

# **Year 11 Parents Guide** **and Help**

Your involvement as a parent during the crucial exam years can make all the difference between success and failure. Parental support can be up to eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than anything else.

You do not have to be an expert in the GCSE subjects that your child has chosen to be able to make a real difference. You just need to know how best to spend your time at each stage of the GCSE process to support their learning process.

The hardest demand on our Year 10 and 11 students is that of understanding the long term importance of achieving the best they possibly can. Even if this means making some short term sacrifices to ensure they are truly successful.

The aim of this page is to provide you the parents with key points to support the GCSE process.



## **What about exam results?**

Good exam results are not based on what happens on the day of the exam. Many feelings will go through the minds of both yourselves and the pupils alike.

- Are they in the right frame of mind?
- Will they remember what they have revised?
- Will they get the right question?

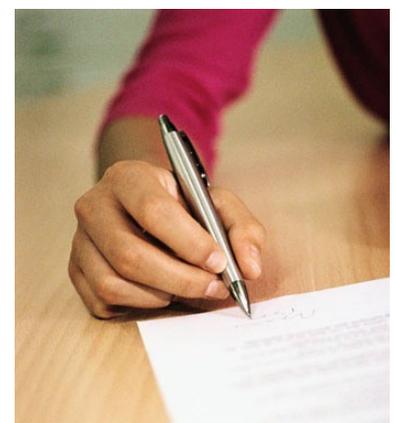
The results of your child's exams are generally determined before they sit the final exam. There are 3 broad stages in the process of achieving good exam results. Exam success is about getting things right at each stage of the process and remembering what can go wrong!

## **STAGE 1: Learning the subject content first time round.**

The process of revision (looking at something again) makes the assumption that the learning of each subject has taken place already – every lesson does count!

## **STAGE 2: Revision.**

Even a student who has attended every lesson of the course and paid attention needs to revise to achieve their full potential. Everyone needs to complete revision using techniques that are effective for them.



### **STAGE 3: The exam.**

Even if a student has learnt the subject content and revised thoroughly, things can still go wrong on the day of the exam.

There are many skills that can be used during the exam and good practice to follow – examples of these are below:

#### Skills

- Knowing the subject matter.
- Organisational skills.
- Exam technique.

#### Good Practice

- Use common sense.
- Always explain what you are doing.
- Never leave an exam early.



### **What can you do as a parent...?**

- Encourage and praise your child. Show an interest by talking to them about what they have been learning in their different subjects and the homework / coursework they have been set.
- Ensure that your child attends every day if possible. Even one lesson missed means that key information could be missing regarding coursework / deadlines. For the majority of subjects, lesson content can only be covered once, due to the volume of work needing to be covered.
- Encourage your child to see the big picture! A two year course will seem like a lifetime away for a teenager, but help them to put each subject into context for the desired end result.
- Provide a suitable work area for study, ensuring that all the materials that they require are there.
- Display key dates and deadlines in the house so that you can support your child before any panic can set in.
- Let your child's subject teacher or head of year know if your child is experiencing difficulties with any element of their personal or school life. The school is here to help and support and will be as flexible as possible if difficulties arise.

- Make sure your child is well rested the night before an exam, and up in plenty of time to allow for travel on the day. Food is important too, as exams last for long periods of time! It is important your child has eaten and drank enough in order for their brain to work at its best.
- Agree a balance between school work and social life. Talk about any issues if you feel your child is struggling. You will often come up with solutions together and remember the school is here to help.