



# St Augustine's Catholic College

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Our ref: JCA/ADS/HJP  
7 February 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

## GCSEPod

Through the school, your child has access to a service called GCSEPod free of charge. This superb service gives your child access to hundreds of professionally produced mini-lessons in the form of short videos called "Pods", across 21 GCSE subjects. The Pods are produced specifically for learning, homework and revision and contain all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success. Access is via their website – [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) – or via their iPhone and Android apps, which are free to download. You can watch a parent introductory video here: [www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents)

We are delighted to announce that GCSEPod recently won the highly prestigious BETT award for 'Best Secondary Content.' The BETT Awards play a key role in identifying and rewarding excellence in education and are overseen by a large panel of expert judges. The judges commended GCSEPod for offering a ***"rich resource of revision material which can be accessed at a granular level to support good learning. GCSEPod provides independent learning with the student receiving appropriate feedback to inform progress and attainment. Engaging with the nuggets of high quality content over short periods of time, wherever and whenever the learner needs to, offers the opportunity for personalised learning."***

GCSEPod has been commended for its impact on results. In recent analysis of usage vs results in several schools it was found that the most active students achieved, on average, almost a grade higher in each subject than low users.

With this endorsement in mind, we would like to remind you to maximise your child's use of this fantastic resource over the coming months. As a reminder, if you were to purchase a subscription to GCSEPod privately, the cost would be £200 per year, so we urge you not to underestimate the value of this service.

Here are four easy ways to use GCSEPod this year:

1. Help your child to identify five topics they struggle with on GCSEPod and click the ★ icon beside these Pods to save them to a favourites playlist. Encourage your child to watch these Pods and write a summary of what they have learnt.
2. If your child requests your help with homework, search GCSEPod for the appropriate Pod and watch this together before tackling the homework task.
3. If you are taking a long car ride, download a few Pods onto your phone to listen to together in the car and then test each other on what you've learnt.
4. Whilst watching a video, ask your child to write down each key word they hear and pause the video to copy any labelled diagrams (eg biology) or quotes (eg English). Using only these key words as a prompt, ask your child to write down everything they can remember about the topic.

PTO

If you have any questions regarding GCSEPod, or require a reminder of login details, please contact Mr Sturdee, who is GCSEPod Lead for the school. For specific technical advice please use the help pages on the website or email [support@gcsepod.com](mailto:support@gcsepod.com).

We're looking forward to helping your child get the best from this award-winning resource!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J C Alsop', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**J C Alsop**  
Head Teacher