



KEY STAGE 4 Year 10 Welcome Evening

Mr J Nzemeke and Mrs C Lyons

Agenda

Key Moments in The Key Stage 4 Cycle
Study/Revision Strategies



SHSB Charitable Trust



- Thank you so much for any donation.
- For further information, please use this link to find out more:
<https://www.shsbcharitabletrust.org>



Great Future



The opportunities ahead are very exciting



Great lessons, great mates, great success



A Levels, university, training, job opportunities



A whole range of things you do outside of school



Back to business



Some Certainties



Your hard work and effort
will get its just reward



Whatever support you need,
whatever concerns you have, the
school will always be ready to do
anything that it can for you



Great opportunities will
always be there for you

The Pastoral Team



Mr J Nzemeke
*(Director of Key Stage;
Leader of Computer Science)*

Mrs C Lyons
(Year Leader)

Mrs R Weight
(KS4 Administrator)

- Ongoing support and parental liaison
- Mental and physical wellbeing
- Please contact us via ks4admin@shsb.org.uk
- Subject related matters can be sent to enquiries@shsb.org.uk



KEY STAGE 4

- The GCSE years
- Year 10
- Year 11

The key tool for your son during these two years will be his ongoing Assessment points.

A Further Key to Success

- Home-school communication
- Diary
- Assessments
- Parents' evening
- Telephone / Email etc.
- Regular information for parents/carers and pupils

‘Key Stage 4, where
disengagement and
disaffection often peak’

Attendance and Punctuality

- Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement.
- Punctuality matters as well.
- Recognise that absence is a symptom and that improving pupil's attendance is part of improving the pupil's overall welfare (Department for Education, 2024).

Get the
small stuff
right

Attendance and Punctuality

Correct Uniform

No facial hair or Jewellery

Lesson equipment

Attitude towards learning.

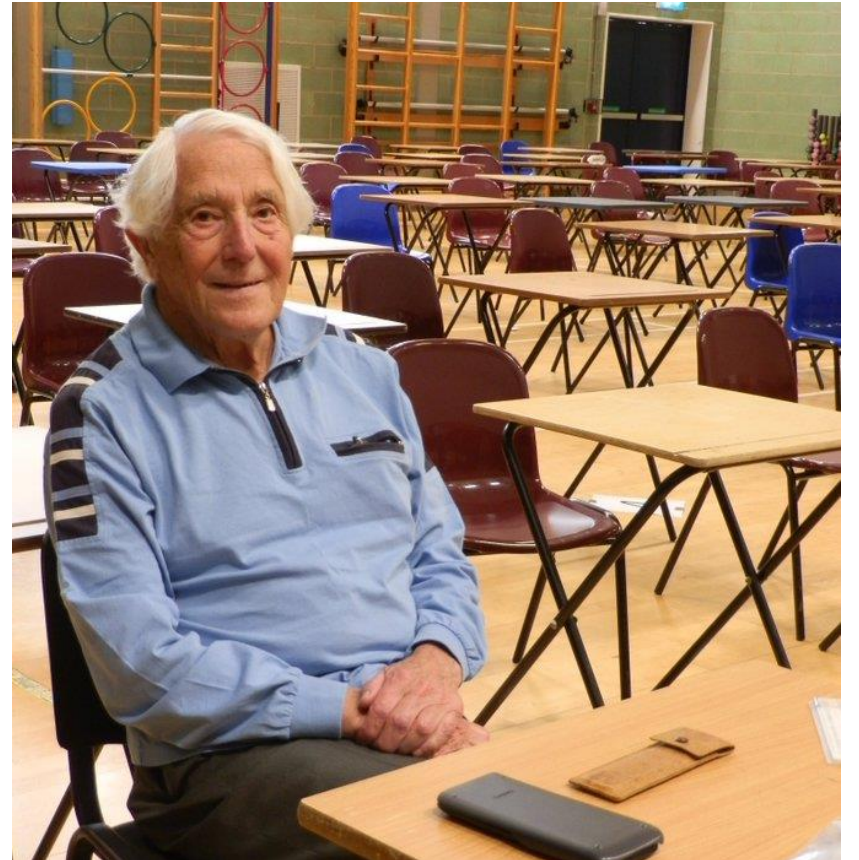
Friendship groups

Vaping and other substances

Use of Mobile Phones

Meet Derek

- Decided to take on GCSE Maths after a young person he knew struggled with the subject.
- Achieved grade 5, the highest grade possible on the foundation paper he took after studying via Zoom.
- In 2022, at 92 years old, Derek Skipper became the oldest person to sit a GCSE.
- ***"Maths is a wonderful thing and it is very easy to say you are no good at it... any opportunity to learn and embrace it, great."*** - Derek





GCSEs

What can a parent do?

SHSB exam tips to ensure success

Objectives:

- The most common frustrations for parents.
- How parents can make a difference.
- Revision.
- Working alongside the school.
- Useful resources.



Section 1: The most common frustrations for parents


"He always seems to have an excuse, and I'm no longer sure what to believe. With exams coming up, surely he shouldn't be going out again?"

"Everything gets left until the last minute. One moment, it seems like there's plenty of time – the next, there's panic and frustration because the deadline is tomorrow and he hasn't got what he needs to complete it."

"I don't understand all this coursework, levels, and modular exams — it's completely different from how things were when I was at school."

