



Welcome!

GCSE Success Evening

achieving **more** together

Aims of the Evening

1. To gain an overview of key events this year, and what we as a school will do
2. To gain some tips and advice of how to help with the difficult business of revision!

Key Dates & Events

- Early Oct Count down to Mocks
Progress Check 1
- 21 Nov Sixth Form Open Evening
- 27 Nov – 8 Dec Mock Exams
- 17 Jan Mock Results Day and Parents' Evening
- Early Feb Progress Check 2
- 12-16 Feb Some targeted classes in February half term
- Late Feb Booster classes begin
- Mar Some further practice exams; Practical assessments (Art, Drama, Textiles)
- 1-13 Apr Easter Revision School
- 14 May Exams and 'hot lesson' timetable begins

Key Considerations

- New GCSEs
- Grades 1-9: Higher expectations
- More exams
- Very little coursework or controlled assessments
- Demands on revision and memory, and performing intensively

The new grades

New GCSE Grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
GCSE Grade	A*	A	B	C		D	E	F	G

ENGLISH

- All students will study GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature (four exams – 2 for Lit and 2 for Lang)
- Both subjects are now treated equally: they are as important as each other.
- All students sit the same exams – regardless of English set.
- For the two literature exams, students have to study a Shakespeare play ('Romeo and Juliet' or 'Macbeth'), a modern play ('An Inspector Calls', 'Blood Brothers' or 'The History Boys'), a novel ('A Christmas Carol') and a range of poems collected in an anthology.
- They don't have any texts provided in the Lit exams, so they need to know these well.

ENGLISH

- Do explore the variety of material on the internet: today's handout includes a range of interesting and useful websites.
- Do contact your child's English teacher for more information.
- Do stress the importance of accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Do encourage your child to read (with you).

MATHS

- Students sit 3 papers: one non-calculator and two using a calculator.
- Students will be entered either for Higher (Grades 4-9) or Foundation (Grades 1-5).
- We will enter the tier in students' best interests and will finalise entries in late January.
- Essential ingredients:
 - Self belief – don't give up and be positive
 - PRACTICE
 - Correct equipment

MATHS

Assessments

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

The information in the table below is the same for both Foundation and Higher tiers.

The Subject content section shows the content that is assessed in each tier.

Paper 1: non-calculator	+	Paper 2: calculator	+	Paper 3: calculator
What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 80 marks• non-calculator• 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 80 marks• calculator allowed• 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 80 marks• calculator allowed• 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment
Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

PiXL MATHS App

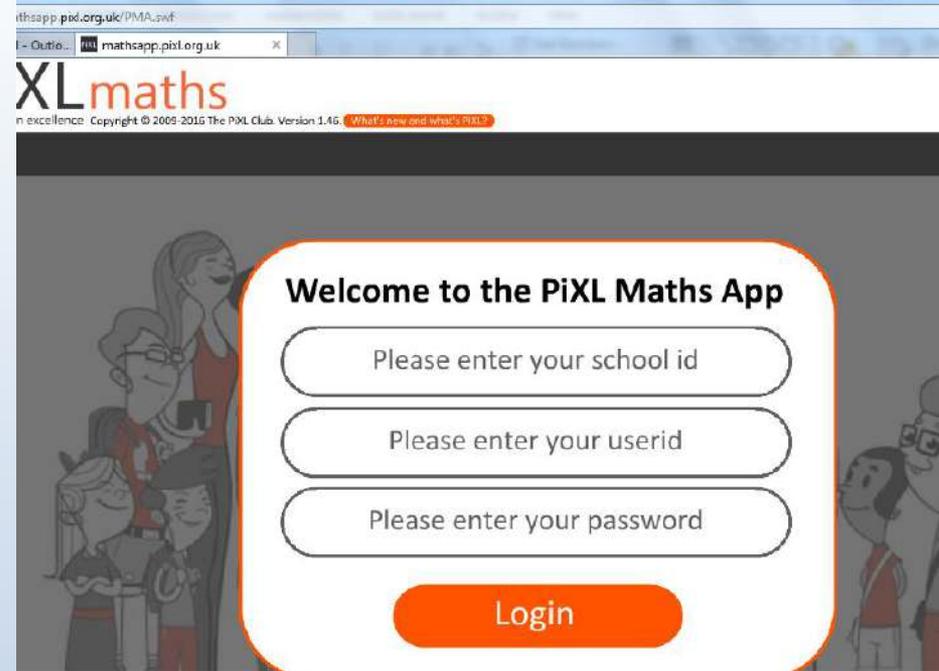
Google 'PiXL Maths App'

(<http://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk/PMA.swf>)

School ID = LK3749

User ID = *surname 1st initial e.g. smithj*

Password = same as user ID



This screen is showing a summary of all your points scored from completing number based questions in the "Design a test" tool

