

## Parent Forum – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Staff in attendance:

- Phil Snelling, Vice Principal (PSN)
- Luke Sadler, Assistant Principal (LSA)
- Jade Prust, Communications Coordinator (JPR)

### Agenda items

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Previous minutes
  - Homework (projects)
  - Supply cover lessons
3. Top Revision Tips & Study Support
4. AOB
  - In-person Parent Forum Meetings
  - Communications – InTouch issue
5. Next Parent Forum

### Welcomes and introductions - PSN

All staff introduced themselves and welcomed the attendees. PSN apologised for Hilary Morawska's absence due to illness and highlighted that we are in regular contact.

We have two items to follow up on from the last Parent Forum meeting:

- **Homework:** your feedback was that students weren't getting much homework from teachers. Homework will be set at the start of term. It will be an expectation for a mid-point check in.
- **Supply teachers:** we do try and ensure that our students have regular supply teachers. We do have full-time cover supervisors who are the first port of call, who are known staff and develop relationships with students. Outside of this, we try our best to get regular external supply, when required.

We have a cover work template, that teachers are expected to complete if their lesson is being covered. This is a standard expectation for all teachers. Upon reflection, this hasn't always been consistent. This includes a seating plan, lesson objectives, tasks, lesson resources needed, time limits, and homework to be completed etc

### Top Revision Tips & Study Support - LSA

We have been talking to our Year 11 students about balancing expectations, navigating school life, supporting wellbeing etc, with a focus on the topics shown below:

# The Mind Set

## Study Support

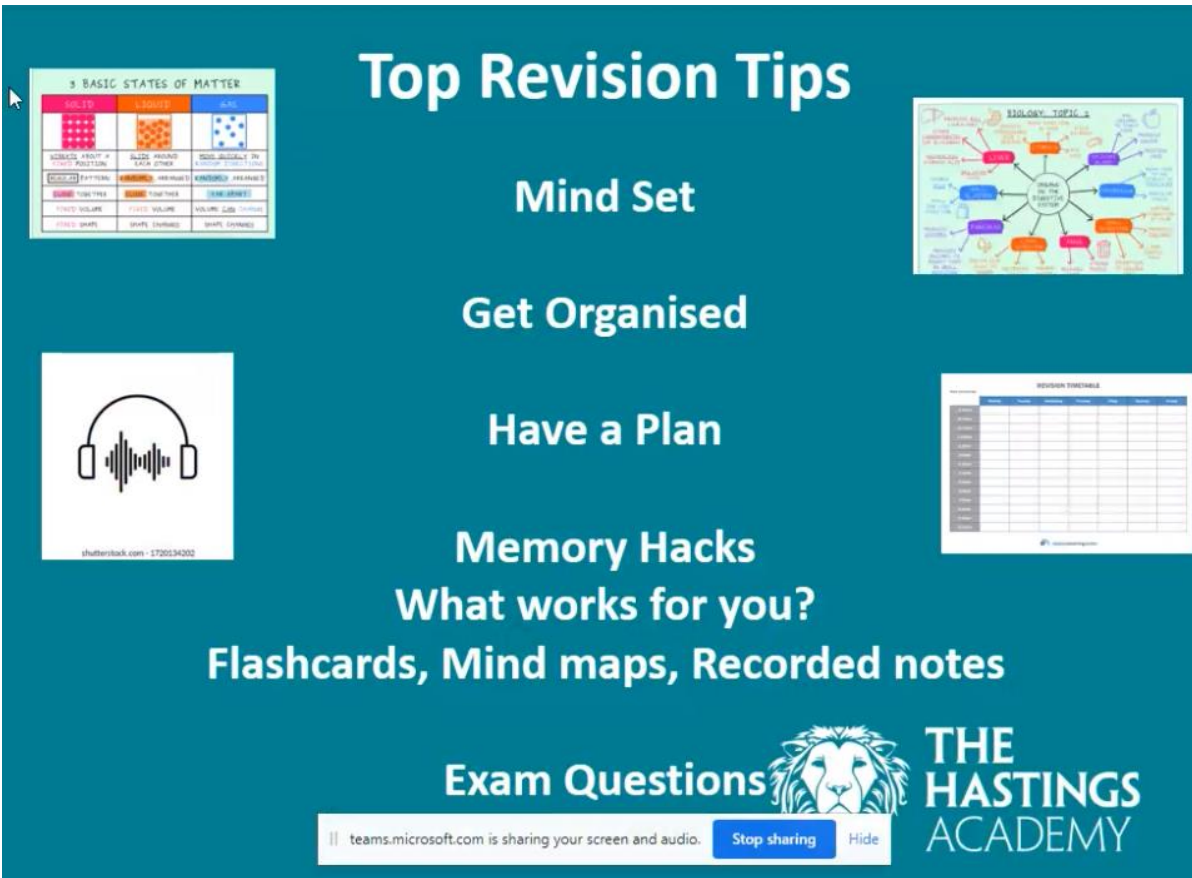
- Revision Hacks
- Revision Tips
- Getting Organised
- Memory Tips
- Timetables and Planning