"I can't cope with the arguments and stress every time I tell him how important exams are and try to get him to study. It always ends with him saying it's his life and storming off, slamming the door behind him."

"He always panics during exams. Whenever I try to help, it turns into an argument, and I end up making him even more stressed."



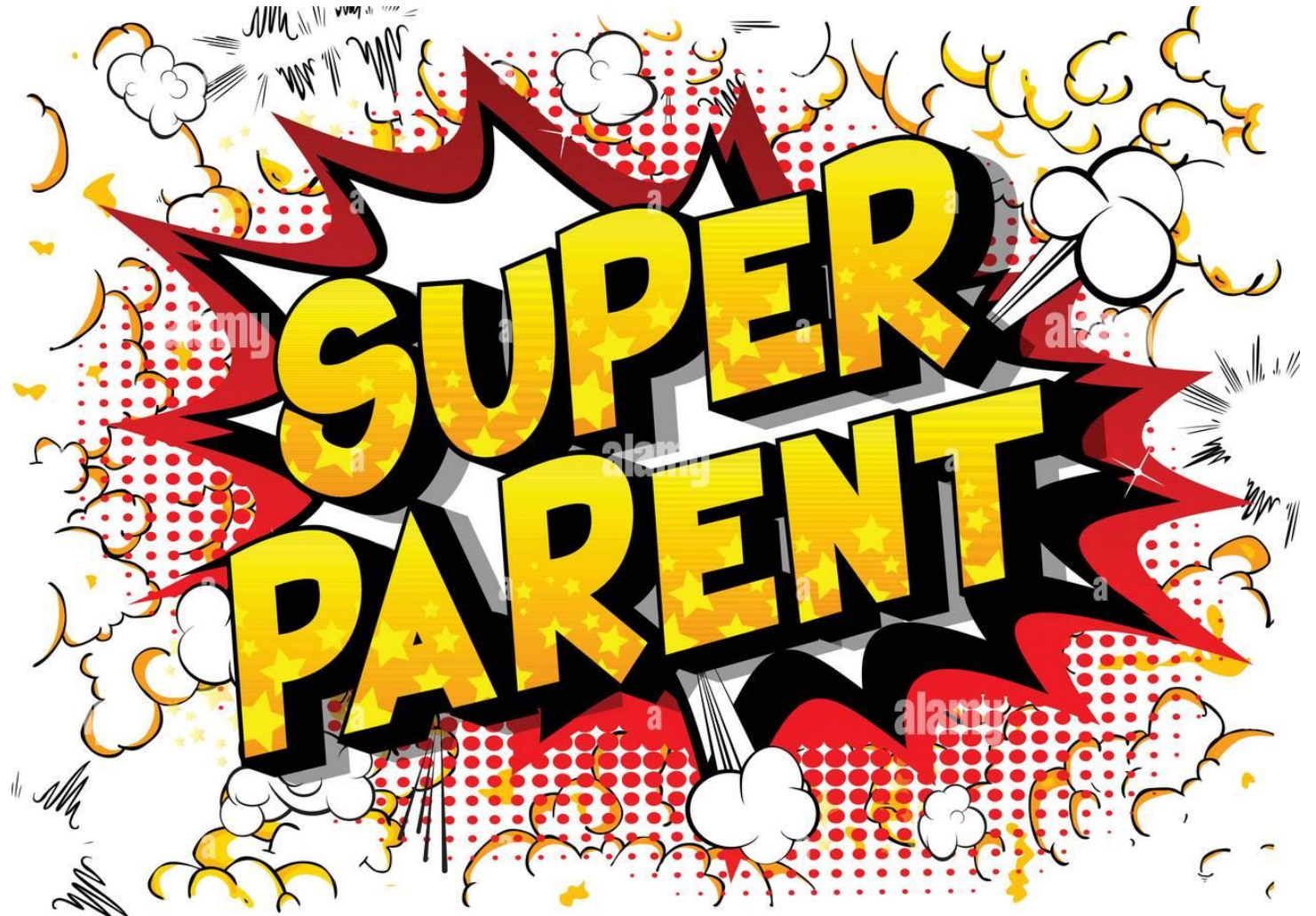
Isn't it the school's job to get them through the exams?

“Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child’s academic success than social class, according to a study in 2003. The campaign for learning found that parental involvement in a child’s education can mean the difference between A [Grade 9] and B [Grade 6] at GCSE”.*

(TES, 10 October 2003)

My role as a parent?

- Attendance officer
- Stationery shop
- Banker
- Study buddy
- Entertainments officer
- Sounding board and advisor
- Go between
- Organiser