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| ● 4/4 Operate with integers (+, -, x, ÷) | 📊 | ● 0/3 Convert recurring decimals into fractions | 📊 |
| ● 4/4 Operate with decimals (+, -, x, ÷) | | ● 2/2 Find a fraction or percentage of a quantity | |
| ● 3/4 Operate with directed numbers (+, -, x, ÷) | | ● 2/2 Increase/decrease a quantity by a given percentage | |
| ● 2/2 Calculate a number complement to 100 | | ● 1/1 Find a reverse percentage of a quantity | |
| ● 0/2 Calculate an answer to a related calculation | 📊 | ● 0/4 Recall simple powers, including squares and cubes | 📊 |
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| ● 1/2 Identify a factor or a multiple | 📊 | ● 0/4 Convert between standard index form and ordinary | 📊 |
| ● 1/1 Reduce a number to its prime factors | | ● 0/3 Operate with numbers in standard index form | |
| ● 2/2 Find the HCF and LCM of 2 numbers | | ○ 0/2 Simplify a surd | 📊 |
| ● 0/3 Simplify a fraction | 📊 | ○ 0/2 Rationalise a denominator | |
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| ● 0/1 Order fractions | 📊 | ○ 0/8 Calculate using upper and lower bounds | |
| ● 1/2 Convert between improper and mixed numbers | | | |
| ● 0/1 Add fractions with common denominators | | | |
| ● 0/1 Subtract fractions with different denominators | | | |
| ● 0/2 Multiply and divide vulgar fractions | | | |
| ● 0/1 Add mixed numbers | | | |

SCIENCE

- Students either do Trilogy or Separate Sciences:
 - 2 Grade 6s are better than 3 Grade 5s
 - Trilogy does enable access to A level sciences
 - Both routes involve exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Students will be entered either for Higher (Grades 4-9) or Foundation (Grades 1-5).
- We will enter the tier in students' best interests and will finalise entries in late January.
- Essential ingredients:
 - Organisation
 - Continuous work

SCIENCE – Year 10

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (double award)

Paper 1 Biology (1h 15m)

Paper 2 Biology (1h 15m)

Paper 1 Chemistry (1h 15m)

Paper 2 Chemistry (1h 15m)

Paper 1 Physics (1h 15m)

Paper 2 Physics (1h 15m)

Each exam is worth 16.7% of the GCSE and consists of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions

There is no controlled assessment module in the new GCSE

SCIENCE – Year 10

GCSE Separate Sciences (triple award)

GCSE Biology

Paper 1 (50% 1h 45m)

Paper 2 (50% 1h 45m)

GCSE Chemistry

Paper 1 (50% 1h 45m)

Paper 2 (50% 1h 45m)

GCSE Physics

Paper 1 (50% 1h 45m)

Paper 2 (50% 1h 45m)

Each exam consists of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions

There is no controlled assessment module in the new GCSE

SCIENCE – Year 10

Both GCSE routes can be a pathway to study A level sciences:

**Grade 6 in Science
Grade 6 in Maths
(6 in English to study Psychology)**

How you can help:

- Keep ALL exercise books organised and in a safe place
- Purchase the revision guides offered by the science department
- Keep a glossary of key scientific terms
- Prepare for linear exams (6 for each pathway) by completing all assignments
- Discuss science based issues in the news
- ‘Little and often’ learning
- Testing of key words

School Support

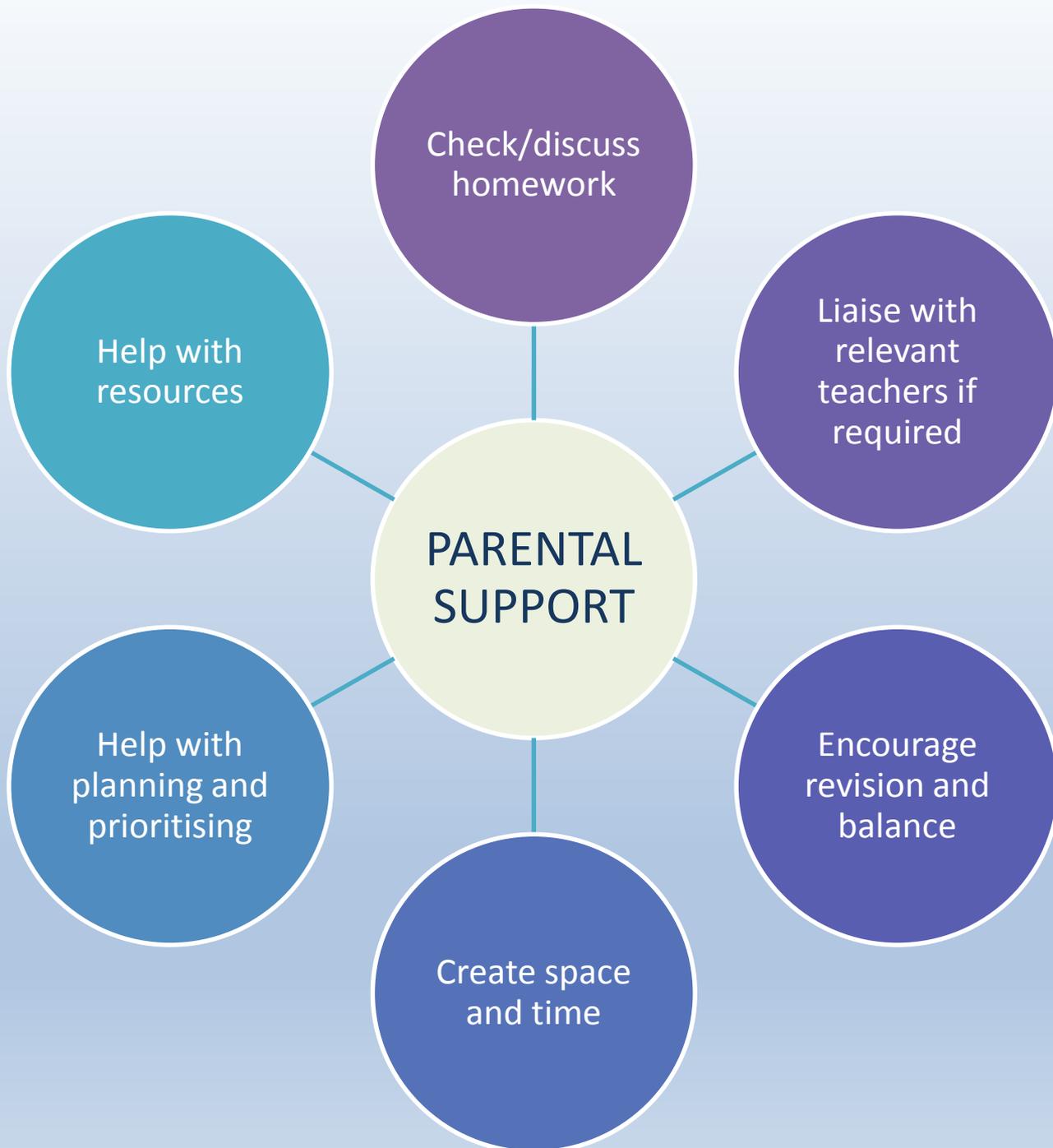
- Subject Intervention
- Booster classes
- One to one mentoring
- 'Chill and Chat'
- Relaxation sessions
- Tic Tac centre
- EARN

