

West Heath School

KS3 Revision Guide



**'Success is the sum of all small efforts repeated
day in and day out'**

KS3 Summer Revision & Activities Booklet

This booklet has been created to help you keep your skills active over the summer holiday. Inside, you will find a range of revision activities, creative challenges and project ideas linked to your KS3 subjects. These activities are designed to be fun, engaging and a great way to prepare for the new school year.

Please remember that all of the activities in this booklet are completely optional. There is no expectation for you to complete every task, and you will not be assessed on the work. Instead, think of this booklet as a collection of opportunities to practise skills, explore your interests and challenge yourself in areas you enjoy.

You may choose to:

- Complete a few activities that interest you.
- Spend time on one larger project.
- Dip into the booklet whenever you have some free time.
- Work independently or with friends and family.

The most important thing is that you enjoy your summer and take time to relax. If you do decide to complete any of the activities, we would love to see your work in September. Whether it is a piece of artwork, a PowerPoint presentation, a recipe you have created or a revision task, every effort is something to be proud of.

Remember:

- Try your best.
- Be creative.
- Have fun.
- Challenge yourself.
- Don't worry about making mistakes—they are part of learning!

Even spending just a few minutes on an activity can help build your confidence and prepare you for next year. Every page completed, every skill practised and every challenge attempted is a step towards becoming the best version of yourself.

Have a fantastic summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

Good luck, stay curious, and enjoy the challenges! 🌞📚🎨💻🍰🎵

English Revision Guidance



1. Read a little every day

This is the single biggest improvement strategy.

- Mix fiction and non-fiction (stories, articles, biographies).
- After reading, write **three bullet points**:
 - What happened?
 - What was interesting?
 - What did the writer want you to think or feel? This builds comprehension and inference — the heart of KS3 reading.

2. Practise short writing bursts

You don't need to write long essays every time. Try:

- 5-minute descriptions
- 10-minute story openings
- One paragraph explaining a character's feelings Focus on:
- Clear sentences
- Strong verbs

- A range of vocabulary
-

3. Learn the PEE paragraph structure/ What How Why paragraph

This is the backbone of KS3 analysis.

WHY Structure Reminder

- **What** → What does the writer do? Make your argument.
- **How** → How does the writer do this? Use a quotation or example.
- **Why** → Why do they do it? Explain the evidence and how it makes the writer feel/ think/ what they imagine...

A simple formula is:

What: The writer shows...

How: This is shown when/ by the use of

Why: The writer does this/ uses this technique because... Therefore...

Model Answers:

Example 1

What: The writer creates a sense of excitement.

How: Using the phrase that the runner "raced towards the finish line."

Why: The writer uses the verb "raced" to suggest speed and urgency. This makes the reader feel the excitement of the moment and shows how determined the runner is to win.

Example 2: Language Analysis

What: The writer creates a frightening atmosphere.

How: This is shown when the forest is described as "dark, twisted, and silent."

Why: The use of the adjectives "dark" and "twisted" suggest danger and mystery, while "silent" makes the setting seem unnatural and unsettling. This encourages the reader to feel nervous about what might happen next.

Example 3: A Christmas Carol

What: Dickens presents Scrooge as a selfish character at the beginning of the novella.

How: This is shown when Scrooge is described as "hard and sharp as flint."

Why: The writer uses this simile to compare Scrooge to a hard stone, suggesting that he is cold-hearted and unwilling to show kindness to others.

This structure is used across Years 7–9 and leads directly into GCSE.

4. Build vocabulary deliberately

- Keep a list of new words from reading.
 - Write your own sentence using each word.
 - Use a dictionary to check meaning. Vocabulary growth = better reading + better writing.
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5. Learn the descriptive Writing features

S – Senses

Using sight, sound, touch, taste, smell. Example: *The warm sand crumbled between my toes as the salty breeze brushed my face.*

P – Personification

Giving human qualities to non-human things. Example: *The wind whispered secrets through the trees.*

A – Alliteration

Repeating initial consonant sounds. Example: *The slippery, shimmering sea stretched into the sunset.*

M – Metaphors

A direct comparison. Example: *Her voice was honey, warm and soothing.*

R – Repetition

Repeating words or phrases for emphasis. Example: *He waited and waited, but nothing changed.*

