

What can you do to help?

It's daunting being a parent of a pupil sitting their exams too!



The most common frustrations for parents

He always leaves everything to the last minute – one moment he has all the time in the world – the next it's all stress and stropping because it has to be in tomorrow and he hasn't got the stuff he needs to do it...I didn't even do GCSEs – how can I help him?

I can't stand the arguments and stress when I tell him exams are important and try to make him work – it always ends up with him saying it's his life and slamming the door.

She's always got an excuse – I don't know what to believe. Surely she shouldn't be going out **again** when she's got exams coming up?

She's always panicked in exams – when I try to help her it always ends in a slanging match – it always seems to end in me making her more stressed.

There's a million websites to help but how do you know which are any good?

I don't understand all this coursework, levels and module exams – it's completely different from when I was at school.

Research and experience shows that children whose parents/carers take the opportunity to be frequently interested in their child's learning make most progress.

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.

Start off by helping them to plan out their time – which subjects can be tackled on each night and for how long.

	subject 1	subject 2	subject 3	subject 4
Monday	Maths fractions percentages	French clothing -re verbs	Science atoms molecules	Geography glaciation
Tuesday	ICT spread sheets	English		
Wednesday				

Encourage and support your child to stick to it! That way you can help them to keep track of how much work they have done and what they have left to cover.

- Choose a place in the house to revise where they won't be distracted.
- Look for fresh sources of info other than class notes. The internet, for example, offers some innovative learning resources.
- You can offer small 'rewards' after every revision session. Nothing extravagant, just a small treat to help them to get back to their books.
- Ensure that your child avoids last-minute revision the night before. Instead, support them to complete their revision plan early.
- Ensure your child attends every day if possible. Even one lesson missed means that key information could be missing regarding coursework/deadlines.
- In working out how much time they should devote to each subject, encourage them to concentrate on their weaknesses without losing sight of their strong points.

Some of the main reasons why students fail to gain the marks they hope for:

- ❖ Failing to answer the question set.
- ❖ Misinterpreting the question, perhaps because they misread the question or the terms.
- ❖ Not reading the instructions carefully.
- ❖ Not writing answers in the way they are required.
- ❖ Not referring sufficiently or selectively to the course material.
- ❖ Running out of time, so that the final question is not answered in full.
- ❖ Not checking through the paper carefully to avoid obvious mistakes, such as dates or simple mathematical calculations.

**Reading is not enough.
They need to make brief
notes either in words and/or
pictures, and use other
methods to
help them remember.**

Discuss these with your child and keep an eye out for them when they are practising.

Remember – you're not alone!

We are only an email / phone call
away if you have any concerns.



SUPPORT