How do you force your son or daughter to revise?

HELP WITH REVISING!

- See and order the revision guides list on our website
- You don't need all of these
- Talk to your daughter/son and their teachers

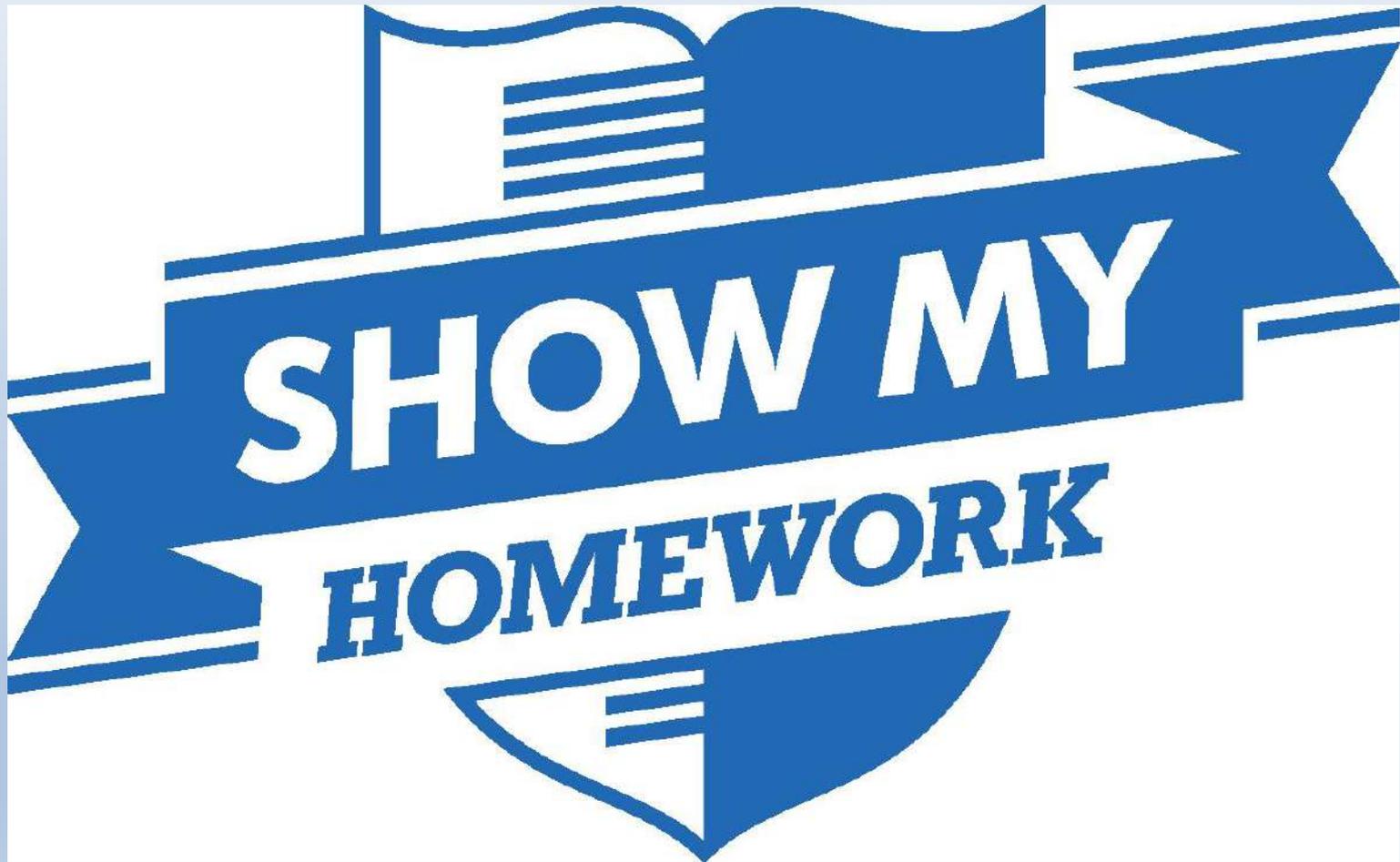
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Key Tips

- **Structure**
- **Routine**
- **Short and frequent**
- **ACTIVE!**
- **Balance**

Show My Homework



POST 16 OPTIONS

**Open Evening
on 21
November**

Subject Requirements

- **To do A LEVELS, you must get 5 or more grade 5s including a 5 in English and Maths.**
- **You need to get grade 6s (or Bs) in some courses to continue them to A Level**

If you don't pass English and/or Maths (gain a Grade 4) by the end of Year 11...