O – Onomatopoeia

Sound-effect words. Example: *The fire crackled and popped in the quiet night.*

S – Similes

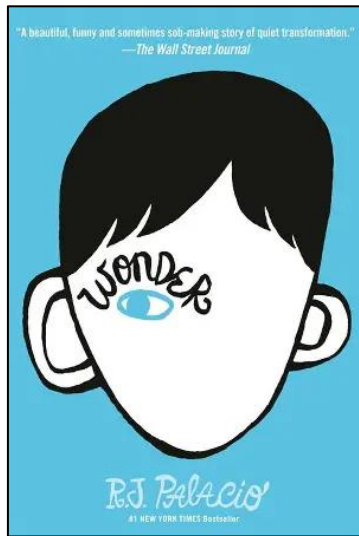
Comparisons using *like* or *as*. Example: *The water sparkled like scattered diamonds.*

5. Use high-quality free resources

- **BBC Bitesize KS3 English**- videos, quizzes, explanations.
 - **Oak National Academy KS3 English**- full lessons with worksheets.
 - **Use your Doodle English and your Audio Subscription provided by the School.**
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Suggested Reading List

Year 7 – Character Fiction



☐ **Out of My Mind – Sharon M. Draper**

- About a girl with cerebral palsy who is much smarter than people realise.
- Themes: resilience, friendship, acceptance.
- Challenge level: ★ ★ ★

☐ **Fish in a Tree – Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

- A girl struggles at school because of undiagnosed dyslexia.
- Themes: self-belief, friendship, overcoming challenges.
- Challenge level: ★ ★ ★

☐ **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas – John Boyne**

- A young boy called Bruno forms an unlikely friendship with a boy named Shmuel on the other side of a fence.
- **Themes:** friendship, innocence, prejudice, family, war.
- **Challenge level:** ★ ★ ★

☐ **Goodnight Mister Tom – Michelle Magorian**

- A lonely evacuee named Willie is sent to live with an elderly man during World War II.

- An unexpected friendship changes both their lives.
- **Themes:** friendship, healing, family, kindness.
- **Features:** emotional storytelling, character development, historical setting.
- **Challenge level:** ★ ★ ★ ★

Year 8 - Gothic Fiction (Term 1)



- ☐ **Coraline** – Neil Gaiman
 - A creepy adventure with a dark, mysterious "other mother."
 - Gothic features: suspense, fear, supernatural elements.
- ☐ **The Graveyard Book** – Neil Gaiman
 - A boy is raised by ghosts in a graveyard.
 - Gothic features: death, ghosts, mysterious settings.
- ☐ **Frankenstein** – Mary Shelley
 - A scientist creates a living creature.
 - Themes: ambition, responsibility, isolation.
 - Gothic features: horror, storms, loneliness, the supernatural.
- ☐ **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children** – Ransom Riggs
 - Gothic imagery through eerie vintage photographs, unsettling children, and abandoned spaces.

- Mystery and suspense as Jacob uncovers secrets about the orphanage and its strange residents.
- Supernatural elements including time loops, monsters, and children with uncanny abilities.

□ **The Haunting of Aveline Jones – Phil Hickey**

- Spooky settings such as stormy coastlines, creepy bookshops, and haunted houses.
- Folklore and ghostly legends woven into the plot to build tension and atmosphere.
- Accessible Gothic perfect for KS3 readers- eerie but not overwhelming, with clear emotional stakes.

□ **The Night Circus – Erin Morgenstern**

- Atmospheric world-building with a magical, monochrome circus that appears only at night.
- Mystery and enchantment as characters uncover hidden rules, rivalries, and illusions.
- Gothic vibes through darkness, secrecy, and dreamlike imagery — without horror.

□ **The Book Thief – Markus Zusak**

- Death as narrator gives the story a Gothic tone, blending darkness with empathy and reflection.
- War-torn setting creates tension, fear, and isolation — key Gothic moods.
- Themes of mortality and humanity

□ **Frankenstein – Mary Shelley**

- A scientist creates a living creature.
- Themes: ambition, responsibility, isolation.
- Gothic features: horror, storms, loneliness, the supernatural.

