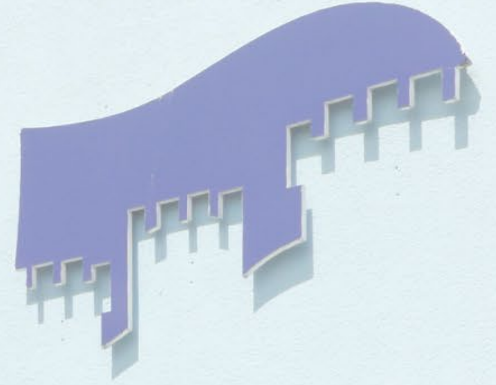




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# St James School

## Year 11 Progress Evening

### Guide 2025



## Dear Families,

As your child begins preparation for their GCSEs, we want to support you in guiding them through this important period. This guide provides essential information, tips, and tools to help your child manage their workload, develop effective study habits, and succeed in their exams. Together, we can create a positive learning environment to ensure they feel prepared and confident!

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### The Final Countdown: Revision Tips

1. **Start Early** – Aim to begin structured revision about **three months before exams** to avoid last-minute cramming.
  2. **Set SMART Goals** – Help your child set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals for each subject.
  3. **Mix it Up** – Encourage a combination of reading, practice questions, mind maps, flashcards, and online resources to keep revision engaging.
  4. **Practice Exam Techniques** – Regular practice with past papers can build confidence and improve time management.
  5. **Take Regular Breaks** – For every hour of revision, encourage a 5-10 minute break to keep the mind fresh.
  6. **Self-Testing** – Encourage using quizzes or flashcards to reinforce knowledge through recall.
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### Online Revision Resources

- **BBC Bitesize** - Covers all GCSE subjects with videos, quizzes, and notes
  - **Sparx maths, English and science** – used to set weekly homework but also has self-study areas.
  - **Seneca Learning** - Free interactive revision courses with questions
  - **Cognito** - Video tutorials and practice questions
  - **Quizlet** - Flashcards on a variety of topics for quick revision
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### Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing

- **Encourage Balance** – It's essential that students find time for relaxation and physical activity to stay refreshed.
  - **Sleep Matters** – Adequate sleep is crucial for memory retention, so aim for at least 8 hours per night.
  - **Stay Positive** – Reassure them that with steady effort, they can achieve their best!
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## Weekly Revision Schedule Template

### Guidelines:

- Each session is **1 hour** long with 10 - 15 minute breaks in between.
- Include time for leisure and relaxation to maintain a healthy balance.

Day	Time	Subject	Notes (e.g. what I need to revise)
<b>Monday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Maths, English or Science	Maths - complete Sparx homework
	5:15 - 6:15 PM	History or Geography	History paper 1
	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Option Subject or Language	Spanish listening practice
<b>Tuesday</b>	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Maths, English or Science	English - Romeo and Juliet
	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Option Subject or Language	Option A (dance) coursework
<b>Wednesday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Maths, English or Science	Science - chemistry paper 2 (crude oil)
	5:15 - 6:15 PM	History or Geography	History exam practice
	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Option Subject or Language	Option B (computing)
<b>Thursday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Maths, English or Science	Maths - non calculator practice
	5:15 - 6:15 PM	Maths, English or Science	English unseen poetry
	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Option Subject or Language	Spanish - complete homework
<b>Friday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Maths, English or Science	Complete science Sparx homework
	5:15 - 6:15 PM	History or Geography	History - self quiz using flashcards
	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Option Subject or Language	Option A - exam practice
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 - 11:00 AM	Maths, English or Science	Science - physics equation practice
	11:15 - 12:15 PM	Maths, English or Science	Maths - calculator practice
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	History or Geography	History
	2:15 - 3:15 PM	Option Subject or Language	Spanish
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 - 11:00 AM	Maths, English or Science	English
	11:15 - 12:15 PM	Maths, English or Science	Science
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Option Subject or Language	Option B
	2:15 - 3:15 PM	Review Session (e.g., Past Papers)	English mock tomorrow! Revise using flashcards

- **Fill in Subjects:** Start with core subjects, and fill in your optional subjects and languages.
- **Adapt Weekly:** Adjust based on upcoming exams or particular focus areas.
- **Use Notes:** Keep track of areas needing improvement or specific goals for each session.

This flexible template allows students to plan their week efficiently, ensuring all subjects are covered while maintaining a balanced approach to study and relaxation. There is a blank template at the back of this booklet.

