



Top tips to take away



Create knowledge organisers

These can be colourful mindmaps, sets of flash cards or simply a top tips list but they will be essential at helping you when you come to revision and to help you with recall of key ideas.

Create glossaries

It is important to build subject specific language to help you find out more about a topic and to try about your subjects in a more specific way. Creating a glossary or A to Z of keywords and definitions is a really helpful activity.

Read through your notes

Don't wait till the night before a test to revise. Find ten minutes on the day of the lesson to look over your classwork for the day. Being reflective will allow you to spot areas that you need to work on or questions you have for your teacher.

Practise, practise, practise

If at first you don't succeed ... Knowledge and skill development depend on practise. It is important to apply what you have found out in lessons to help identify what you know/what you can do and what you still need to work on.

Challenge A,B,C tasks or Nandos spice menu.

Don't always go for the easiest option – challenge yourself to do more and push to higher challenges. Aim for a higher challenge or extension task at least once a week.

Read a newspaper

Once a week read a high quality newspaper. Try and make connections between the work you are doing in class and the real world. If you find a good article bring it in for your teacher to share with the rest of the class.

GRADES

Well presented notes are much easier to learn from than messy notes. Remember PRIDE, PRESENTATION and PROGRESS are essential across all subjects.

Three before me or Brain, book, buddy, boss

Get yourself unstuck by thinking, then using your book, then asking a friend – don't just ask your teacher straightaway. Getting yourself unstuck is way more rewarding.

Develop examination technique

Your teachers will be ready to give you lots of subject specific examination technique but across all subjects remember:
Read – the question carefully highlight command and focus words
Plan – a few bullet points before you start on an extended answer
Scan – check through your answer once complete.

Get involved

In lessons, in extra curricular activities and in school community events. The saying 'the more you put in the more you get out' is very true! Don't wait for the answers to come to you – be proactive and find them for yourself!

We learn from our mistakes.

Don't be tough on yourself if you get something wrong, we learn from our mistakes so don't be afraid to give things a go. Research shows that we learn from our mistakes and by identifying what we did wrong the first time we can actually improve our knowledge/skills on future attempts.

Organisation is key

Pack your bag the night before and check SMHW to make sure you are ready for learning the next day. A lack of your book could lead to a gap in your notes which will mean a gap in your knowledge.

Seneca Learning

This is a really helpful website for GCSE pupils but pupils in KS3 can also look at it if they want to scale up. Seneca has whole GCSE courses mapped out with articles, video clips and practice questions. Make sure you know the GCSE specifications you are following and get signed up.

Be good to yourself

When you are stressed your body produces a hormone called cortisol and this makes it really difficult to retain information and learn. Make sure you take care of yourself and if you feel yourself getting stressed talk to someone. Being prepared will help you to not be scared.

Ask questions

Why, why, why? Be inquisitive and ask questions. We learn by exploration and questions are a key way to do this. To have a deep understanding of a topic we really need to unpack so challenge your teachers and classmates with big questions!

Grasp opportunities

Pupils at CDPS are offered amazing opportunities by their amazing teachers. Don't be the pupil that sits back and thinks they can't get involved – grasp opportunities – whether it is in lessons, in extra curricular activities or helping in the school community.

Read, read, read!

During your time at school you will be exposed to thousands and thousands of words. These words will be essential in developing your knowledge and understanding. You need to build your vocabulary bank up to the millions and this is achieved through reading!

Mental maths

Remember that percent (%) means 'out of one hundred'.

A survey (with Year 11 said) ...

Start revision early and don't leave it all too late because it will just stress you out. Attend as many revision sessions as you can.

A survey (with Year 11 said) ...

Make your book your learning start zone and build revision around it. Also for revision I would strongly recommend using the revision clocks too! Good luck!

Eat breakfast

Like the Snickers advert says ' you are not yourself when you are hungry'. Breakfast is essential to help you get through a morning of classes, if you are hungry you will find it very difficult to concentrate and this will stop you from developing key knowledge and skills.

Attendance is key

All evidence shows that there is a strong correlation (link) between pupil attendance at school and exam success. If your attendance drops below 90% that means you are missing out on 10% of lessons and this would be the difference between achieving a grade 7 and grade 9.

Growth mindset

I can't do ityet! Education is all about learning and developing. No one expects you to be able to have all the knowledge and skills from day one but you can have a growth mindset and a can do attitude – this will lead to future success.

Listen

This is a key skill in school. Listen to your teachers, listen to pastoral staff and listen to class mates. Communication is not just about talking, you also have to listen effectively. Good listening equals good learning.

Resilience



Resourcefulness



Reflectiveness



Reciprocity

