



Getting Ahead from the start of VI Form

It will become apparent very quickly that there is a lot to learn across your two years in the Sixth Form (JM6) so it is good to get organised and on top of workload from the start of Year 12. It won't be long before you are looking at all your work and wishing there was an easy way to revise for your tests and predictor exams. So, let's get ahead of the game!

Independent Study & Revision

NOTE-TAKING

Cornell Note Taking – The Best Way To Take Notes Explained

Cornell notes are one of the best note-taking methods, and for good reason. Here's why and how you can take Cornell notes.

Birmingham University (amongst others) have compiled some of the **best revision techniques** to help you keep on top of your work so that you can ace your exams, and we have added some **tried and tested resources for note-taking**. Getting the best note-taking method nailed early on is really important as it will help you so much with recalling your learning.

Note-taking

There are plenty of different ways to take notes depending on your learning style.

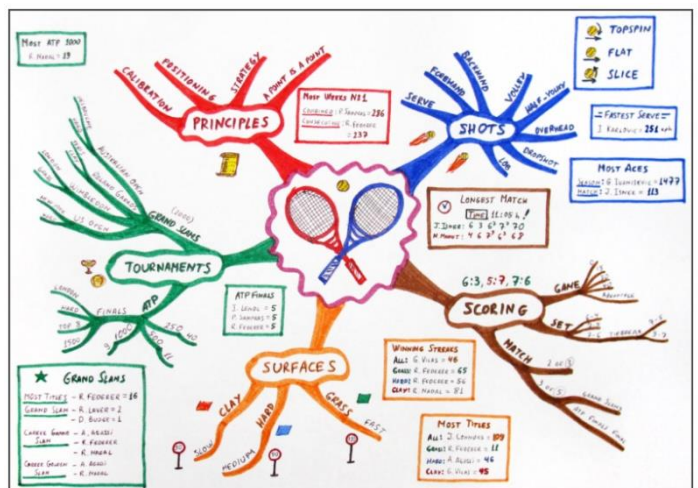
JM6's preferred method of note-taking is [the Cornell Method](#). There is also a very short [Reason for Good Notetaking video](#) explaining very simply how it works.

JM6 has created a little exercise to help you with this. This has been saved in the **VI Form Folder/Study Skills Info for Students \ Cornell Note-taking** subfolder and will be used at Taster and Transition Days.

Mind-mapping

Those of you who are visual learners may prefer to create MindMaps. While traditional note-taking is a simple way to recap what you just learned, mind mapping can revolutionize the way you gather summarize, and explore information.

A mind map is a visual representation of information and ideas, typically organized around a central topic, that uses branches and sub-branches to capture relationships and facilitate brainstorming, planning, and learning.



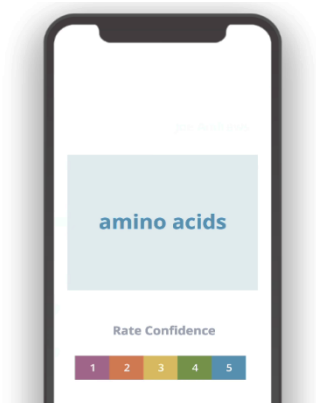
The best apps for revision (according to Birmingham University) NB, free versions are limited – you may prefer to develop your own system

Are you always getting distracted by your phone when you're trying to revise? Use it to your advantage and download some of these handy apps that make your phone a revision tool instead of a distraction.

Quizlet is a great way to make sure all your revision is at your fingertips, as you can pop your notes onto digital revision cards within the app.

Once you've uploaded your flashcards, you can use them to play different games and test yourself in lots of different ways, so it's perfect for keeping revision interesting.

Brainscape - is a web and mobile study application designed to improve the retention of declarative knowledge. It complements the well-known benefits of spaced repetition with additional features that improve learner motivation, reduce the burden of planning study sessions, and deepen the level of cognitive processing. We have some current Year 12s using this – why not ask for a demo.



Anki takes flashcards to the next level. This app uses advanced techniques to space out your studying, helping you remember things for longer.

You can create advanced flashcards that adapt to your learning style for maximised memorisation.

Seneca has lots of content pre-loaded into the app, so you don't even have to spend time uploading it yourself! You can complete quizzes, word fills and games whilst being rewarded for the number of tasks you complete.

Evernote - allows you to compile all your notes into one place. You can take pictures of handwritten notes, scribbles on a post-it note and your teacher's whiteboard and turn them into digital documents. You can then edit these documents to turn them into useful revision notes.