GCSE Results 2024/25

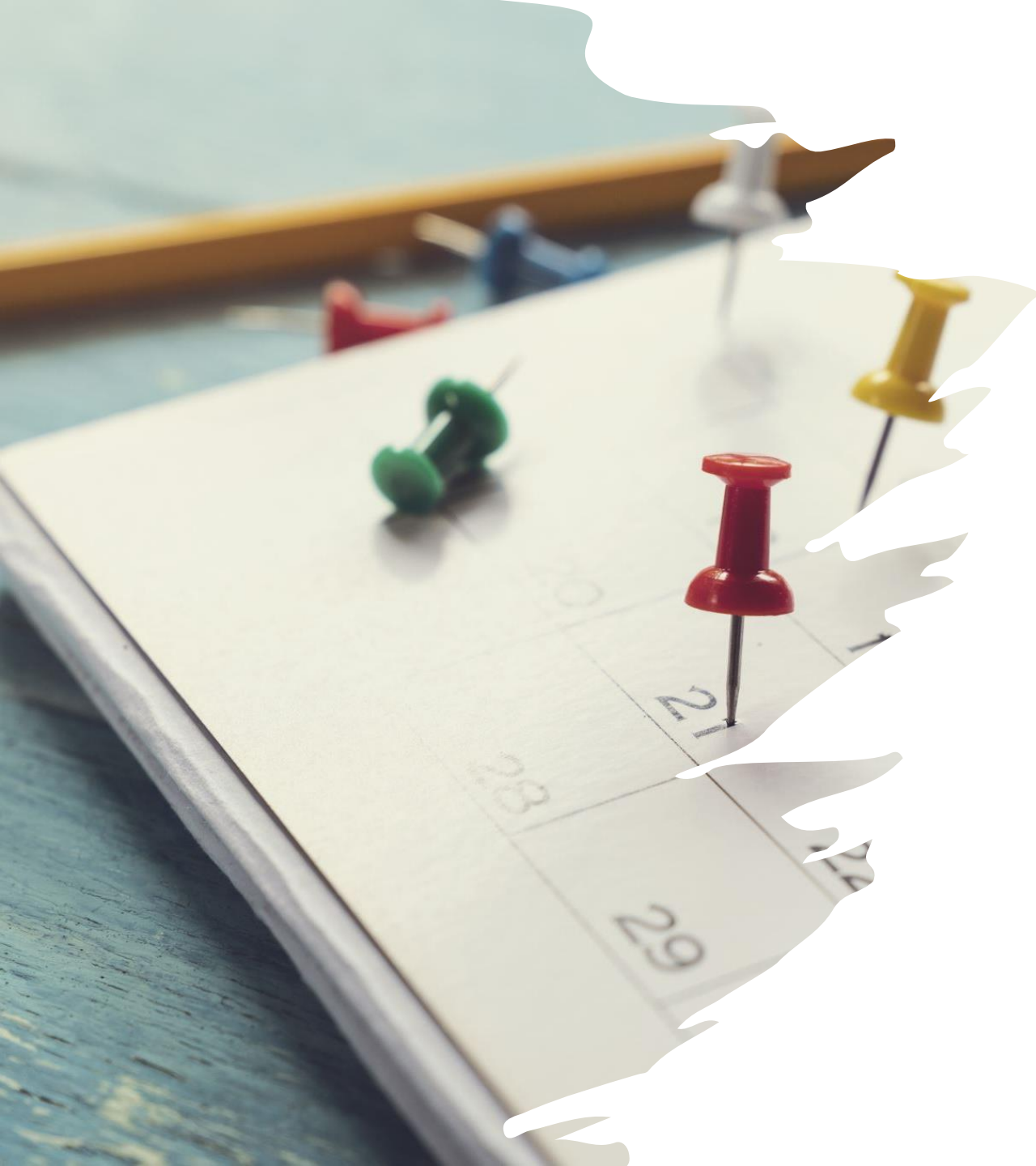
- 1 in 5 grades were awarded Level 9
- 20 Pupils collectively secured more than 200 top grades (8s and 9s)
- 68.8% Level 9-7
- 1262 grades level 7 or above



The Post-16 Process

Entry criteria for sixth form:

- 52 Points from his best 8 GCSEs
- E.g. 4 Level 7s and 4 Level 6s will be sufficient
- 5s in English and Maths
- 6 in subjects he wishes to study in Sixth Form



The Assessment Cycle for Year 10

- Data will be 'live' on Go4Schools.
- Live grade will represent a complete picture of data entered.
- Breakdown of different assessments shown.
- No more set times/dates for data to be entered/reports to be published

Key Questions for your son leading up to each Assessment



Does he have good study habits?



Study area organised?



Regular study times in the evenings/weekends?



Able to avoid distractions-phone, Internet...?



Good revision skills...?

With Courage and Determination...

...we can develop the habits that pave the
way for success

...we can face challenges with confidence
and strive for excellence



'Yeah, but do I really need to revise?
My test isn't for another 4 weeks.'