...you will have to continue studying English and/or Maths until you do or until you are 19.

Apprenticeships

As employees, apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. Off the job, usually on a day-release basis, apprentices receive training to work towards nationally recognised qualifications.

Apprenticeships can take between one and four years to complete. The minimum salary is £2.60 per hour; however, many apprentices earn significantly more.

There may be different entry requirements depending on the Apprenticeship and the industry sector. However competition for places with employers can be fierce, so you will need to show that you are committed, and aware of your responsibilities to both yourself and the company who would employ you.

Most apprenticeships require Grade C/5 in En and Ma

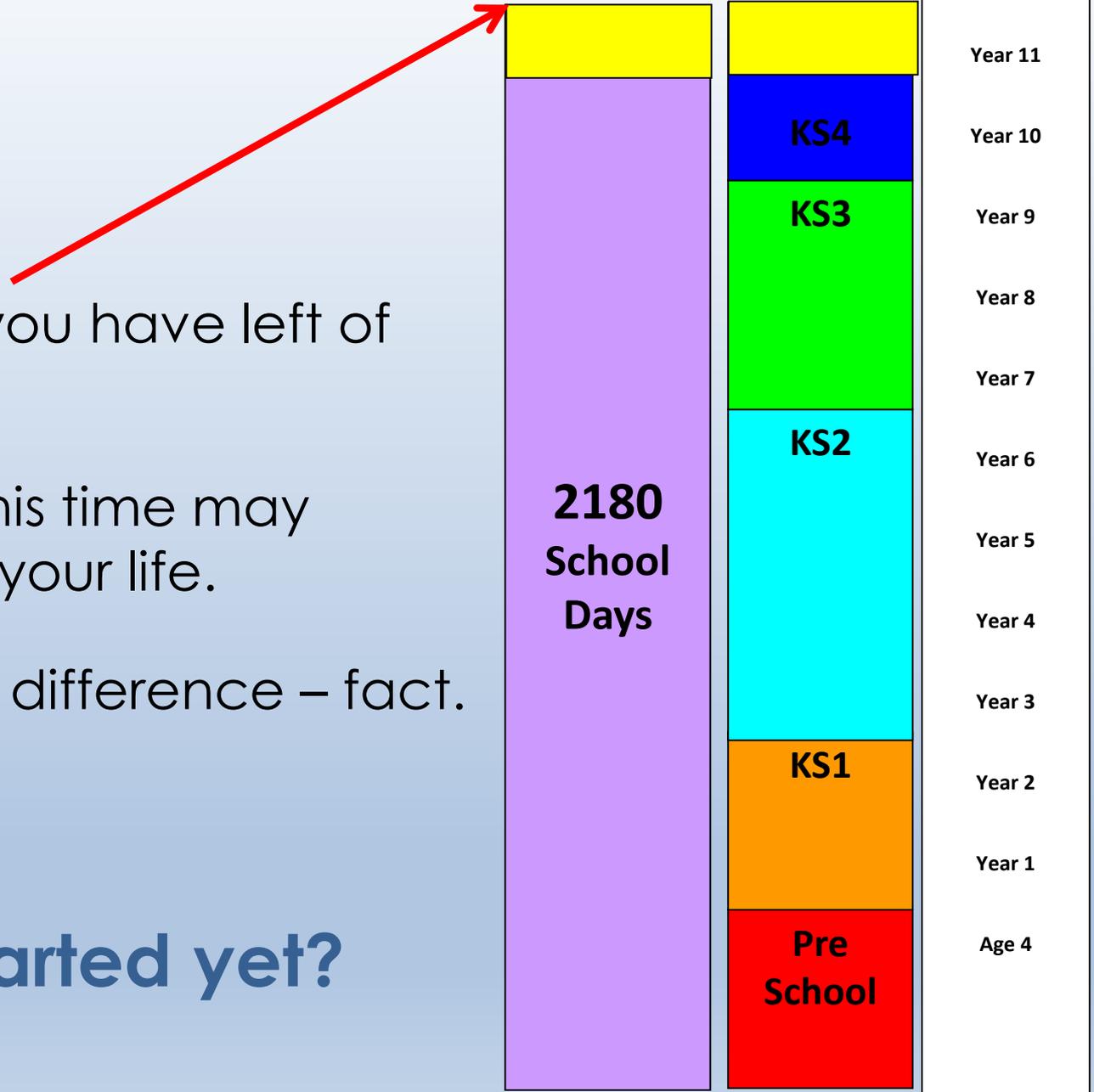
Tools

This is what time you have left of school! **120 days**

What you do in this time may affect the rest of your life.

Revision makes a difference – fact.