## Well Being

- Stay Resilient
- Be Motivated
- Look after Yourself
- Who can Support?
- Be Yourself

We have high expectations about grades, going to college, meeting deadlines, but it is about a balanced approach to wellbeing.

Currently, the real focus is on Year 10 & 11, but it is also important to instil this mind-set in other year groups.



## Top Revision Tips

### Mind Set


### Get Organised

### Have a Plan

### Memory Hacks

What works for you?

### Flashcards, Mind maps, Recorded notes

Exam Questions  **THE HASTINGS ACADEMY**

|| teams.microsoft.com is sharing your screen and audio. [Stop sharing](#) [Hide](#)

LSA showed a BBC Bitesize video about the teenage brain: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zckbsk7>

It is important to be organised – knowing where the exam is, what time it is, making sure you have all your resources, producing a timetable of all of your exams and when you will revise for each one.

We also discuss memory hacks – what works best for them? E.g. visual learners may benefit from mind maps, flash cards, voice recorded notes etc.

LSA showed a video on memory hacks: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z73kdp3>

Practicing exam questions is always a great way to revise and will ensure you are aware of the exam format.

We run revision sessions at the Academy. The timetable for this is as follows:

# Period 6



Year 11 Period 6 Revision Session – 3-4pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Science	Maths	Geography History French Spanish	Art/Photo Sport Dance Drama Music Media Food DT Digital IT Business

During the Easter break, we had up to 80 students attending revision sessions. Feedback from these students was really good and they embraced it. They said they enjoyed the different atmosphere of being in school in the holidays.

Revision books are great but may be too overwhelming for some people who can't absorb too much info at once, so it is important to find what works for you.

Making resources yourself reinstalls from long term into front part of brain, e.g. mind maps, posters, revision cards.

Another benefit of flash cards is that other people can use them to quiz you.

Other students may find it helpful to make voice recordings of revision notes in their phone and listen back to themselves.

Hegarty, Seneca, Educake, Bitesize etc are good resources that we highlight to your students.

Wellbeing – it is important to find a 'go-to' person, whether that is in school or at home. Exercise, get fresh air (could revise outside), video calling friends between revision sessions or revise with them via video call. It can feel isolating when you're doing a lot of revision, so it is important to ensure contact is still being made with other people.

Bitesize video on self-care and self-confidence: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zhvtbdm>

**Start of exams - May 17<sup>th</sup>**

*A parent added: are there Year 10 mocks coming up soon? My child isn't sure which subjects to prepare for.*

LSA – their exams will be closer to June and there will be a program regarding which exams, how many for each and what the key topics will be. I will be doing an assembly with Year 10 to outline what they will be doing during Term 5 & 6. They have been pushed back as they weren't ready to sit exams due to where they are in their curriculum.

Another parent asked for advice about their Year 10 student as he is a gamer and spends a lot of time gaming on his PC. The parent would like to know how young people can manage this.

PSN- provide a separate space where they are away from gaming and other distractions

LSA – create a strategy that works for that person or within the household. Have a physical break and move from one place to another. Set times – gaming at this time, revision at this time.

PSN – don't need to use a PC to revise – could work from lesson notes, text books, create flash cards etc

## AOBS – all

### **Communications – InTouch issue - JPR**

JPR explained that we have an issue within our SIMS InTouch communications and would like to set up a focus group, to identify where the issue lies. We have been made aware that some Hotmail and Gmail accounts don't receive communication from us. It is also important to note that emails from us can often be directed straight into parents' 'junk' or 'spam' inbox, therefore the individual who receives the email must mark it as 'not junk' in order to ensure that future communications go straight to the main inbox.

*One parent mentioned that they have a Gmail account and receive some communications from the academy but not others.*

### **In-Person Parent Forum Meetings - PSN**

We have been asked if we could hold Parent Forum meetings in-person meetings again, rather than via Teams. This is something we can look at.

Parent added that they would like the next meeting to be in person, as it will be Hilary Morawska's last Parent Forum meeting and an in-person meeting would therefore provide an opportunity for parents to say goodbye.

**Next Parent Forum:** *Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 5-6pm. Send agenda items to [office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk)*