

Dear parents/carers,

As we begin another important year of GCSE study, I wanted to outline our expectations for homework, independent learning and revision, as well as highlight the support available to help your child achieve their full potential.

Your support at home plays a vital role in your child's success. By working together, we can help students develop the habits, routines and resilience needed to thrive during their GCSE courses.

Exam Boards and Revision Guides

Details of exam boards, with links to specifications and past papers are available here: [3755892AE84FCA897D552B9B7E9D00AA.xlsx](#)

This information is also available through our **Corsham Countdown** resources.

Homework Expectations

Homework is an important part of the learning process and helps students consolidate new knowledge, practise skills and prepare for future learning.

Key expectations are:

- A typical homework task should take approximately **45 minutes** to complete.
- Larger pieces of work may span more than one homework period.
- Homework will be set according to the KS4 homework timetable (attached).
- All homework will be recorded on **Class Charts**.
- Students should check Class Charts **daily**.
- Some tasks may be completed through platforms such as **Kerboodle, Sparx, Seneca** and other subject-specific resources.
- Homework should not routinely be due the next day, particularly during assessment, coursework and revision periods.
- Students are encouraged to plan their workload carefully across the week rather than leaving multiple tasks until one evening.

Homework is not optional. It forms an essential part of students' learning and progress.

Independent Learning and Revision

In addition to homework, students should regularly undertake independent study.

This may include:

- Reviewing and organising class notes
- Creating flashcards and knowledge organisers
- Producing mind maps
- Completing retrieval practice activities
- Attempting past paper questions
- Revisiting areas of weakness identified by teachers

Guidance on effective revision strategies can be found here: [How-We-Revise-At-The-Corsham-School..309086641.docx](#)

Students studying courses with non-examined assessment (NEA), coursework or portfolio elements may also need to complete tasks independently outside lesson time. Details will be available through Class Charts and subject teachers.

We also expect all students to read for **20 to 30 minutes each evening** to strengthen literacy, vocabulary and comprehension skills.

How Much Independent Work Should Students Be Doing?

As a guide, GCSE students should complete approximately **10 hours of independent study each week**, including homework, revision and reading. This commitment is likely to increase during assessment periods and the lead up to examinations.

We support students with planning and organisation in school, but parental support in helping establish routines and balance commitments is invaluable.

Assessments and PPEs (Mock Examinations)

Year 10 Assessments

Year 10 assessments will take place during Term 5, beginning the week commencing 17 May 2027, and will run for approximately two weeks.

Students will be supported through our Corsham Countdown programme, which provides subject-specific guidance and revision activities.

An example can be found here: [Yr10-Corsham-Countdown-English.388860365.docx](#)

Further information about Year 10 assessment preparation will be shared closer to the assessment period.

Year 11 PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations)

Year 11 PPEs will begin during the week commencing 16 November 2026, and will run for approximately two weeks.

While not every subject will examine during this period, we aim to replicate the experience of the final GCSE examination season as closely as possible. These assessments provide valuable information about students' strengths, areas for development and readiness for their final examinations.

Further details regarding revision support, intervention opportunities and ways parents can help at home will be shared ahead of the PPE period.

Monitoring Progress

We have received valuable feedback from parents regarding our reporting system.

In response, we have invested in new progress-tracking software that will provide more detailed information about student performance. Reports will be more closely aligned with:

GCSE grade boundaries

Examination board requirements

Component weightings

We are currently implementing this system and will provide further information before the first report is issued to help you interpret and use the information effectively.

Getting Specific Feedback

If you have concerns, would like to share information, or would like advice about how best to support your child, please contact the relevant subject teacher directly.

A list of staff email addresses can be found here: [Staff list - The Corsham School](#)

Parents' Evenings

Year 11 Parents' Evening: 8 October 2026

Year 10 Parents' Evening: 15 April 2027

These events provide an important opportunity to discuss progress, ask questions and agree next steps with teaching staff.

Further Support

We regularly update our GCSE support page with guidance, revision resources and strategies for supporting students at home: [GCSE support - The Corsham School](#)

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can help every student develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to achieve success in their GCSE examinations.

Yours sincerely,

Rebekah Bartlett

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