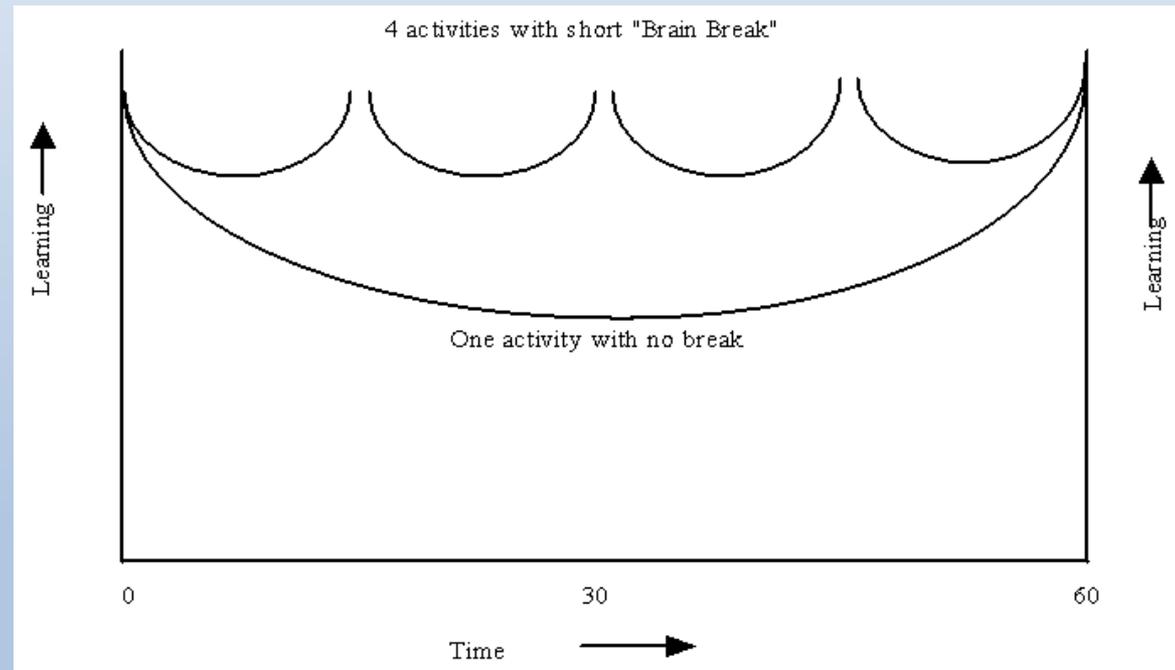
Have you started yet?



How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.1 'The BEM Principle'

Revise for approximately 20 minutes then have a short break. You will remember more if you do this three or four times rather than revising for an hour or two with no break.



How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.2 'Plan Ahead'

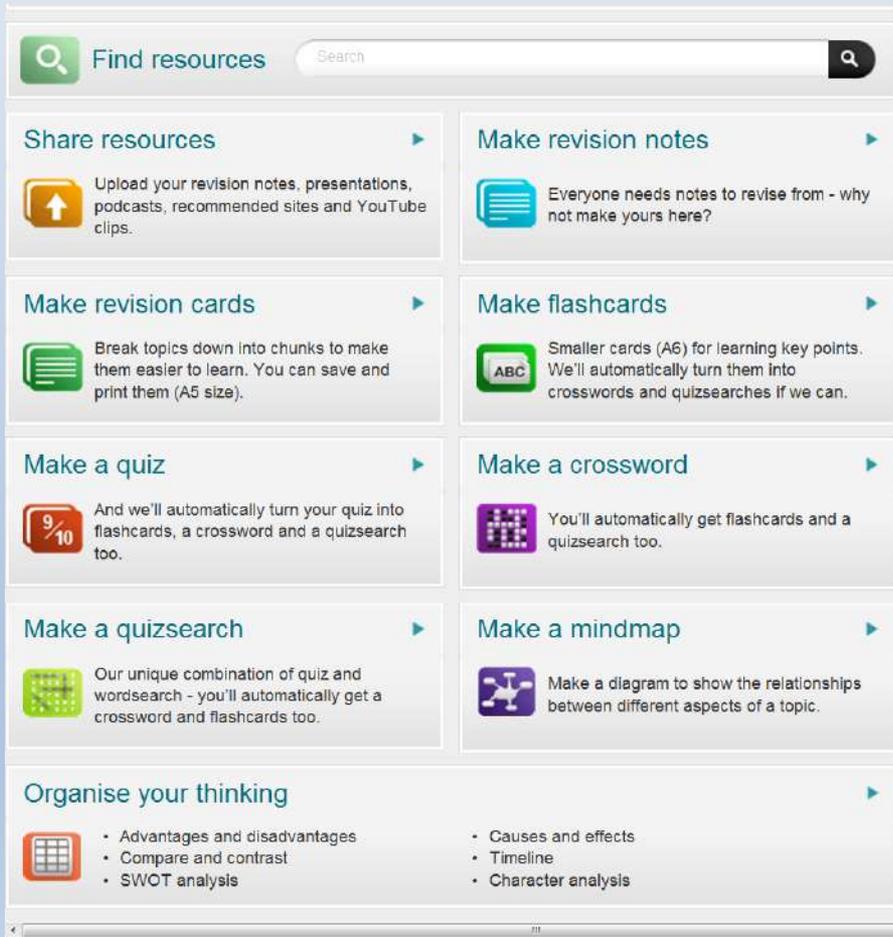
Day/Date	Revision sessions I'm going to attend at School	✓	Revision I am going to do at home	✓
Mon				
Tue				
Wed				
Thu				
Fri				
Sat/Sun				

Don't leave revision to the last minute. Use a revision timetable to plan ahead. If you haven't got one, see Mrs Hubartt for a spare copy.

Make sure you attend the lunchtime and after school revision classes too.

