



Year 10

GCSEs - A Guide for Parents

Common frustrations for parents



I can't stand the arguments and the stress when I tell him that exams are important and try to get him to do some work.

She says she has done all of her work at school; I don't know what to believe!

Surely I shouldn't let them out again when they have exams coming up.

She always panics in exams; when I try to help I always seem to make her more stressed.

He always leaves everything to the last minute. One minute he has all the time in the world, the next it's stress and stomping. I wish I knew when all of the key dates were.

How can you make the difference?

Many parents feel at a loss when their children enter their examination years and are simply confused by the ever changing and complicated examination systems. If this is you, you are not alone! The exam system has changed greatly over recent years. You can be forgiven for wanting to let the 'experts' at your child's school get on with it, however, your involvement over these critical years can make an enormous difference and WILL even reflect the final grade that your child is given!

"Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class, according to a recent study. Parental involvement in a child's education can mean the difference between a top grade and an 'also-ran' at GCSE."

Times Educational Supplement

Don't worry, you don't have to be an expert in all of the subjects that your child studies, or give up your own life and responsibilities for the next two years; you just need to know what you can do to help. Hopefully this booklet will provide you with some useful tips or at least reassure you that you're doing everything right!

How can you make the difference?

Find out how your child is doing

Although your child may not be the most forthcoming with information about what has gone on in school, you can still find out! This year's Parents' Evening is on Thursday 16th January where you will be given the opportunity to ask your child's subject teachers how well they are doing in their GCSE subjects so far. If your child is not keeping up, ask what you or the school can do to help. It's important to act early in Year 10 before your child gets too far behind.

Remember Arbor provides live data on attendance, behaviour and achievement points.

Attendance

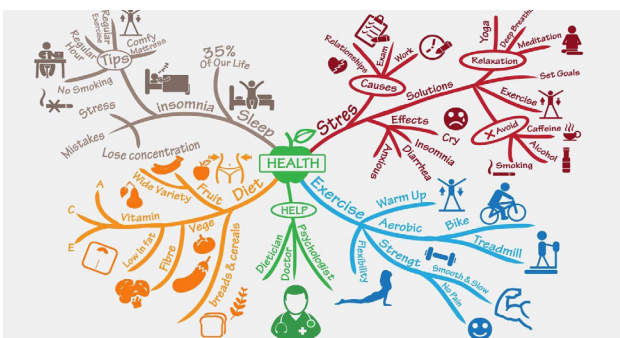
There is a direct correlation between good attendance and excellent achievement. In short, if your child is unable to attend school they are unable to learn. Good attendance is considered to be above 97%. Attendance below 90% is grave cause for concern.

Monitor Homework

Let your child know that you think education is important and that homework needs to be done every night. If you are reluctant to help your child with homework because you feel that you don't know the subject well enough, you can still help by showing that you are interested. Helping your child to get organised, providing necessary materials, asking about daily assignments, monitoring work to make sure that it is completed to a good standard, and praising your child's efforts can make a real difference; it also shows you care!

You could also:

- Set aside a special place and time to study. Try to choose somewhere where distractions are limited. The removal of televisions, mobile telephones, game consoles and iPads may also be a good idea.
- If no homework seems to be set then students should review work completed in class, plan and answer past papers or make notes to consolidate learning; there is always work to do!
- It is never too early to review work: little and often is a good policy. They can do some practice tasks in timed conditions, access educational websites, make revision cards or mind maps.



How can you make the difference?

Make time to talk with your teenager

This may be easier said than done when their chosen mode of communication is a monosyllabic grunt or maybe a hysterical shriek. Persevere!

- Show an interest in their education; unwittingly, your interest will lead them to understand how learning can be enjoyable, rewarding and well worth the effort! Praise and congratulate them if you see them studying or if you have seen a marked improvement.
- Reiterate how every test is important, regardless of if it is a class test, mock exam or the ultimate exam. These tests help to prepare students for their final exams as well as developing memory skills.
- Encourage your child to read articles from newspapers, factual leaflets and pamphlets. Any practice of these reading skills will help students in examinations.
- Look through their exercise book and discuss their classwork with them. Help them to identify SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) weaknesses or ask to check understanding.
- Discuss prospective careers because it will help them to realise that GCSEs are the stepping stones to the future

Encourage your child to work independently

Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently. Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. You can help your child to develop these qualities by asking them to break a job down into small steps. Monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends and ensure this is not taking priority over school work.

In addition to working independently, encourage active learning. Children do need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. To promote active learning, listen to your child's ideas and respond to them. Let them jump in with questions and opinions when you go through their exercise book together. When you encourage this type of 'give-and-take' at home, your child's participation and interest in school is likely to increase.

How can you make the difference?

Finally

Regularity is a key factor in academic success. If possible, try to ensure that students have a routine so they know when they need to crack open the books. If your child has other commitments outside of school, factor that in place before sitting down to create a 'Study Timetable'.

For some parents, be mindful that your child doesn't burn out!! When revising, make sure they have regular breaks and that the fridge is stocked with plenty of healthy snacks! Be sure to say 'enough is enough'; a good night's sleep is also just as important as extra revision before a big day.

Don't forget, 01942 728651. Mr Halliwell is here to help and if they can't, they will certainly point you in the right direction.

Remind your child of the end goal - that good results are the best reward for hard work. If all else fails - bribery!

Key Calendar Dates in Year 10

Pupil current attainment is reported at two key points: January / July.

Year 10 Mock Examinations - 28th November - 6th December

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thursday 16th January

Year 10 End of Year Examinations - 2nd June - 20th June

Year 10 End of Year Review - July 2025

Exams and Assessment

Subject	Exam	Assessment
Computing	100%	-
English Language	100%	-
English Literature	100%	-
French	100%	-
Geography	100%	-
History	100%	-
Maths	100%	-
Religious Studies	100%	-
Science Combined	100%	-
Science Triple	100%	-
Spanish	100%	-
Physical Education	60%	40%
Design and Technology	50%	50%
Food Preparation & Nutrition	50%	50%
Art	40%	60%
Child Development	40%	60%
Creative Studies IMedia	40%	60%
Music	40%	60%
Performing Arts	40%	60%
Photography	40%	60%
Sports Science	40%	60%
Sports Studies	40%	60%





St Edmund Arrowsmith
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