Hints and Tips on how your son can revise



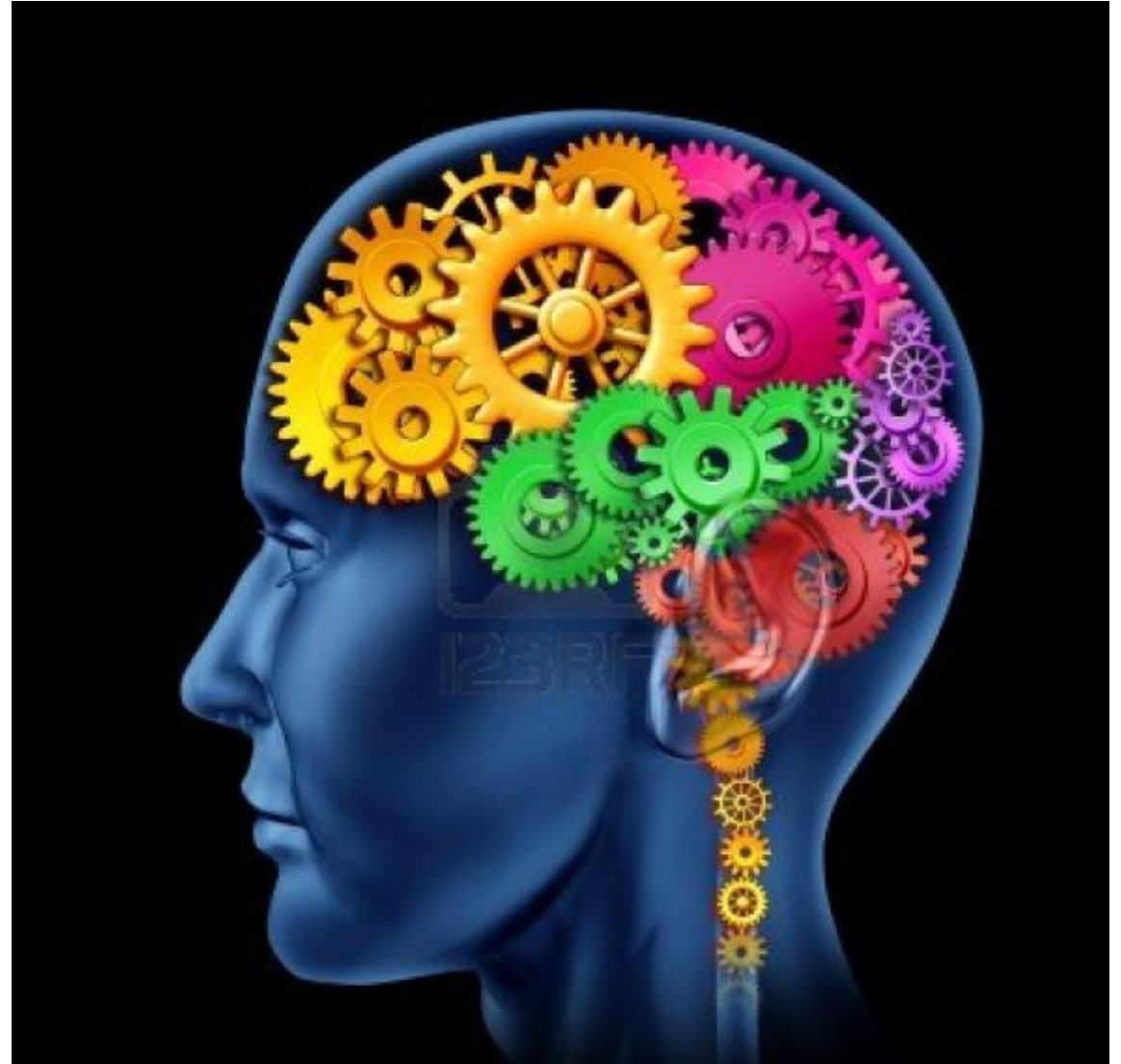


Misconceptions of Effective Study

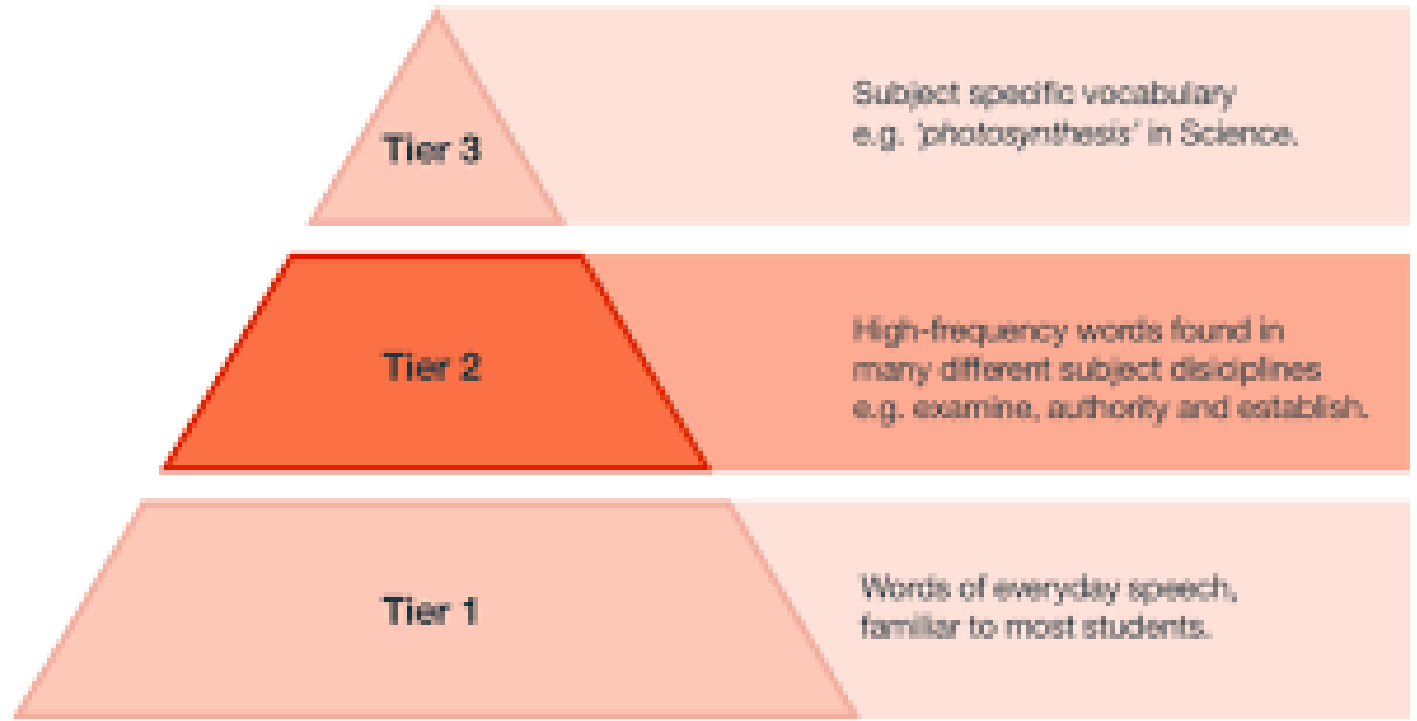
- Re-reading and highlighting
 - Long revision sessions
- Last minute revision (cramming)
- Re-writing revision notes in exactly the same format