How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.3 'www.getrevising.co.uk'



The screenshot shows the homepage of the website 'www.getrevising.co.uk'. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Find resources' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, there are several interactive buttons for different revision tools, each with a small icon and a brief description:

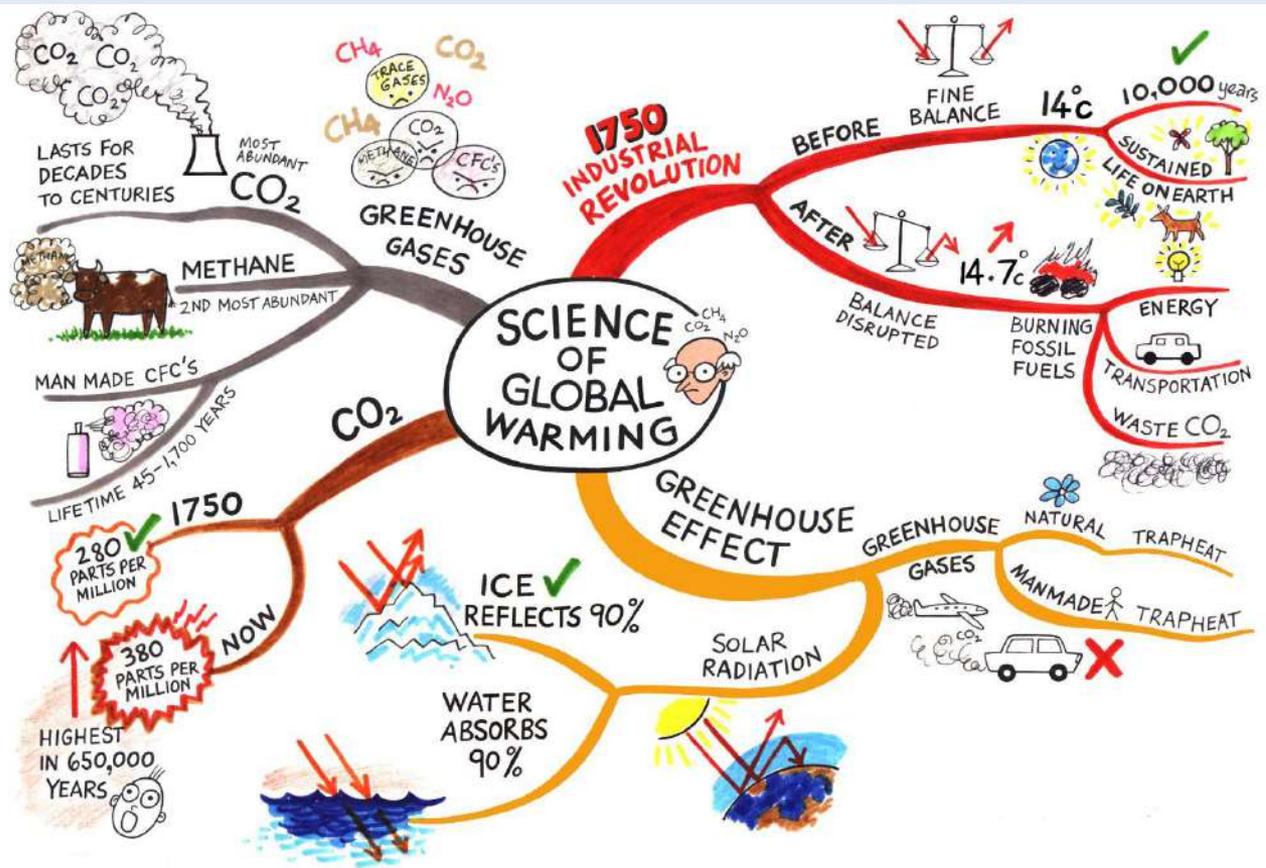
- Share resources**: Upload your revision notes, presentations, podcasts, recommended sites and YouTube clips.
- Make revision notes**: Everyone needs notes to revise from - why not make yours here?
- Make revision cards**: Break topics down into chunks to make them easier to learn. You can save and print them (A5 size).
- Make flashcards**: Smaller cards (A6) for learning key points. We'll automatically turn them into crosswords and quizsearches if we can.
- Make a quiz**: And we'll automatically turn your quiz into flashcards, a crossword and a quizsearch too.
- Make a crossword**: You'll automatically get flashcards and a quizsearch too.
- Make a quizsearch**: Our unique combination of quiz and wordsearch - you'll automatically get a crossword and flashcards too.
- Make a mindmap**: Make a diagram to show the relationships between different aspects of a topic.
- Organise your thinking**:
 - Advantages and disadvantages
 - Compare and contrast
 - SWOT analysis
 - Causes and effects
 - Timeline
 - Character analysis

Brilliant free website!

- Create flash cards
- Quizzes
- See other students' notes
- Turn notes into podcasts



How are you revising?



Revision Tip No.4 'Mindmapping'

Use colours, pictures and keywords to summarise a topic on one piece of paper.

How are you revising?

1. Spend 60 seconds dumping everything you know about a topic onto a piece of paper. It does not need to be structured – random words or images are good.
2. Put the Dump Test away and spend 15 minutes revising the topic in any way you want.
3. Take a different colour pen. Dump again for 60 seconds – You will write down on average 7-15 things which you could not write at the beginning of the session. This is progress – it visibly shows that you have just got better.

Revision Tip No.5 'The Dump Test'



Y11 best ever

How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.6 'Draw what you know'

Take a section of notes and transform it into images, pictures or symbols.

Ideally draw images yourself but you could always cut and paste from the internet.

