



Report on the Intervention Strategies used 2017-2018

As a school we have put in a lot of effort with Year 11 this year to get them as ready as possible for their GCSE exams. We used a variety of strategies designed to improve their GCSE results so that they could truly be the 'authors of their own life story...'

In total we used thirteen different strategies with the year 11 and here's what they told us they liked.

The strategies were...

Intervention	Rank Order Number
Revision Guides	2
Textbooks provided by the school	1
Low Stakes Tests at the beginning of lessons	5
WTMs	9
GCSE Homework questions	6
Lesson 3 lessons before the exam	4
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Revision Guides and Textbooks provided by the School

This year we provided all Year 11 pupils with copies of their core subject textbook and any associated revision guides. Pupils really valued these and rated this strategy the highest as the textbooks and revision guides have all they need to know in one place and means they can revise thoroughly. This also helps with teacher workload and planning so we like them as well.

Exam Pre-lessons

Before each exam the subject teachers would deliver a short pre-lesson going over the main areas of that specific paper and reminding pupils of what was expected in the exam so they can be as successful as possible. Teachers could go over the exam technique needed for the paper and make sure pupils were properly prepared answering any questions and addressing any worries meaning pupils would be as calm as possible going into that exam.

Lesson 3 before the exam

As a school we re-organised the Year 11 timetable so that when pupils had a specific exam the lesson immediately before that exam would be on that subject. For example this meant that if pupils had an English Language exam in the afternoon, lesson 3 before that exam would be spent with their English teacher going over key elements of that specific exam paper. Again this meant pupils felt prepared and helped them be calm and confident before going into the exam.

Low Stakes Tests at the beginning of lessons

At the start of every Year 11 lesson pupils were given a Low Stakes test on the knowledge they would need to know to be successful in the exam. This meant that pupils would over time develop a thorough knowledge of the subject content and be continually revising in a sensible and organised manner.

GCSE Homework questions

Each week in each subject we set a GCSE question for homework. The more GCSE questions pupils do the better they get at them improving their grades. This supports the well-established idea of 'practise makes perfect!'

Holiday Intervention Sessions

Each half term and at Easter subject teachers came in and worked with targeted groups of Year 11 pupils to improve their knowledge and understanding in that subject making sure they were properly prepared for their GCSE exams.

Maths PPE1 Drop Down Day

On one of our Drop Down Days all year 11 had an opportunity to go through their Maths exam papers from their first PPE (Pre-Public Exam) with a Maths teacher. At this meeting they received personalised feedback and practical strategies which they would use in the future to improve their Maths grade.

WTMs (Walking Talking Mocks)

Individual subjects went through an actual GCSE exam paper with the Year 11 pupils in the Assembly Hall or Sports Hall. The Head of Department or designated lead teacher worked through each question in that exam paper giving expert tips and strategies on how to answer the question in the actual time pupils would have in the real exam. This developed the pupil's expertise and confidence in these exams.

Pet-xi Drop Down Day

We invited an outside educational organisation Pet-xi who work with year 11 pupils throughout the country to work with our Year 11 pupils on one of our Drop Down Days. This company worked with pupils in Computer Science, History, Geography, History and MFL to improve their knowledge, exam skills and confidence in the exam.

Revision Skills Drop Down Day

On one of our Drop Down Days staff worked with Year 11 going over the different revision strategies we use with the Year pupils. Pupils then had the time and support to create their own revision materials using these strategies.

Revision Skills booklet and resources

Year 11 pupils and parents were given a practical revision guide to help them prepare for their GCSE exams. This guide gave practical tips and strategies to both parents and pupils on how to prepare and cope with the GCSE exams. Departments also issued bespoke subject specific revision resources before the PPEs and GCSE exams to help pupils prepare for their exams.

Strive for 5 PiXL conferences

Targeted Year 11 pupils were taken to subject conferences in Maths English and French run by the educational organisation PiXL. At these conferences teachers and experts in the exam went over key knowledge and skills that pupils needed to know in order to be successful in that subject.