

With Study Leave looming, I am asking for your support in helping your son/daughter to revise for their GCSE examinations in English. The website has recently been updated with a revision guide tailored for the Higher and Foundation tiers. The guides look at what will be covered in each examination paper for English Language and Literature and focus on a number of activities. These have been carefully selected to build upon and develop the skills and understanding, which have been acquired throughout Key Stage 4.

In addition to these guides, there are a number of websites that offer useful tips and ideas to aid the revision programme. I have listed just a few below should anyone wish to try them.

I would urge all parents to look at the revision guides on the website. A number of the revision tips are useful in preparing for examinations across the curriculum and parental support can be key in maintaining motivation throughout study leave. It would also be useful if you could encourage your son/daughter to read as much as possible before the English Paper 1 ~ *'Media and Non-fiction'*. They could be faced with a variety of text types ranging from Newspapers and magazine articles to web sites and information leaflets. The more widely read they become, the easier it is for students to differentiate fact from fiction and to evaluate the ways in which writers use language. A simple, but effective, task is to ask your son/daughter to summarise articles from the newspaper. This encourages them to focus on meaning and helps them in selecting the key points of a text.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish your son/daughter the very best of luck for their forthcoming examinations,

Yours sincerely,

Ms M L Kelly

Curriculum leader for English

## Useful revision sites for English

**Andrew Moore's resource site** ~ a comprehensive revision site that offers help with all aspects of English and English Literature [www.universalteacher.org.uk/](http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/)

**GCSE English** ~ a very valuable source of **revision** activities and ideas to help improve your **GCSE English** Grade.  
[www.schoolshistory.org.uk/english.htm](http://www.schoolshistory.org.uk/english.htm)

**GCSE.com** ~ Award-winning tutorials, tips and advice on **GCSE English** for students, parents and teachers.  
[www.gcse.com/english/](http://www.gcse.com/english/)

**BBC - GCSE Bite size** ~ A secondary revision resource for GCSE exams  
[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/)

**Learn.co.uk** ~ A fine revision site, run by the excellent Guardian newspaper; it offers help with all aspects of both English and English Literature GCSEs. It is especially suited to the more able student.

**Converse ~ the literature site** ~ Innovative, stimulating and fun resources for GCSE and A-level English, designed through collaboration between teachers, pupils and Cambridge University English Faculty. Resources include articles and interactive games <http://aspirations.english.cam.ac.uk/converse/home.acds>

***NB: an excellent book for revision is the Collins Active Revision GCSE English guide which comes with an exciting CD ROM containing interactive test questions, revision planners and study skills (ISBN 0-00-717542-6 £7.99)***