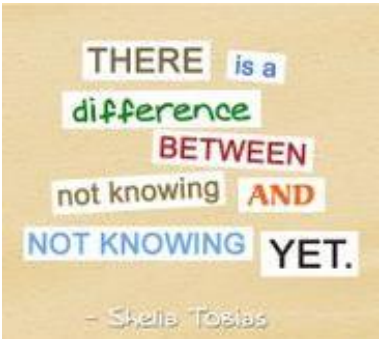
AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE IN

MATHEMATICS

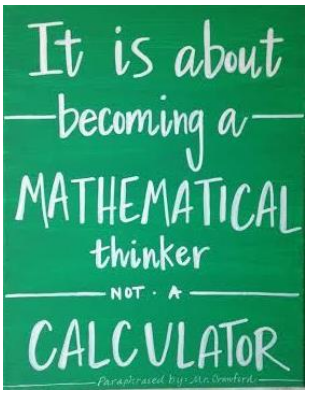
To develop understanding and fluency in Mathematics through inquiry, exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying problem-solving skills and mathematical techniques, communication and reasoning.

THROUGHOUT THE TERM



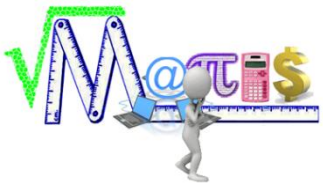
- Come prepared for lessons with the necessary equipment.
- Remain focused and work diligently during lessons.
- Actively participate and ask questions during lessons to clarify concepts being taught.
- Take neat and comprehensive notes and/or paste hardcopies of worksheets and presentations into your exercise book.
- Revise the day's lesson at home.
- Attempt and complete all assigned class, homework and assessment tasks.
- Mark your homework and go over past papers to ensure you understand why/where any errors were made.
- Refer to the Topic Overview Sheets provided at the beginning of each topic and mark off the concepts you've been taught/have learnt.
- Create hand-written summaries and a doubled-sided A4 reference sheet, highlighting important notes, definitions, formulae and examples.

ONCE A TASK NOTIFICATION IS RECEIVED



- Record the task details (date/time/topics) in your diary.
- Prepare a study area and study timetable at home.
- Start studying using the tips outlined in this handout.

WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE EXAMINATION



- Put the phone away to avoid distractions!
- Use the physical copy of the text book (instead of the digital copy) and/or print the chapter PDFs and refer to them.
- Use flash cards to help you remember important facts and bridge any gaps in your knowledge.
- Put pen to paper and review each of the topics being assessed by practising examples.
- Complete chapter reviews and mark them to make sure you're on the right track.
- Use Mathletics and other resources to access different types and styles of questions.
- Use your A4 reference sheets to practise past papers under examination conditions.
- Avoid paying too much attention to your friends or peers when talking about how much/little they are studying. Remember, you are aiming to achieve your personal best.

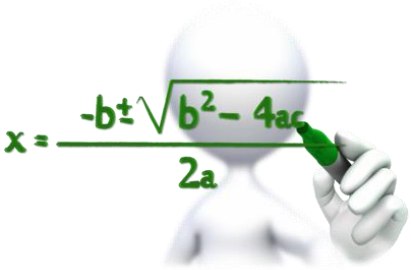
THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

- Stay calm.
- Review your summaries and reference sheets.
- Pack your bag and ensure you have all the necessary equipment. (stationery, scientific calculator, geometry set, etc)
- Get a good night's sleep.

ON THE MORNING OF THE EXAMINATION

- Eat breakfast.
- Double check you have all the equipment you need.
- Avoid discussing exam topics with friends before (or after) the exam.

IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM



- Read all questions carefully.
- Stay focused! Don't look at other students!
- Write in blue or black ink only. Use a pencil for diagrams.
- Write any formula or definitions on the examination paper.
- Don't waste time on questions you get stuck on. Leave them and get back to them once you have answered all the other questions if you have time.
- Never use white out or correction tape.
- Show all working out to communicate mathematically.
- Watch the clock. Keep track of time. Pace yourself. Stay calm.
- Check your responses and answers, making any necessary corrections.

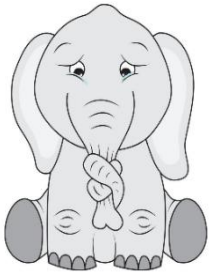
REASONS FOR LOSING VALUABLE MARKS IN EXAMINATIONS

- Not prepared (homework incomplete, minimal revision/practice)
- Gaps in knowledge from previous topics.
- Not following instructions and/or reading questions properly.
- Making silly errors with basic maths skills and times tables.
- Calculator concerns (forgotten / incorrect use / weak or flat battery)
- Poor setting out.
- Minimal or no working out.
- Confused by maths terminology, symbols and algorithms.