Year 9- Mystery Novels/ Detective Fiction (Term 2)



☐ **Murder Most Unladylike – Robin Stevens**

- Two schoolgirls start a detective club.
- Fun, easy to read, and full of clues.
- Suitable for ages 11–14.

☐ **The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd**

- A boy with excellent observation skills solves a disappearance.
- Clear writing and an engaging mystery.

☐ **A Good Girl's Guide to Murder – Holly Jackson**

- A teenager re-investigates an old murder case.
- Very popular with secondary school students.

☐ **The Boy Sherlock Holmes Series – Shane Peacock**

- Stories about Sherlock Holmes as a teenager.
- Full of clues and suspense.

☐ **Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz**

- A teenage spy investigates a suspicious computer company.
- **Themes:** bravery, trust, adventure, mystery.

English Revision Tasks



□ Writing What How Why Paragraphs

Extract 1

Ben walked into the dark room. He heard a loud bang and jumped. His hands shook as he looked around. He wished he was somewhere else.

Question:

How does the writer show that Ben is scared?

WHW Sentence Starters

- **What:** The writer shows that Ben is scared.
- **How:** This is shown when "..."
- **Why:** The writer has done this to suggest that Ben is feeling ... because...

Try not to repeat yourself in the point and explanation.

Extract 2

Sam stepped onto the stage and looked out at the crowd. His knees shook and his hands felt sweaty. He took a deep breath and tried to remember his lines, but his mind suddenly went blank.

Question:

Use WHW to explain how the writer shows that Sam is nervous.

Extract 3

Lucy opened the envelope carefully and pulled out the letter. As she read it, a huge smile spread across her face. She jumped up from her chair and rushed to tell her family the good news.

Question:

Use WHW to explain how the writer shows that Lucy is excited?

□ **Creative Description Burst** — *5-minute challenge* Describe a place using **five senses (What you see, smell, hear, see, touch and taste)**. Choose one:

- A quiet library
 - A stormy beach
 - An empty school
 - A busy train station Aim for 5–7 sentences.
-

□ **Argument Paragraph Task** — *Persuasive writing* Write a paragraph arguing whether school uniforms should be kept or removed. Include:

- A clear viewpoint
 - One strong reason
 - A counter-argument
-

□ **Sentence Upgrade Task** Improve these simple sentences:

- *The dog ran.*
- *She was scared.*
- *The room was quiet.* Add detail, emotion, or imagery.

□ **Vocabulary Builder** Choose five words you don't normally use (e.g., *reluctant, fragile, determined, eerie, chaotic*). Write a sentence for each.

Extended Writing Task



Core Features of Gothic Fiction (with examples)

1. Setting

Dark, isolated, eerie places. Example: *The abandoned mansion loomed over the cliffs, its windows staring like empty eyes.*

2. Atmosphere

Created through sensory detail, weather, and mood. Example: *A cold mist curled around my ankles, swallowing the path ahead.*

3. Supernatural elements

Ghosts, curses, unexplained events. Example: *The portrait's eyes seemed to follow her across the room.*

4. Isolation

Characters cut off from help or safety. Example: *Miles from the nearest village, the storm trapped him inside the crumbling tower.*

5. High emotion

Fear, panic, dread, obsession. Example: *Her heartbeat thundered as the footsteps crept closer.*

6. Mystery

Secrets, locked rooms, hidden pasts. Example: *No one knew what lay behind the iron door- only that it had been sealed for decades.*

7. Villains or monstrous figures

Human or supernatural threats. Example: *A shadowy figure lingered at the end of the corridor, unmoving, watching.*

8. Pathetic fallacy

Weather mirrors mood. Example: *Thunder cracked as the truth finally surfaced.*

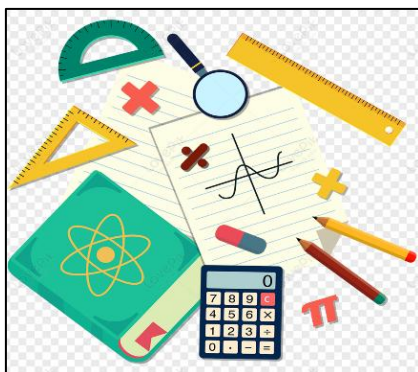
Language Features Common in Gothic Writing

These link beautifully to SPAMROOS:

- Similes- *The corridor stretched like a throat waiting to swallow her.*
- Metaphors- *Fear was a hand tightening around his chest.*
- Personification- *The house groaned as if waking from a long sleep.*
- Onomatopoeia- *The door creaked open.*
- Alliteration- *Silent shadows slithered across the floor.*
- Repetition- *He ran. Ran from the truth. Ran from the darkness.*

Task: Create a piece of descriptive writing based on a gothic theme.

Mathematics Revision Guidance



1. Know the main topics

KS3 Maths usually covers:

- Number (fractions, decimals, percentages)
- Algebra
- Ratio and proportion
- Geometry (angles, shapes, area, volume)
- Statistics and probability
- Graphs and coordinates

Make a list of these topics and mark: ☒ Confident

☐ Need more practice

☐ Don't understand yet

2. Practise a little every day

Try to do **20 minutes of maths** on most days rather than cramming for hours before a test. You can use Doodle or Sparx Maths to support this.

Example weekly plan:

- Monday: Number
- Tuesday: Algebra
- Wednesday: Geometry
- Thursday: Statistics
- Friday: Mixed questions
- Weekend: Past tests and revision

3. Use the "Learn → Practise → Check" method

For each topic:

1. Read notes or watch a lesson.
2. Do practice questions.
3. Mark your answers and correct mistakes.

The mistakes are often where the learning happens.

4. Learn key formulas

Make flashcards for things such as:

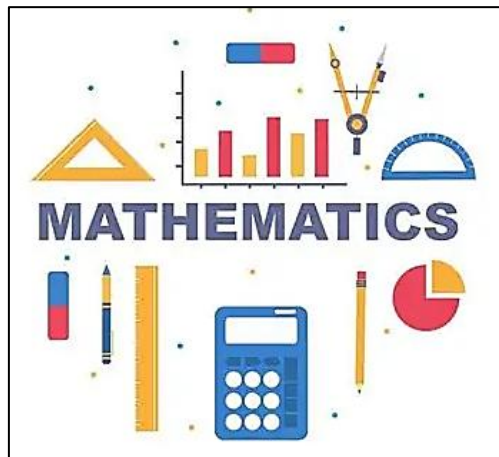
- Area of rectangles and triangles
- Circumference and area of circles
- Percentage increase/decrease methods
- Angle facts
- Probability rules

Review them regularly.

5. Use good free resources

- **BBC Bitesize KS3 Maths**
 - **Corbett Maths**
 - **Maths Genie**
 - Your school's revision materials- Doodle and MyMaths
-

Mathematics Revision Tasks



Number

1. Calculate: $37 \times 8 = ?$
 2. Work out: $5/8 + 1/4 = ?$
 3. Find **25% of 84**.
 4. Round **38.764** to **1 decimal place**.
-

Algebra

1. Simplify: $3x + 5x$
 2. Solve: $x + 7 = 19$
 3. Solve: $4y = 36$
 4. Expand: $3(a + 4)$
-

Geometry

1. A triangle has angles of **45°** and **70°**. What is the third angle?
 2. Find the area of a rectangle with:
 - a. length = 9 cm
 - b. width = 4 cm
 3. Find the perimeter of a square with side length **7 cm**.
-

Ratio and Percentages

1. Share £24 in the ratio **1 : 3**.
 2. A jumper costs **£40** and is reduced by **20%**. What is the new price?
-

Statistics and Probability

1. The numbers are: **3, 7, 8, 10, 12**

Find the **mean**.

2. A bag contains:
 - a. 4 red counters
 - b. 6 blue counters

What is the probability of picking a red counter?

PSHE Revision Guidance



Revision Activities

1. Flashcards

Make cards for topics such as:

- Mental health
- Bullying
- Online safety
- Healthy lifestyles
- Relationships
- Financial education

2. Mind Maps

Create a mind map for each topic and add:

- Key words
- Definitions
- Examples
- Tips for staying safe and healthy

3. Discuss the following with your friends and family.

- What makes a healthy friendship?

- How can you stay safe online?
 - What are the benefits of exercise?
 - What should you do if you witness bullying?
 - Why is budgeting important?
-

PSHE Revision Tasks



Please choose one of the following activities.

1. Online Safety Poster

Create a poster explaining:

- Strong passwords
 - Privacy settings
 - Cyberbullying
 - Digital footprints
-

2. Wellbeing Journal

Keep a diary for one week and record:

- Exercise
- Sleep
- Mood
- Screen time

Then write a short reflection. How do you feel? Why? What were three things that went well each day.

3. Healthy Lifestyle Project

Create a leaflet about:

- Healthy eating
 - Exercise
 - Sleep
 - Mental wellbeing
-

4. Budget Challenge

Imagine you have £20 a week. Plan how you would spend and save the money.

Include:

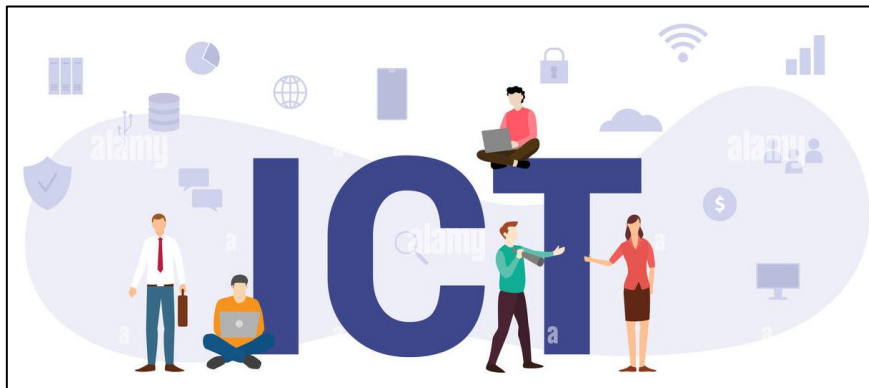
- Needs
 - Wants
 - Savings
-

5. Future Me Poster

Include:

- Your goals
 - Skills you want to develop
 - Career ideas
 - How you will stay healthy and happy
-

ICT Revision Guidance



Key revision tasks to practise over the Summer

Microsoft Word

Make sure you can:

- ✓ Change fonts, sizes, and colours
- ✓ Use bold, italic and underline
- ✓ Insert pictures and shapes
- ✓ Create tables
- ✓ Use page borders and headers
- ✓ Check spelling and grammar
- ✓ Save and organise files

Revision Task: Create a 1-page poster called "My Summer Plans"

Include:

- A title
- At least one image
- A table
- Three different text styles

Microsoft Excel

Make sure you can:

- ✓ Enter data into cells
- ✓ Format tables
- ✓ Use formulas:
 - =SUM
 - =AVERAGE
 - =MIN
 - =MAX
- ✓ Create charts ✓ Change colours and titles

Revision Task

Create a spreadsheet about "My Weekly Activities"

Include:

- 7 days of the week
 - Time spent on activities
 - A chart to show your results
-

💡 Microsoft PowerPoint

Make sure you can:

- ✓ Add slides
 - ✓ Insert images
 - ✓ Use transitions
 - ✓ Add animations
 - ✓ Create titles and subtitles
 - ✓ Present information clearly
-

Complete one of the following revision tasks

Create a 5-slide presentation about "My Favourite Hobby"

Include:

- Pictures
-

- Facts
 - One transition
 - One animation
-

Microsoft Outlook

Make sure you know:

- ✓ How to write a professional email
- ✓ How to add a subject line
- ✓ How to attach a file
- ✓ Email safety rules

Revision Task

Write an email to a teacher explaining what you enjoyed most this year.

ICT Revision Projects



Project 1: Dream Holiday Presentation

Create a PowerPoint about your dream holiday.

Include:

- Destination
- Activities
- Weather
- Travel plans
- Budget

Challenge: Add animations and transitions.

Project 2: Personal Budget Spreadsheet

You have £500 for summer activities.

Use Excel to:

- Record spending
- Calculate totals
- Create a pie chart

Challenge: Use SUM and AVERAGE formulas.

Project 3: Design a Gaming Poster

Use Word to create a poster for:

- A real game
- An imaginary game

Include:

- Images
 - Headings
 - Facts
 - Colourful design
-

Project 4: Summer Newsletter

Create a one-page newsletter in Word.

