

REVISING TIME

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.....

WHY BOTHER TO REVISE?

Success at GCSE is important, for several reasons. It is a gateway to further study. It can be rewarding to look over your work, gain an overview and a deeper understanding of subjects and skills that were previously mysteries. Your ability to earn a good wage and probably the prospects of finding an interesting job can be considerably improved by having good qualifications. Many of the better paid jobs require at least a grade C in English and Maths. Rightly or wrongly, industry has become used to using national exams as indicators of talent and an ability to work hard. We all have a lot of native intelligence so no-one is too 'thick' to do well in a straightforward exam. However, revising does require a lot of effort to memorise all the information - but it is only for a fairly short space of time.

WHY STRESS ABOUT REVISING AND TAKING EXAMS?

No obvious reason. There are probably more important aspects to life than exam success and taking exams is not in itself life threatening. Also, as John Grey forcefully reminds us, "Knowledge does not make us free. It leaves us as we have always been, prey to every kind of folly."

You need to develop an attitude of hard work, mixed with good sense to overcome any nervousness or fear about failure:

- 1 have a plan and generally stick to it;
- 2 start early (i.e. now);
- 3 take things steadily, one step at a time.

In spite of any boredom, keeping on going can and does work wonders.

FINANCES

Revision can often be a dull way to spend time. It's generally a chore, sometimes scream inducing. Those studying will crave, and probably rightly expect, praise and small treats. You will need lucky socks, pens and probably lots of chocolate as well as other new things. It can be an expensive time for your parents and carers so they might need to be told this - visits to stationery stores forming an essential part of becoming organised.

CLIMBING THE 'MOUNTAIN'

One step at a time gets a lot done. There's a great tendency to shilly shally – you might find that clearing up the bedroom may even be preferable to revising. You may shock people by wishing to take the dog for a walk or clearing out cupboards. Ask your parents to nag you and remove any bedroom TVs or computer games consoles. Listening to music - if it's not too wild - suits many people and seems to help concentration.