What does learning/revision look like?

- Memory (Retention and Retrieval Practice)
- Subject-Specific Literacy



Subject Specific Literacy



- 'Vocabulary is one of the significant factors that proved relevant to children achieving an A* [current Grade 9/8] to C [current grade 5/4] grade in Mathematics, English Language and English Literature.'
Spencer et Al., 2017
- Can you talk/write like a specialist in your subject?



Subject-Specific Literacy

- Read key texts
- Create questions from notes and test yourself (or get ChatGPT to do it)
- Practise reciting topics orally
- Practise exam questions and writing FULL answers

Understanding

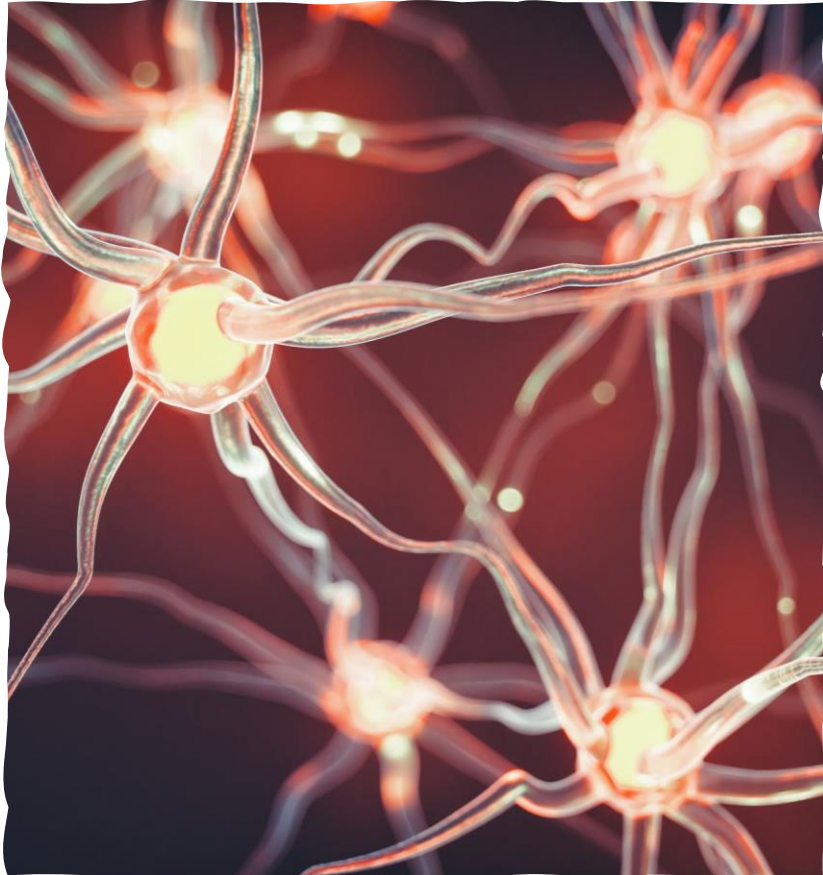
In order to revise a topic effectively, you must first make sure you really understand it.

- Complete homework
- Review feedback to class work and assessments
- Ask questions – speak to your teacher if you don't understand something in the first instance.

You should not be learning something for the first time when you are revising.

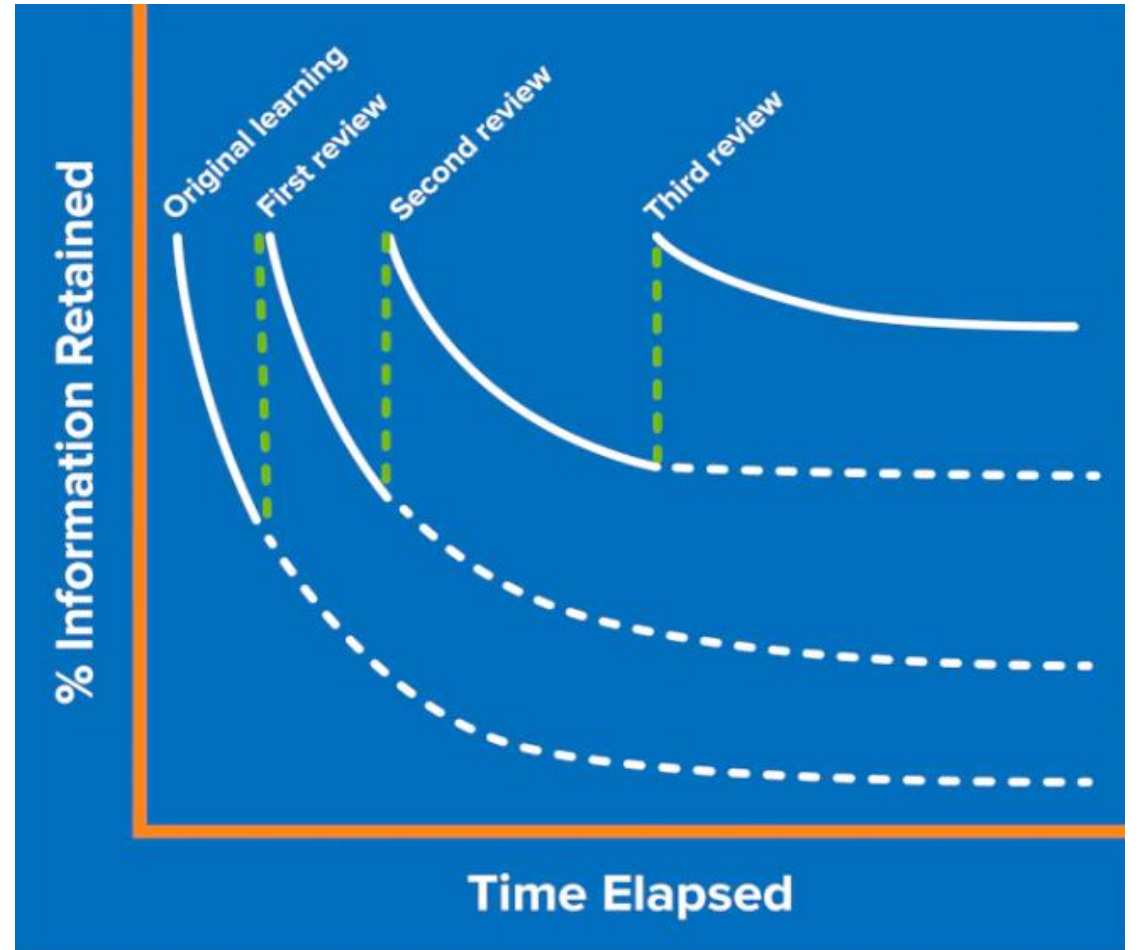
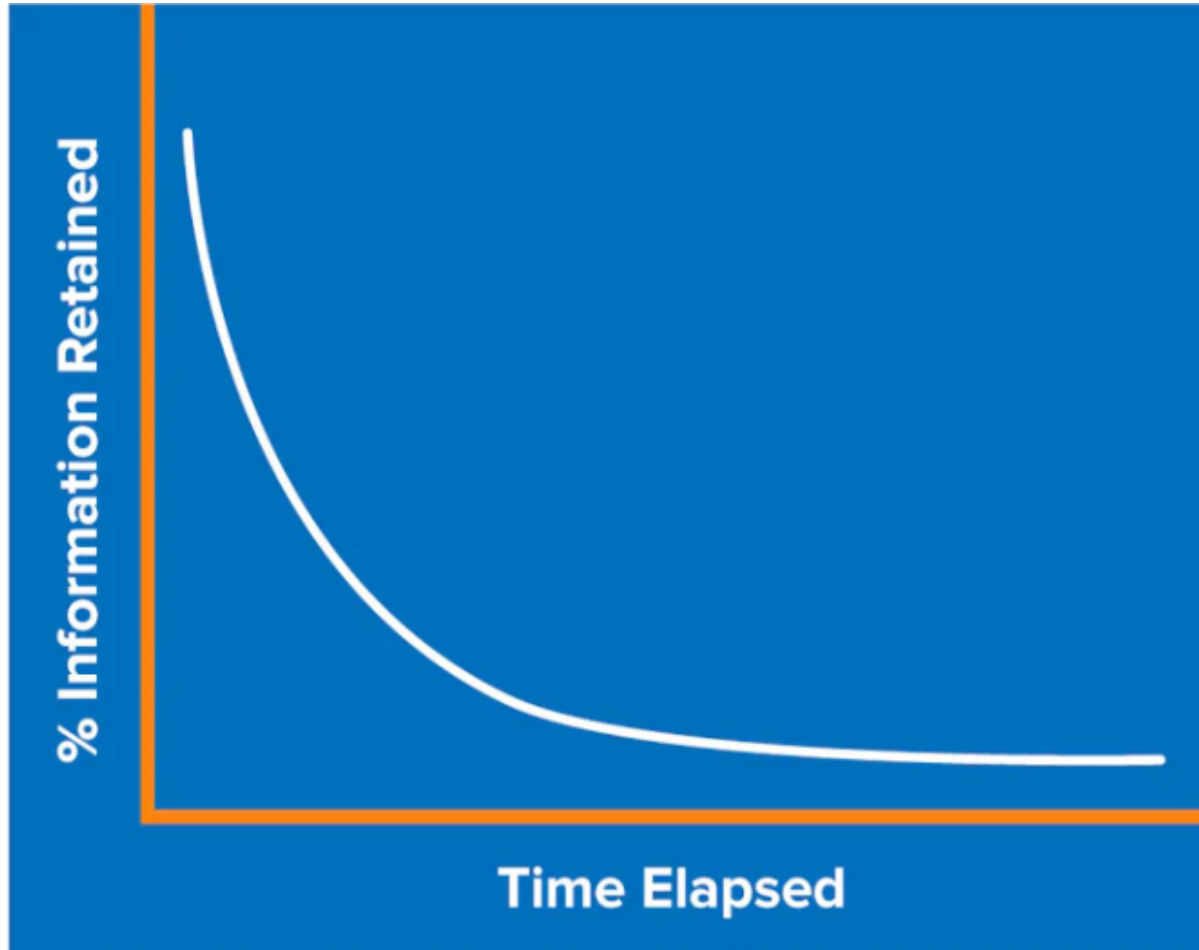


Reviewing



- Once you have learnt something, you can review and revise it. Each topic should be revised repeatedly, and at regular intervals.
- It involves testing and checking memorised work.
- The whole point of the review stage is to stop you from forgetting any of it!
- When we learn something, new linkages are formed between neurons in the brain. These connections are strengthened every time you think of what you have learned.
- However, if you do not use the connections from time to time, they will begin to fade.
- If you want to be able to recall information confidently on demand in an exam, you need to make sure those connections are strong.

Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve



When to review:

- How often should you review your work, and for how long?
- Little and often is the key to effective revision.
- Leaving all revision until May of Year 11 will make it so much more difficult – you will be re-learning work all over again.

Review	When?	For how long?
First review	10 minutes later	For about 10 mins
Second review	1 day later	For about 5 mins
Third review	1 week later	For about 2-3 mins
Fourth review	1 month later	For about 2-3 mins

What makes a good timetable?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.30-12.00	School	School	School	School	School	Football Practise	Lie in Reading Church
12.00-15.30	Orchestra School	Library School	PE club School	School	Mosque. School	RE, Drama and Geography	Science
15.30-17.00	English	PE club	Xbox	Art	Computing	Out with friends	Music
17.00-18.30	Homework	spare	Homework	spare	Homework	Homework	spare
18.30-19.00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
19.00-21.30	TV	Taekwondo	Maths	TV	Piano Lesson	History	Xbox

How to
review:
some
practical
strategies





Effective long term memory strategies



Brain dump – write all the information you can remember on a topic from memory – check it after against your notes



Answering questions aloud – verbalising your thought processes helps strengthen connections between information



Flashcards – key concepts on one side & diagram on the other. Then self quiz!



Graphic organisers

Graphic Organisers

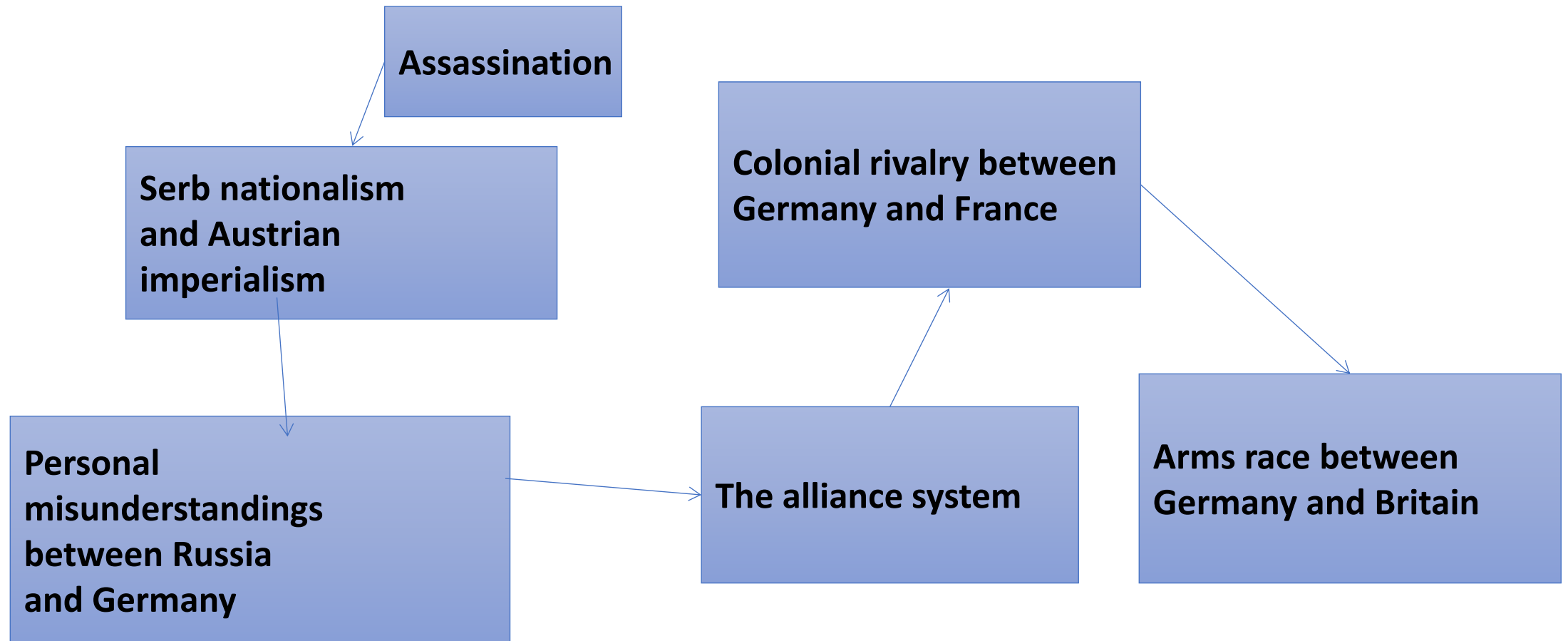
- Different ways to organise information for different effects:

