

# The Sheldonian

## REVISION SKILLS

By Ethan

With GCSE and A Level exams looming, here are our top tips for getting your revision started right! Firstly, plan a revision timetable and get going as soon as possible; you will feel the benefits once the exams start. Remember to start on the topics that you are least confident about, and dedicate more time to them overall. The most important concept in revision is active vs passive revision. Active revision means doing something with the information you need to learn (usually testing your memory). This could be getting someone to test you, revising in a study group, looking at past papers or creating flash cards. Passive revision techniques include simply reading through your old notes, listening to old lectures, type out your notes so that they are neater, and highlighting important information in texts. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that passive alone is enough!

Revising can be hard work, so break up your revision sessions into chunks. A good starting point is 45 minutes, followed by a 15-minute break away from your studies. But make sure you are productive and actively revising throughout.

Flash cards and sticky notes are great for active revising. You can condense notes down onto a single card or note. You can write a specific term on one side of a flash card and its definition on the other, or a question-and-answer pair. Put key facts on sticky notes and stick them around your home, rearranging them every few days. Remember to test yourself regularly on the information on the cards and notes so that you are being active.

Working through past papers is a great way to test your knowledge, either by writing plans or full answers. First, try answering the questions without looking at your notes, to get an idea of which areas need more work. Then, with your notes, practise planning the framework for your answers. Finally, come back and answer the question again without your notes.

Make sure that you vary your methods of revision. Making endless flashcards can be counter intuitive and overwhelming. Differ the material you revise from the difficult to the more familiar. This makes it more interesting, and small chunks are easier to remember.

Test yourself, little and often. Start each day trying to remember 10 facts you learnt from the day before. Test yourself on what you have learnt at the end of the day, the next day and at the end of the week. Change the order of what you test yourself on so that you don't get used to the same pattern.

Don't spend all your time revising over the exam period. Build some flexibility into your plan so you can enjoy some breaks. Self-care is important at this time – get enough sleep, eat well, keep hydrated and take some time to destress with friends.

## MARVELLOUS MATHS!

By Callie and Ezme

We interviewed Miss Clancy with some maths themed questions as in the following weeks it is International Maths Day. Here are our questions and her answers.

### **Question: What is the hardest thing to teach in maths?**

Answer: In my opinion, negative numbers due to it being a difficult concept to students. We use resources like counters to teach students how they work and how to do sums using them.

### **Question: What comes to mind when students say they hate maths?**

Answer: I think about why they hate maths and if it's because they're bored or if they're finding the topic hard.

### **Question: Why did you choose to teach maths?**

Answer: Because it is a skill for life and once students understand it opens lots of doors for students which they can access to do different jobs and I love helping students through the process. I also love maths!

## TIME TO CELEBRATE!

By Millie

Ramadan is a Muslim holiday celebrated this year falls on the Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Muslims fast during the daytime and can only eat or drink during the dark. This is because they are thinking about God during the day and have to be solely focused on him. Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. There are two main meals eaten during the day they are called suhoor (eaten in the morning) and iftar (eaten at night). VI7 is available to pray in for students who need it. They can also skip PE if they feel that they are needed to conserve their energy.

By Amelie and Hadley

Easter time is a time for joy, where Christians celebrate when Jesus came back to life after dying on the cross. And it is also a time for joy and celebration for everybody. People also hide and enjoy chocolate eggs this is not just because they taste good, but they also have a symbolic reason, eggs represent rebirth and life which is the main message of Easter. Easter is a time for family. Children have fun looking for chocolate eggs and sweet treats around their home. In Germany people who celebrate Easter hang decorative colourful eggs on the trees and bushes.

Mother's Day is a day when we celebrate our mothers hard work and what they have done for us. Here is a fact you might not have known about Mother's Day Woodrow Wilson officially created Mother's Day in 1914. Also, if anyone is searching for gift ideas, the most popular Mother's Day gift is a card. And if you want some more info, Carnations are said to have a special connection with Mother's Day.

## FILM REVIEW: WONKA

By Zac

The third film based off Roald Dahl's popular book is the only film to date that depicts chocolate maker Willy Wonka before he gives 5 lucky children the opportunity to take over his business. Fan favourite Timothée Chalamet is wonderful as Wonka. Timothée on a roll in terms of his acting career as he reprises his role of Paul Atrides in the highly anticipated film *Dune: Part 2*. This film is great for adults and children alike and I recommend you see it if you haven't already.



Fancy joining us? We meet 3-4 on Thursday in E8. Come along!