

# TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter. These newsletters look to help you to implement tried and tested learning strategies at home, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

## Closing the Gender Gap

Whether you're a parent of a boy or not, you might find the following information about closing the gender gap an interesting read...



The divide between the performance of girls and boys is well documented and been going on in education for some time.

As a response to try and find out what we can all do about it, staff and parents recently had the pleasure of listening to Gary Wilson's wise words about getting the best from boys. Gary Wilson is one of the country's leading experts on raising boys' achievement. He is a freelance education consultant, speaker, trainer, author and former teacher of 21 years. Gary has advised and delivered training in over a thousand schools and over 30 local authorities across the UK.

His highly practical book for parents contains strong messages about the need to develop independence in boys, the importance of male role models within the family and what to look out for in school, including signs of peer pressure and limiting negative self beliefs. It gives advice on how best to support boys in their learning and in developing self esteem and confidence. <https://www.garywilsonraisingboysachievement.com/parents>

## What we can all do to raise the achievement of boys

**Avoid** purchasing merchandise for boys that reinforces gender stereotypes e.g. t-shirts that have slogans like "Here comes trouble", "Boys will be boys".

**Identify** positive 'masculine' and 'feminine' traits and behaviours as positive 'human' behaviours.

**Regularly** reward academic success.

**Get** boys reading - if they say it's boring or they don't like it, persist because we just haven't found the thing that interests them yet.

**Give** them some independence and expect them to do more for themselves. Teach them how to do more for themselves. Boys are often significantly less independent than girls prior to starting school and differences in language development are evident right from the early years.

**Talk** to boys about their future and what will be expected and admirable

behaviours of a good father, business owner, boss, role model, etc.

**Don't** accept lower standards of behaviour from a boy than you might from a girl.

**Talk** to them and with them about their feelings, concerns, anxieties.



### Literacy tip of the week...

#### Was/were

The first can be applied to one person as part of a past tense verb.

'She was driving the car'

**BUT-** if it's plural- you must write

'They **WERE** feeling anxious about the test'

So, to say 'I were' or 'We was'

Is **COMPLETELY WRONG**.

1= Was

2= Were

#### Can you do these?

Tracy \_\_\_ painting.

Hannah \_\_\_ grinning.

The boys \_\_\_ dancing

### Word of the Week: **Notwithstanding**



preposition/adverb/conjunction: In spite of/even though/although

'I was exhausted after a night's revision, notwithstanding, I performed as well as I could in the exam.'

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Issue Focus: Closing the gender gap

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if you wish to discuss anything covered in this newsletter