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER!

SUCCESS *is not final.* **FAILURE** *is not fatal.*

It is the **COURAGE TO CONTINUE** *that counts.*

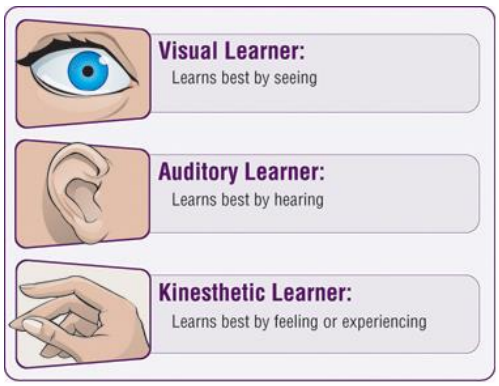


Mathematics Study Tips

1. Pick a time and place
   - Set up your study space ensuring it is quiet, well-lit, well-ventilated, comfortable and distraction free.
   - Find your best time (morning or night).

2. Plan your time
   - Set alarms.
   - Use a wall planner.
   - Make 'To-Do' lists.
   - Set time limits.

3. Discover your learning style



   - Visual learners (learn by seeing).
     Try using colours in your notes and draw diagrams or create posters for your wall.
   - Auditory learners (learn by listening).
     Try reading notes aloud, discussing them with others, form a study group, record and play back key points.
   - Kinaesthetic / tactile learners (learn by doing)
     Try using concrete materials and building models to revise key points.

4. Study every day
   - Learning mathematics is like doing exercise … it needs to be revised regularly (preferably 10 – 20 minutes each night).
   - Practise at least 10 questions from that day's lesson.

5. Review and revise
   - Practise at least 5 questions from the previous day's lesson as well as 3 questions from the previous week's work.
   - Create study/palm cards as each new concept is taught which summarise the key concepts, formulae and processes required.
   - Quiz/test yourself to improve your examination technique.

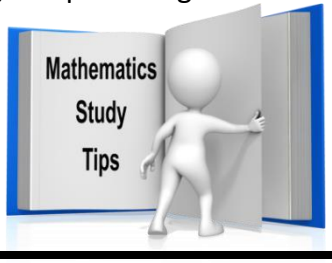
6. Take breaks
   - Take regular breaks (5 – 10 minutes per hour).
   - Move away from your desk / study space.
   - Get some fresh air, go for a walk, listen to music.

7. Ask for help
   - Don't stay stuck … ask friends, parents and teachers for help!

8. Stay motivated
   - Set mini goals (short term and long term).
   - Display inspirational quotes, sayings and positive affirmations in your study space.
   - Reward yourself!

9. App it up!
   - Take advantage of the variety of maths and numeracy apps available to support your learning and practising of vital skills.

10. Look after yourself
    - Eat well.
    - Sleep well.
    - Exercise regularly.
    - Drink lots of water.



Reference: http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/studying-training/studying-tips-resources/top-10-study-tips

General Study Tips

You may find these general strategies helpful when preparing for examinations.

1. Lock in key dates in your diary / calendar and set reminders.

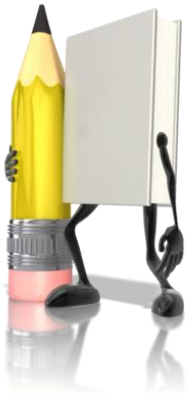
2. Prepare for a minimum of two weeks prior to each assessment.

Week 1: Summarise and revise all content. Make a list of all the key points and objectives for each topic. Write out examples from class and the text book.

Week 2: Consolidate work and bridge any gaps in your knowledge. Test yourself. Assess your progress by attempting textbook exercises, chapter reviews, past topic tests and examination papers.