Get organised



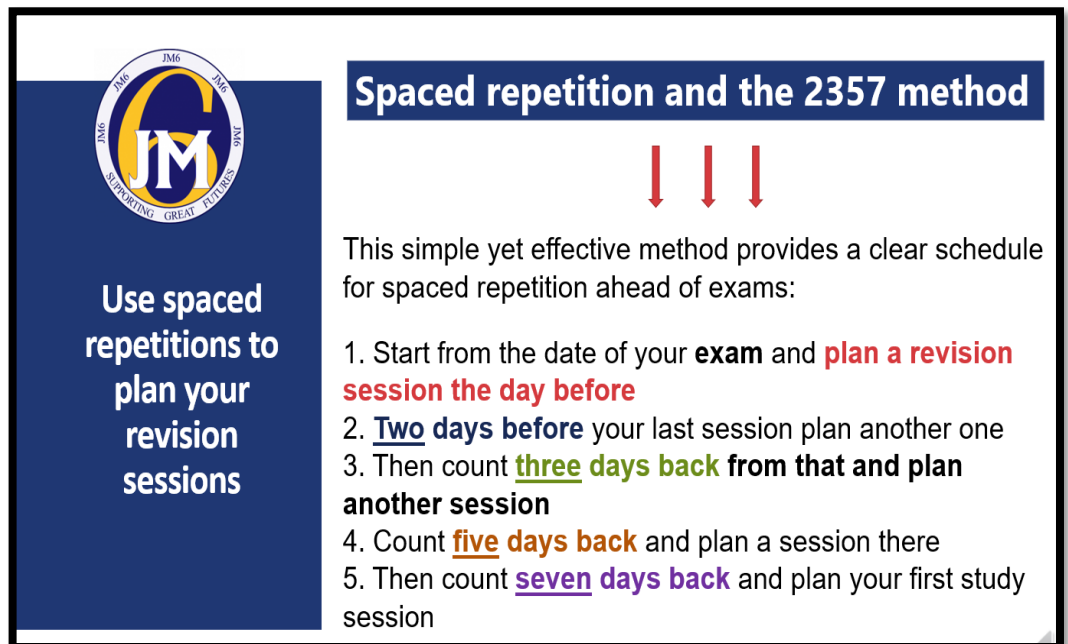
Having a revision timetable and prioritising certain subjects is key to exam success.

Time Tree is a calendar app that's a handy visual aid to see which tasks you need to complete each day and when you have a deadline coming up. You can colour code each subject or task, create notes and set yourself reminders.

Spaced repetition and the 2357 method

This slide relates to creating a revision timetable for exams and tests, but you can just as easily use this after lessons to embed your learning in your independent and supervised study sessions.

- I.E. You go to a lesson, the next study session you **Review** your notes;
- two days later you can revisit this and **Refine** your notes;
- on days 3 and 5 you can do the same further along the topic and



The slide features a logo on the left with the letters 'JM' and the motto 'SUPPORTING GREAT FUTURES'. The main title is 'Spaced repetition and the 2357 method'. Below the title are three red arrows pointing downwards. The text explains that this method provides a clear schedule for spaced repetition ahead of exams. The steps are: 1. Start from the date of your exam and plan a revision session the day before. 2. Two days before your last session plan another one. 3. Then count three days back from that and plan another session. 4. Count five days back and plan a session there. 5. Then count seven days back and plan your first study session.

- on day seven **Reflect** on what you have learned. This will really help the knowledge sink in and will set you up for when it's time to revise for exams! Win, win!!



Stay on track

Forest is designed to keep you off your phone and focus on revision. You can plant a tree which will only grow if you leave your phone alone for a set period of time. If you go on your phone, the tree dies. It's surprising how motivating it can be to see your forest grow as a result of your hard work! Again, we have current Year 12s who use this app so could demo this for you when you joint the VI Form.

Look after yourself

Calm or **Headspace** - If you're feeling anxious about your exams or need help switching off from revision, these apps can help. They have a range of mindfulness and meditation techniques that can ease anxiety and help you sleep or relax.

Some helpful links:

- [Discover the best revision techniques](#) (including links for those with [ADHD](#) and [Dyslexia](#))
- [Find your revision style](#)
- [Check out the best revision apps and websites](#)
- [Learn how to manage exam stress and stay calm](#)