced this year for our students, and it involves them watching short 3-5 minute 'pods' (revision videos). They can then complete 'Check and Challenge' questions which quiz them and test their revision knowledge. I would also strongly recommend that pupils use GCSEPod proactively and use the videos to create other revision resources such as flashcards, mind-maps, and Cornell Notes. Teachers will be using GCSEPod to set specific revision tasks for many subjects but equally, pupils can and should use this independently to revise key subjects.

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I would always strongly recommend that pupils watch 3 GCSEPod videos each day to help build on the content they learn into their long-term memory. As I mentioned on GCSE Information Evening, it is important that pupils build up their mental stamina and Year 10-11 pupils are expected to complete about **an hour and a half home learning each day**.

I have launched a Year 10 and 11 GCSEPod competition to win small prizes and motivate them to engage with this resource. They win points for the number of 'pods' they watch and also for the number of follow-on 'check and challenge' questions they complete. I will follow this up with a leadership board and prizes after the October half-term.

If you want to find out more about how GCSEPod can support your child's revision/home learning please do not hesitate to contact me. In addition to this, GCSEPod offers regular webinars for parents and pupils on how best to use GCSEPod to maximise impact. If you follow the below link you can see the various webinars and book one of the upcoming events. There are two parental webinars coming up on the 20th October and 4th November respectively.

<https://www.gcsepod.com/gcsepod-webinars/>

Finally, the Acle Academy Revision Resource Zone can be found via the school website. Pupils simply need to hover over the 'students' tab on the home page and then click on 'Revision Resource Zone'. They then can log in via their school email and this will take them to Google Drive full of revision resources for all the subjects we teach at Acle. This is a bespoke set of resources for our school and includes revision guides, PowerPoints, past exam questions and model answers. This is regularly updated and a brilliant but underutilised resource.

I will write to you again very soon and thank you for your continued support in assisting and preparing our Year 10 and 11 pupils with their GCSEs.

Yours sincerely



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