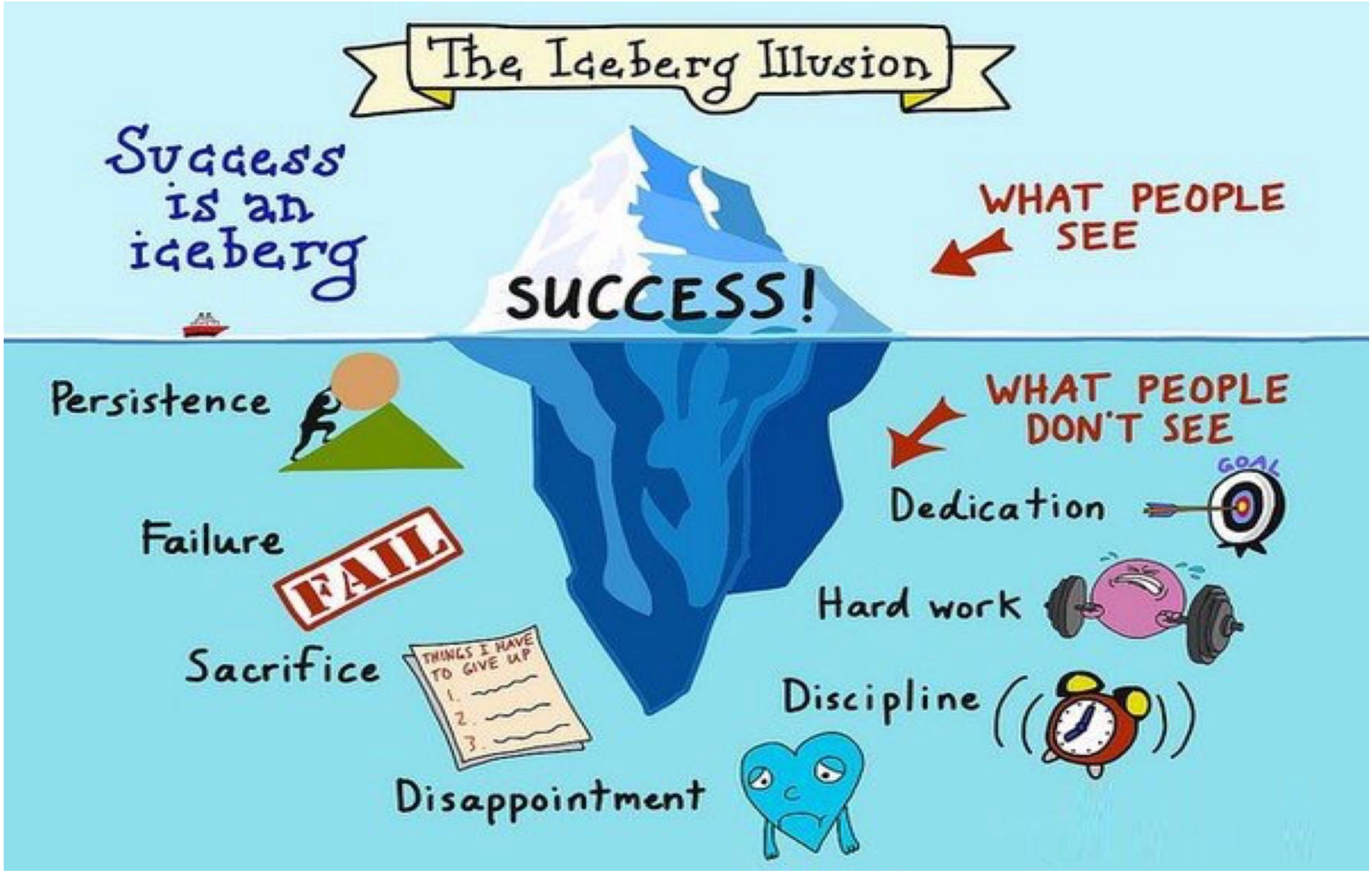
3. Diarise each day: What subject will you study for? When? How long? Some days you will need to study more than one subject so plan your time! Your timetable could look as follows:

7:00 – 8:00	Wake up. Have breakfast. Get ready for school.
8:40 – 3:00	Start school day.
3:15 – 4:00	Attend Homework Centre in the School Library.
4:00 – 4:30	Make your way home and have a light snack
4:30 – 6:30	Study subject 1
6:30 – 7:00	Eat Dinner
7:00 – 8:00	Study subject 2
8:00 – 9:00	Study subject 3
9:00 – 9:30	Read a book (No electronic devices!)
9:30 / 10:00	Sleep.



4. Start analysing your past papers and identifying which skills require a bit more attention and start working on these skills.
For e.g., Concepts involving fractions, decimals and percentages, writing an exposition, language conventions, recalling historical dates and facts, using scientific terminology, writing extended responses, etc.

5. WORK HARD, FOCUS, PRACTISE, IMPROVE, EXCEL, GROW!


The Iceberg Illusion
Success is an iceberg
SUCCESS!
WHAT PEOPLE SEE
WHAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE
Persistence
Failure
FAIL
Sacrifice
THINGS I HAVE TO GIVE UP
1.
2.
3.
Disappointment
Dedication
GOAL
Hard work
Discipline