Try and use as few words as possible. Bad drawings are great – they are more likely to stick in the memory. If possible show the drawings to someone else and explain what they mean.

Stick the drawings up around the house. Over the course of 1 week you will see that picture over 1,000 times – each time reinforcing the image in your memory.



How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.7 'Words and Links'



1. Write down 20 words that would have to be used when describing/explaining a particular topic (or even ask your teacher to give you sheets with the 20 words on).
2. Scatter the 20 words across a sheet of paper and draw arrows linking 2 words together. On the arrow write why it is linked. Draw as many arrows as you can – it encourages you to make your own links and therefore develop understanding.

How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.8 'Podcasts'

Download revision podcasts from the internet, or even better, record yourself talking about a particular topic.

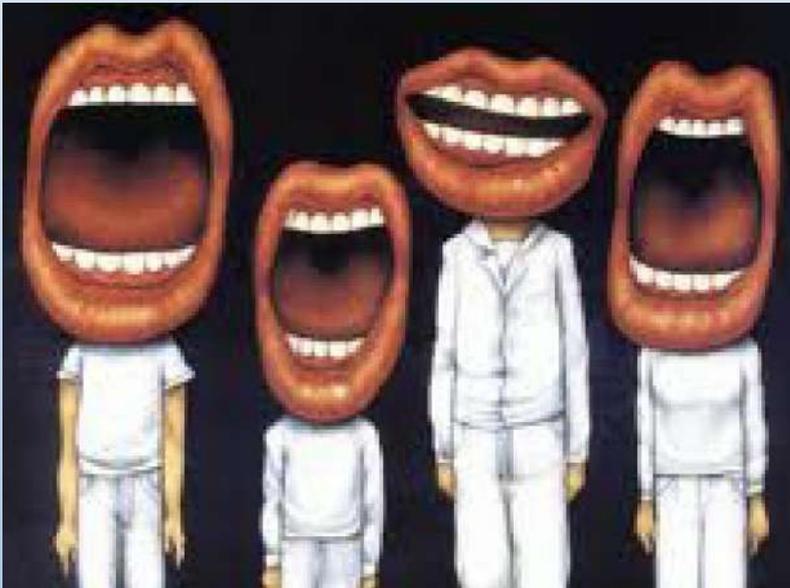
Audacity is a really good program for this and can be downloaded for free. Limit your podcast to less than 20 minutes (the ideal time for revision).

Some students have done all of their revision on the school bus, doing a paper round, jogging, working on a farm or while they shop. Experiment with listening to podcasts last thing at night – revise in your sleep!



How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.9 'Talk until you stop'



Talk out loud on a topic of your choice for as long as possible. If you feel self-conscious – turn your music up louder!

You will talk for a period of time but will eventually stop, often in mid-sentence, because you have reached a part they don't fully understand and can't explain or have forgotten something. You should make a note of either what you didn't understand or what you said just before you stopped.

You have just found the part you need to revise. It is important that you talk out loud so you notice when you stop.

How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.10 'Post-it Notes'

1. Spend 20 minutes putting notes for a particular topic onto post-it notes. Each post-it note can have a maximum of 10 words on it – the fewer words the better though. Stick the post-it notes onto a door, wall or sheet of paper. They must be visible.
2. Every day for the next week return to the post-it notes for 5 minutes and rearrange them in any way you can think of: most important, least important, chronological, alphabetical, similar/different. This activity helps you to make links within a topic and also reinforces memory.



How are you revising?

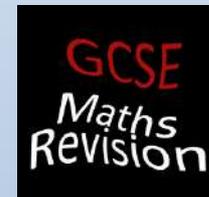
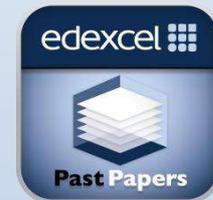
Revision Tip No.11 'Apps'

Use your phone to revise!

Go to the itunes app store and search for "revision apps" – GCSE Bitesize have great, cheap revision apps for loads of subjects including Science, History, Business Studies and Religious Studies.

There are also apps to access past exam papers to practise on

Check out the Bitesize **Exam Alert** app which will help you organise yourself and plan your revision.



PiXL MATHS App

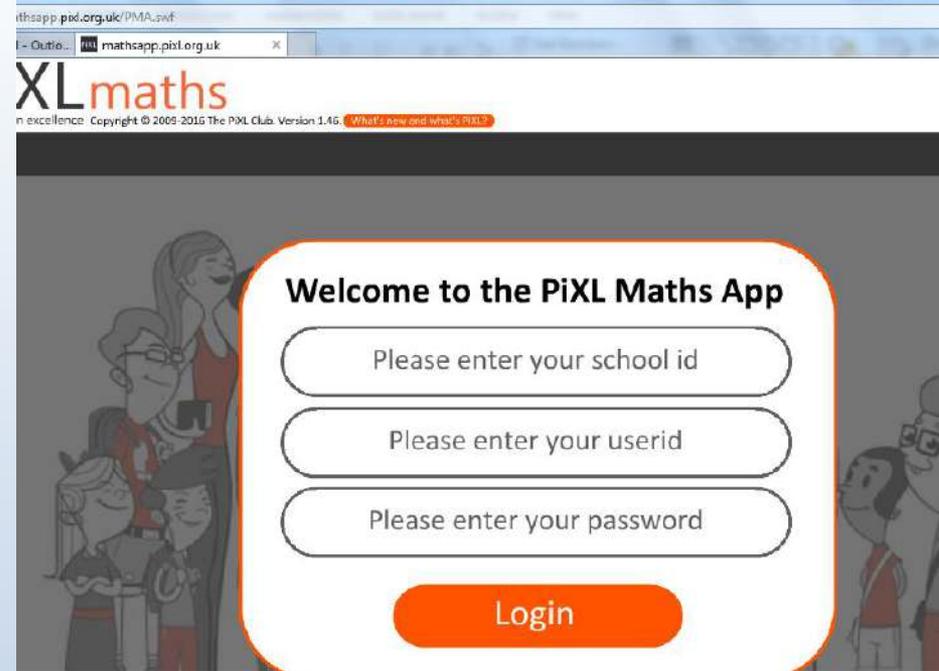
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(<http://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk/PMA.swf>)

