



# *The Gosford Times*

*The Weekly Newsletter of Gosford Hill School*

*Issue 30 – May 2016*

## ***How to help your child prepare for their exams***

Every week until the Whitsun break we will be publishing advice on how to help your child prepare as well as they can for their upcoming exams. While the main pressures will be felt by our older students, there are upcoming classroom examinations for all year groups and helping them develop good habits now will be very good for their future development. All of this good advice was originally published in the Guardian newspaper and can be found in full by using their search facility.

**Mr J O'Regan – Assistant Headteacher**

### ***Revision Tips***

Jane Florsham was a senior teacher, and now works as an educational consultant.

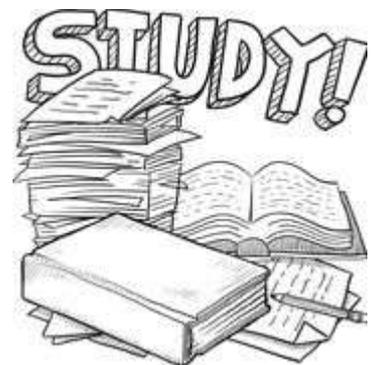
“Your child needs to distil the information he has learned into more manageable chunks. He needs to go through his notes and reduce them into topic areas, and then key notes. These form the ‘pegs’ on which you can hang your wider knowledge. Working out how to remember these depends upon what type of learner you are: visual, auditory or kinaesthetic.”

### ***What do the experts say?***

Provide a calm and supportive environment at home: try to be there for your child, both to provide practical things like food, and to help when there's an emotional crisis because a paper was unexpectedly hard or a romance has broken up. Don't offer a bribe, these almost always backfire and leave smouldering resentments, or anything that's conditional on success. But organising an event to look forward to when it's over, an evening out or weekend away, can be a good idea. Make sure your expectations are realistic, and tie in with your child's. Verdict: Be there!

### ***Advice to give to your child:***

Practise by doing timed past papers and get them marked with feedback. To find out what examiners are looking for, dig out their marking schemes. Schools also offer revision classes in GCSE subjects. These will explain how to get certain grades and provide the opportunity to seek individual guidance. You might need something explained again or help to identify what to revise to get the highest marks possible. You may feel as if you've left school, but your teachers will still view you as their pupil until after your exams.



**Cont...d**

**Learn \* Lead \* Inspire**

## *Keeping Calm*

### **Parents**

Don't go on about it (revision). Being asked how you feel often makes things worse. Try to be a listener rather than to give advice. It is normal to say that each examination paper was a total disaster, so don't join the inquest!

### **Students**

Relax for an hour a day at least – listen to music watch television or take exercise.

### *Please make sure you are using Show My Homework*

As you know Show My Homework is the method we use for setting home learning. We know that many parents use it regularly to ensure their child is keeping up to date, so thank you. If you are not using it then please make an effort to log on and personalise it to your needs. The address is simply [www.showmyhomework.co.uk](http://www.showmyhomework.co.uk)

If you do not have a pin, then please ask your child to get one from their form tutor who can reprint the details.

Also, **if you are having technical difficulties logging on to Show My Homework** then please go to the following site, <http://status.showmyhomework.co.uk/>, which will let you know if there is a problem with their website. And they are happy for parents to contact them directly if they are having issues logging on, please call them using <http://help.showmyhomework.co.uk/> . They advise that Show My Homework will only work on the latest internet browsers, so if you are having difficulties, it may be due to not having the most up-to-date browsers installed on your device.

Many thanks

**Mr J O'Regan – Assistant Headteacher**



## Football Skills Oxford City Sports College Goalkeeping Academy & Ignite Sports UK

*Next course starts 2nd June*

Sessions held at Oxford City FC, The Community Area, Marston - £10 per session

[info@communityarena.co.uk](mailto:info@communityarena.co.uk)

**Mr E Hounsell – 14-19 Pathway Manager**