



14th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to announce that The Castle Rock School has invested in GCSEPod, the award-winning digital content and revision provider used by over 1,250 schools worldwide. Now, more than ever, it is important to be able to access learning in a variety of ways and we believe GCSEPod can offer high quality and flexible learning for every student. GCSEPod can be used independently or as directed by your child's teachers. The pods will provide an invaluable support for Year 11 pupils as they prepare for their upcoming trial exams in November and GCSEs in the summer term, for Year 10s as they learn key content of their GCSE courses and Year 9 as they prepare for the step up to GCSEs.

With our GCSEPod subscription, your child has access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. GCSEPod makes learning and revision much more manageable: every Pod is mapped to the relevant exam board and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success – all neatly organised into topics and exam playlists. Additionally, Y9 and Y11 students in particular could use GCSEPod to access '**Getting Ready for ...**' pods to explore subjects they may wish to study at GCSE and A Level. These pods could also be used as additional work to stretch and challenge your son or daughter once they have completed their home learning if they want to do more.

One of the best things about GCSEPod is that you can download any Pod to your child's mobile device, and then they can watch them at any time, in any place, with or without internet. It's like they're carrying a whole set of textbooks in their pocket! Make sure you download the GCSEPod app from the App Store (Apple and Android are supported) to access this feature. For optimum functionality the GCSEPod website is recommended but also necessary for activating your account. The GCSEPod app does not support logging on for the first time as the app requires a username which is set at the time of your first log in. With this in mind, we do ask that usernames are set to something school appropriate.

GCSEPod also has the ability to identify knowledge gaps and automatically send playlists to help fill them. After completing any homework set on GCSEPod, your child will get a personalised "Boost Playlist" of Pods relevant to their identified areas of weakness. We strongly suggest you encourage your child to review these playlists regularly as this will speed up their progress.

We recommend that you talk about GCSEPod with your son or daughter – check that they've successfully activated their account and encourage them to make use of this amazing resource throughout their studies. Once they've activated their account, they can browse the GCSEPod library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they're listening to music.

For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit [www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents) where you'll find lots more information and resources.

Your child has already been registered with GCSEPod, so all they need to do is activate their account by following the instructions below. If your child activated their account last year but can't remember their password, please ask them to click 'forgot password' to generate a reset email, which will go to their school email address.

- 1) Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click **“Login”** in the top right-hand corner
- 2) Click **“New to GCSEPod? Get started.”**
- 3) Select **“Student”**
- 4) Enter your **child’s name, date of birth** and **school name**.
- 5) Create a **username, password**, and a **password hint** to help them remember the password (the username enables use of the GCSEPod app).

If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod please contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Jones  
**Head of Humanities**