School ID = LK3749

User ID = *surname 1st initial e.g. smithj*

Password = same as user ID



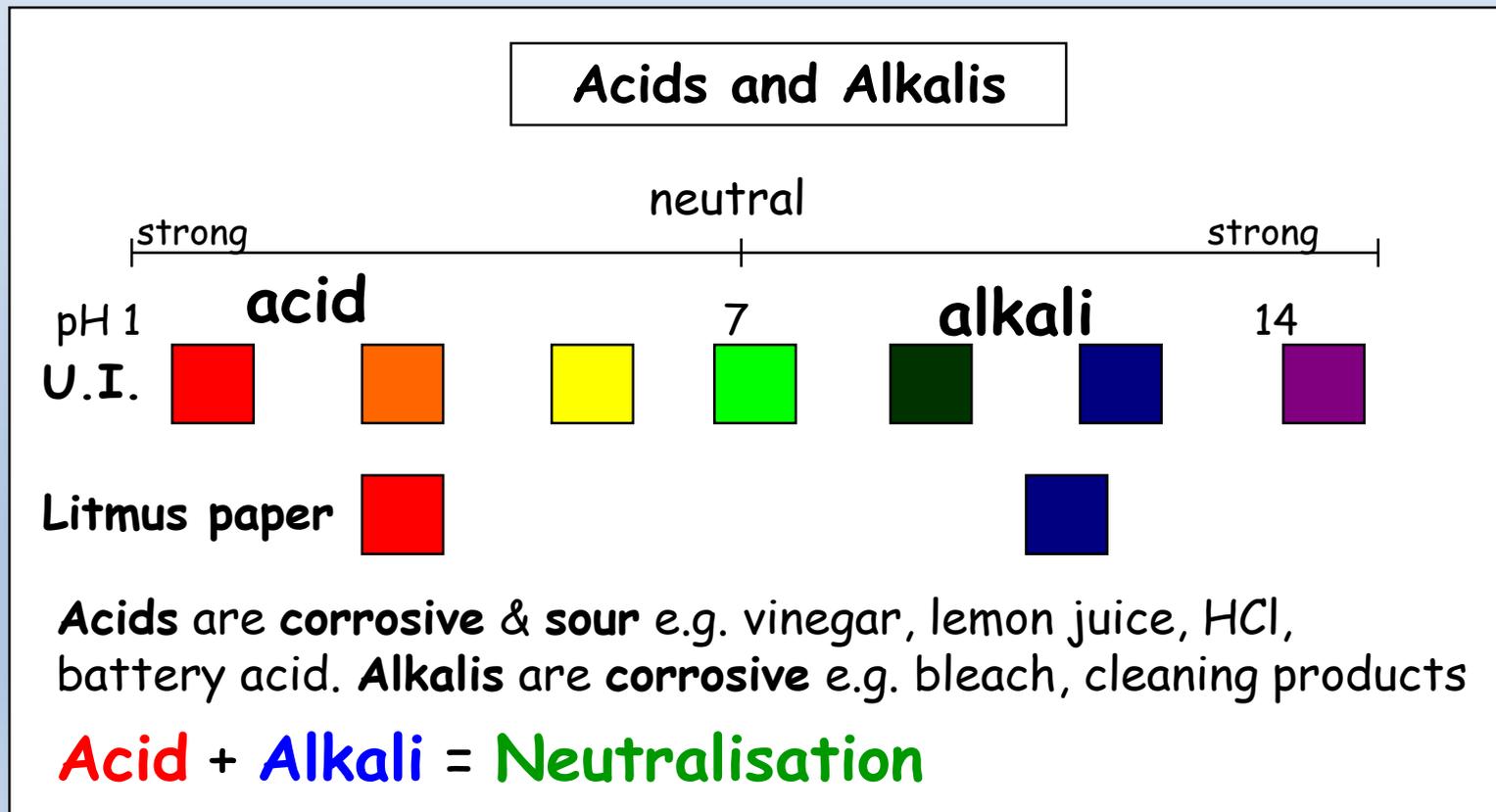
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How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.12 'Flash Cards'

Condense key information onto small cards. This helps break down your revision into manageable chunks.



How are you revising?

Revision Tip No.13 'Revise with others'

Revision does not have to be done alone. Some of the most successful students in recent years have worked with other people to revise.

One activity is to use each revision session to make up tests and quizzes for each other.

Pick a topic, spend 10-12 minutes making up questions on it and then test each other.

You could be physically together (as in you are in the same room – any closer and you are enjoying revision far too much) but you could send the questions and answers to each other by email, by text or on Facebook.



5 4 5

5 cards for 5 days

5

is the
magic number

5 a day

Have you done yours?