## Subject-Specific Guidance and Revision Lists

To help your child focus their efforts, we've provided an overview of essential topics and revision strategies for each core subject. Reviewing the exam board specifications, practicing past papers, and targeting areas for improvement in each subject will enhance their readiness.

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### English Language & Literature (AQA)

Exam Board: AQA

Papers:

- English Language: Paper 1 (Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing) & Paper 2 (Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives)
- English Literature: Paper 1 (Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel) & Paper 2 (Modern texts and poetry)

Key Topics:

- English Language: Focus on analysing unseen texts, identifying writers' techniques, and writing creatively. Practice structured responses to reading and writing questions in timed conditions.
- English Literature: Students should review key texts, which may include Shakespeare (e.g., *Macbeth*), the 19th-century novel (e.g., *A Christmas Carol*), modern texts (e.g., *An Inspector Calls*), and the AQA poetry anthology.

Revision Tips:

- Use BBC Bitesize and SparkNotes for summaries and analyses of texts.
  - Create flashcards for character, theme and plot summaries.
  - Practice essay questions for each text and compare with AQA-marked sample answers.
  - Educake revision quizzes.
  - Seneca revision via Google Classroom.
  - Familiarise with language techniques (alliteration, metaphor, simile, etc.) and practice identifying them in unseen texts.
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### Maths (Edexcel)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Papers: Three papers (one non-calculator and two calculator papers)

Key Topics:

1. Number - Including fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, and indices.
2. Algebra - Equations, inequalities, sequences, and graphs.
3. Geometry and Measures - Shapes, angles, area, volume, and transformations.
4. Probability and Statistics - Data handling, averages, probability rules, and data representation.

Revision Tips:

- **Practice Papers:** Focus on completing Edexcel past papers. Students should track areas where they consistently lose marks and target these for further revision.
- **Formulas:** Ensure students know the required formulas by heart.
- **Online Resources:** Use [mathsgenie.com](https://www.mathsgenie.com) and Corbett maths “5 a day”. Sparx maths has individual targets based on Cycle 1 assessments that link to tasks and guided video explanations.

## Combined Science (Edexcel)

**Exam Board:** Edexcel (Combined Science OR Separate Sciences)

**Papers:** Six papers covering Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (two papers each)

### Key Topics:

- **Biology:** Cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance, ecology.
- **Chemistry:** Atomic structure, bonding, chemical changes, energy changes, organic chemistry, chemistry of the atmosphere, and using resources.
- **Physics:** Energy, electricity, particle model, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism, and electromagnetism.

### Revision Tips:

- **Edexcel Science Specification:** Review the specification to ensure all topics are covered.
- **Practical Skills:** Combined Science includes questions on practical techniques. Reviewing lab skills and familiarising with common experiments is essential.
- **Use Online Videos:** Sites like BBC Bitesize, Seneca, and [Freesciencelessons.co.uk](https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk) cover these key areas with videos and quizzes.
- **Past Papers and Mark Schemes:** Regular practice with past papers will help students understand the format and style of questions.

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## Additional Resources

- **BBC Bitesize:** Videos, notes, and quizzes for all three subjects
- **AQA and Edexcel Websites:** Official specifications and sample papers
- **Seneca Learning:** Free courses and quizzes tailored to the AQA and Edexcel curricula

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For any further guidance, please don't hesitate to contact our pastoral or academic support teams.

We look forward to supporting you and your child in their GCSE journey.

Best wishes,

**Helen Orbidans**

Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)

# Blank Revision Timetable Template



	Time	Subject	Notes
<b>Monday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM		
	5:15 - 6:15 PM		
	6:30 - 7:30 PM		
<b>Tuesday</b> (4pm school finish)	5:00 – 6:00PM		
	6:30 - 7:30 PM		
<b>Wednesday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM		
	5:15 - 6:15 PM		
	6:30 - 7:30 PM		
<b>Thursday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM		
	5:15 - 6:15 PM		
	6:30 - 7:30 PM		
<b>Friday</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM		
	5:15 - 6:15 PM		
	6:30 - 7:30 PM		
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 - 11:00 AM		
	11:15 - 12:15 PM		
	1:00 - 2:00 PM		
	2:15 - 3:15 PM		
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 - 11:00 AM		
	11:15 - 12:15 PM		
	1:00 - 2:00 PM		
	2:15 - 3:15 PM		

 **Parents Evening Notes**

Use the space below to jot down specific feedback from teachers about your child's progress. Identifying subject strengths and areas for improvement will help target their revision effectively.

Subject	Teacher's Feedback	Suggested Focus
English		
Maths		
Science		
History or Geography		
Languages		
Option A		
Option B		
[Other]		