Include:

- A headline
 - Summer events
 - Pictures
 - Fun facts
 - A weather section
-

Project 5: Movie Review Presentation

Create a PowerPoint reviewing a film.

Include:

- Story summary
 - Main characters
 - Favourite scene
 - Star rating
-

★ Summer Challenge Project

"All About Me 2026"

Use all three Microsoft applications: Word

Create an information page about yourself. Excel

Create a chart showing your favourite hobbies. PowerPoint

Create a presentation titled: "My Goals for Next Year"

Success Criteria

- ✓ Uses Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- ✓ Neat presentation
- ✓ Correct spelling and grammar
- ✓ Shows creativity and effort
- ✓ Saved in an organised folder structure

This project is perfect for helping students practise the key Microsoft Office skills they will use throughout KS3 and GCSE.

Creative Arts Projects



Choose one or two of the following projects to complete:

 Art Project: "My Summer in a Shoebox"

Challenge 1

Create a shoebox scene that represents your summer.

You will need:

- A shoebox
- Coloured paper
- Glue
- Pens and pencils
- Small objects from home

What to include:

- A favourite place
- A favourite activity
- At least 3 colours
- A title

Success Criteria

- ✓ Uses colour carefully
- ✓ Shows creativity

- ✓ Includes lots of detail
 - ✓ Neat presentation
-

Music Project: Create a Summer Playlist

Challenge 2

Create a playlist of 10 songs that remind you of summer.

You could:

- Draw an album cover
- Explain why each song was chosen
- Rate each song out of 10

Extension

Create your own song lyrics about summer.

Success Criteria

- ✓ 10 songs included
 - ✓ Reasons given for choices
 - ✓ Creative presentation
-

Textiles Project: Design a Tote Bag

Challenge 3

Design a tote bag for a holiday or summer festival.

Your design should include:

- A colour scheme
- A picture or logo
- A slogan

Extension

Use old fabric or paper to make a mini version.

Success Criteria

- ✓ Clear design ideas
 - ✓ Use of colour
 - ✓ Creative theme
-

Catering Project: Healthy Summer Snack

Challenge 4

Create a healthy snack or drink.

Ideas:

- Fruit kebabs
- Smoothie
- Wrap
- Pasta salad

Record:

- Ingredients
- Method
- Photograph or drawing
- Rating out of 10

Success Criteria

- ✓ Safe food preparation
 - ✓ Healthy ingredients
 - ✓ Clear instructions
-

Drama Project: Create a Character

Challenge 5

Invent a character who goes on a summer adventure.

Include:

- Name
-

- Age
- Personality
- Special talent
- A short story about their adventure

Success Criteria

- ✓ Interesting character
 - ✓ Clear description
 - ✓ Creative ideas
-

Music & Art Project: Album Cover Design

Challenge 6

Design an album cover for a real or imaginary musician.

Include:

- Artist name
- Album title
- Colour and images
- A short explanation

Success Criteria

- ✓ Eye-catching design
 - ✓ Creative ideas
 - ✓ Thoughtful colour choices
-

Creative Arts Photography Challenge

Challenge 7

Take or draw photographs of:

- ✓ Something colourful
 - ✓ Something natural
 - ✓ Something that makes you happy
-

- ✓ Something interesting
- ✓ Something unusual

Extension

Create a collage called "My Summer Story."

Creative Arts Mega Project

Challenge 8

Summer Talent Showcase

Choose one activity from each area:

- Art
- Music
- Textiles
- Catering

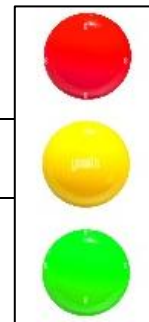
Present your work on a poster, PowerPoint, or scrapbook page.

Success Criteria

- ✓ All four subjects included
- ✓ Effort and creativity shown
- ✓ Personal response included

Remember: There are no wrong answers in creative arts—focus on having fun, being imaginative, and trying something new! 🌟

Parent/ Carer Notes



Target Grade

Red (areas not covered and/ or to focus on)

Amber (areas that may require improvement)

Green (areas that your child excels in)