

Working Smarter to ensure Effective Revision

We are now well and truly in the final 'sprint' towards our external and internal exams. Both sets of mocks are now over for our GCSE and A level pupils and now teachers are concentrating on building up the skills for specific exams.

Pupils often find this time difficult as they don't know what to revise first. Obviously, a revision timetable is essential at this stage to ensure that all subjects and topics receive the relevant amount of time. Pupils have been working on these in tutor time and classroom teachers have supported from a subject perspective.

Achieving confidence with exam questions is now vital. This is best achieved then focusing on past papers and questions. Pupils need to appreciate that working in timed conditions needs some preparation. One way of achieving this is to have a go at the **Working Smarter** idea from the Mindset books by Griffin and Oakes. These ideas are used frequently at school during Learning Skills sessions.

To **Work Smarter**, it is recommended that pupils carry out a series of '**sprints**'. Timing our youngsters at home would be really useful during their revision sessions. These ideas create resilience for young people to continue to work under timed conditions (just like an exam) but also encourage revision sessions to last longer and be more productive. Completing a series of 'sprints' each weekend or one per evening gives confidence and a sense of satisfaction that revision has been productive. Take a look at the illustration below for further details and timing.



Working Smarter

Light Sprint:

25 on, 25 off, 25 on.

Total time = 1 hr 15 mins

Serious Sprint:

25 on, 5 off, 25 on, 5 off, 25 on, 5 off

Total time = 1 hr 30 mins



Happy 'sprinting'!

Dr Liz Pyne
Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning