

YSGOL BRYN ALYN

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31st March 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we rapidly approach the Easter holidays, we wanted to write to you to ensure that you are aware of the support and resources that have been put in place to support Year 10 and 11 with their upcoming exams.

Classroom Resources:

Resources such as presentations, worksheets, links to YouTube videos etc are available for pupils to revise from. Mr Gordon and Mr Prebble have been trialling using Microsoft Teams and the Notebook function, while all other teachers have used Google Classroom. Whichever platform is used, the pupils have a large number of resources at their fingertips and can access these on any device that connects to the internet. Instructions for accessing both platforms can be found on the Online Learning section of the Ysgol Bryn Alyn website.

Past Exam Papers:

Years of experience has shown that one of the most effective revision methods is for pupils to test their knowledge using past exam papers and using the mark schemes to check their own answers. Pupils can ask their teachers for paper copies of questions, or they can access them online. All of the WJEC past papers and mark schemes are available from the WJEC Question Bank website (<https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/question-bank>) or from the Tanio website (<http://www.tanio.cymru>)

Knowledge Organisers:

The exam board have produced knowledge organisers for almost all of the topics. These are simple, one-two sided documents that summarise the key concepts that pupils need to revise. All pupils in Year 11 were given printed copies of these, but they are also available on Google Classroom / Microsoft Teams and on the Tanio website.

GCSEPod:

This is an online platform that the school have subscribed to, and all pupils have access to. The topics for all of the GCSE exams are broken down into short videos, that come with multiple choice questions. Pupils can also create their own "playlist" of videos, covering the topics they would like to recap. Pupils can log in using their Hwb email address and password which their Form Tutor can provide.

Seneca / Isaac Physics:

Seneca and Isaac Physics are two platforms that pupils can access for free. They will need to sign up for an account – we suggest using their Hwb email address. As these are separate from the school, staff cannot reset forgotten passwords, but pupils can click the link on the website should they forget a password.

Quizlet:

Quizlet is another platform that pupils can access for free. There is also a useful app that can be downloaded. Pupils can use Quizlet to make electronic flashcards to test their knowledge of terms and key concepts. They can also play games to try and beat their own scores. Pupils



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can search for topics or join the YBA Biology classes. If pupils do not have the code, they should see Mr Prebble.

Revision Sessions:

Staff have arranged additional revision sessions at the following times:

- Biology – with Mr Prebble – Tuesday after school
- Chemistry – with Mrs Ffoulkes – Monday after school
- Chemistry – with Miss Emberson – Thursday lunchtime and after school
- Physics – with Mr Holden – Friday after school
- Physics – with Mr Gordon – Friday lunchtime
- Business Studies – with Mrs Davies – Friday lunchtime
- ICT – with Mrs Davies – Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes and Thursday after school

Additional revision sessions over the Easter holidays will be posted on Google Classroom / Microsoft Teams so that pupils are aware.

Revision Guides:

The exam board have published revision guides specific to the WJEC exams. These are available online and from bookshops or can be bought for a reduced price from the Science Technician.

- My Revision Notes: WJEC GCSE Biology; approx. £10.50 online / £7 from school
- My Revision Notes: WJEC GCSE Chemistry; approx. £10.50 online / £7 from school
- My Revision Notes: WJEC GCSE Physics; approx. £10.50 online / £7 from school
- My Revision Notes: WJEC GCSE Science Double Award; approx. £15.00 online / £10 from school

How To Revise / Wellbeing Workshop:

Miss Emberson and Mr Prebble will be holding a “how to revise and look after yourself” workshop on Monday lunchtimes for pupils. This will look at revision techniques and how pupils can make the most of their revision, as well as taking care of their mental wellbeing in the run-up to the exams.

As subject teachers and Year 11 form tutors, we are very aware of how stressful this time of year can be for pupils. We have been encouraging pupils to begin revising early and to structure their time carefully and would ask you to echo that message. The resources described in this letter are only some of what is available. Revision is crucial for succeeding in the exams but using a range of tools and techniques is one way of ensuring that revision can be engaging and helps them to retain the information more effectively.

If you, or your son/daughter, has any questions about material covered in Year 11 and revision, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Gordon, Miss Emberson, Mr Prebble, Mrs Ffoulkes, Mr Holden, Miss Kipping & Mrs Davies
YBA Science and Technology Faculty