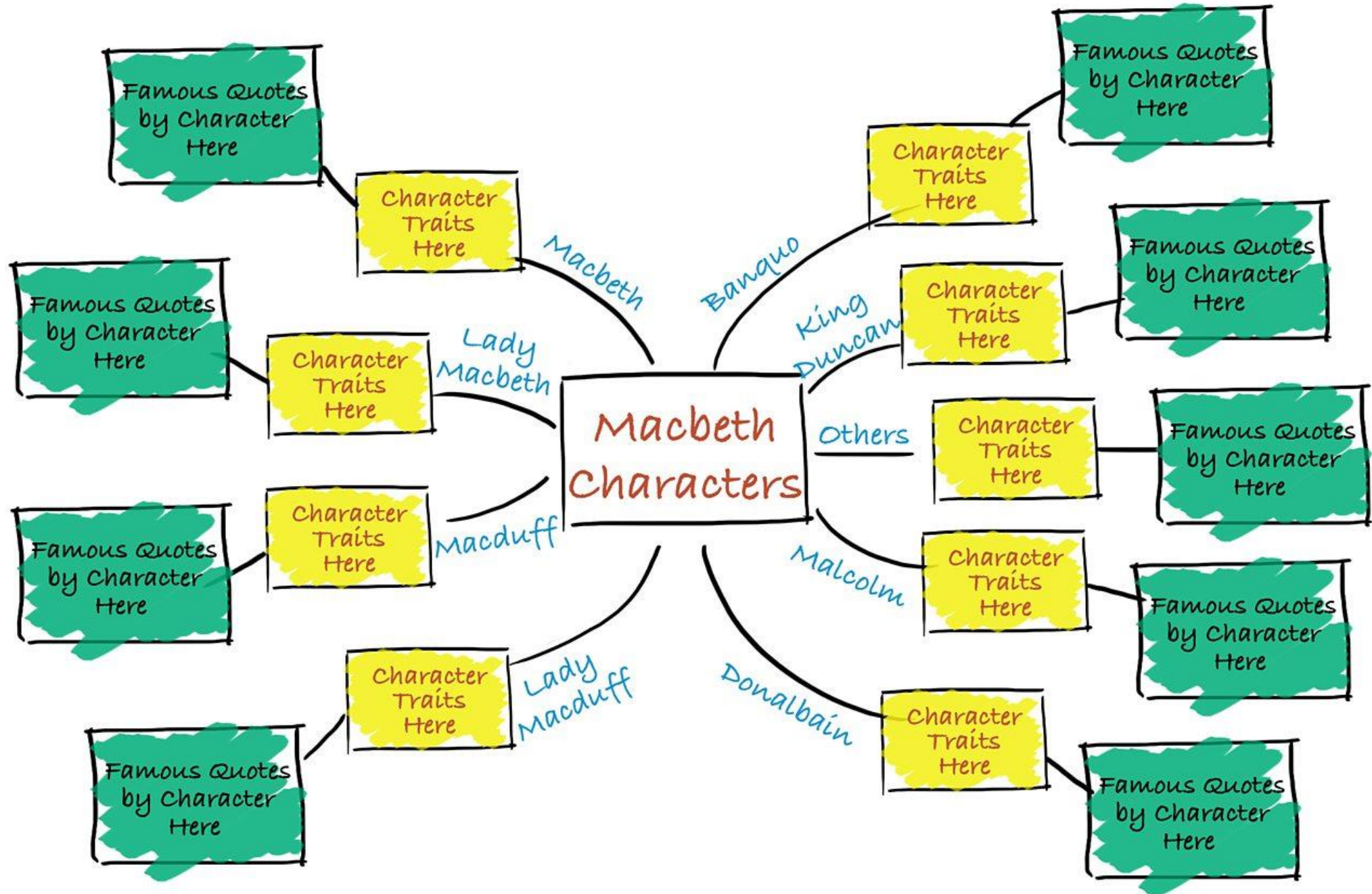
E.g.

- Tree diagrams – chunking
- Venn diagrams – comparison
- Flow charts – sequencing
- Relations diagram– cause and effect
- Mind maps/A-maps – links

An example of a graphic organiser:

1. Flow diagrams:





Quizzing and Past Papers

- One of the most effective ways of revising – you are not only practising recalling information, but also practising the skill of answering questions in the way you will need to in the exam.
- Compare your answers to the mark scheme and then focus your future revision on areas that you struggled with.
- Use tools such as Carousel, flash cards and past papers. You could use ChatGPT to give you feedback on longer answers, and talk to teachers if you are struggling with a particular area.
- 'Active' revision rather than 'passive.'



Other Strategies

- Mnemonics
- Write as much as you can from memory about a given topic
- Teach someone else about a topic
- Write down facts from last lesson/last week/last term/last year
- Matching definitions and key words

Spending time creating useful revision resources is beneficial – use them repeatedly and make your revision more engaging.

Revision should be active and effortful.

Dates for the Diary

Stubbers team building day – 13th
November

Deadline for payments – 23rd
September

