



HOWELL'S SCHOOL
Llandaff

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

20th April 2018

Back To Work

It was back to school and straight back at it this week. Students who are sitting exams this term are having to hit the ground running, and with language orals already taking place, exam season is well and truly upon us.

Life with an exam prepping teen is not for the faint of heart, and if you are finding even your most helpful suggestions regarding revision met with an eye-roll and firmly closed bedroom door, it may be time to leave a cup of tea on the desk and back away quietly. Sometimes, it is best to ask the experts, so I have hunted down a tame examiner, and asked her for some insider tips:

1. Some questions are data questions (read the graph, look at the map). That almost always means that all the info you need to get a good mark is on the exam paper. Don't pass this chance up!
2. Know your basic terms. For example, the difference between 'describe' and 'explain'.
3. Plan answers. If you have four essays to write and a two-hour exam, don't spend an hour on the first one.
4. Look at how many marks the question is worth and write an appropriate amount. There's no point in writing a whole page for a two-mark question.
5. Make sure you have fresh batteries in your calculator and plenty of coloured pencils (you have no idea how cheering a nice bit of shading on your diagrams can be for the marker).
6. You don't (usually) have to do the questions in the order on the paper. It can help to do your best one first.
7. Don't do anything stupid. Don't try to cheat. Don't take in a phone or anything that could in the slightest way be thought of as cheating into an exam, even if you have no intention of doing so. I've heard of children being expelled from an exam because they got a text message.

8. Don't panic. If need be, take a sip of water, put your head on your desk for two minutes and take deep breaths. There's almost always something you can put down.

Now, print this list out, leave it lying around. Perhaps at the end of a Hansel and Gretel trail of highlighter pens, sticky notes and energy bars. In a few short weeks all this will be but a memory, but until then, a cup of tea and a closed bedroom door do have a lot to recommend them.