

GCSE English

What can you do to support your child?

- ▶ Reading outside of school is critical to success in these new style exams. They require students to have read a range of texts, use a wide vocabulary and understand the principles of grammar. Reading is key to all that.
- ▶ Talk to your children about what they are reading. Ask them about the characters, the issues, what they are learning about the time the book was written in or the setting.
- ▶ Have a family reading night once a week. No TV, no phones, no tablets, no laptops, no game consoles... The best way to encourage reading is to model it. Talk about what you are reading. It doesn't have to be fiction. All the English team are avid and passionate readers; we'd be happy to suggest books for parents too!
- ▶ Read their school work and challenge SPAG regardless of the subject.
- ▶ Encourage your child to write. A journal (different from a personal diary), a blog, a story, a match report... Then share it with you. Ask how they planned it, structured it, why they chose certain words and how they could improve it.
- ▶ The website is currently being developed. However we will soon publish a suggested reading list for books that will support the study of other texts. Encourage them to read from this. Incentivise maybe! Or use it for ideas for Christmas and birthday gifts.

More questions?

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GCSE Mathematics

What can you do to support your child?

- The Maths has not changed but the methods may look different at times.
- Different methods do not mean you cannot help.
- Studies have shown that students and parents spending time studying together has a positive impact on outcomes.
- Spend time working together on problems.
- If the methods you use are different, compare solutions, discuss which is more efficient and ask them to explain their methods to you.
- Make sure they know the basics – times tables.
- Encourage them to believe they **can** do maths and offer opportunities to access maths at home when possible. Be positive about Maths yourselves.

I'm stuck! What next?

- ▶ Look through their exercise book for an example and ask them to explain it to you.
- ▶ See if you can do the question together.
- ▶ If they are still struggling, encourage a break and come back to it later.
- ▶ Still no luck? Then ask their Maths Teacher in the next lesson.

There are also a host of useful resources, including:

- ▶ GCSE BBC Bitesize Website
- ▶ MyMaths Website
 - Individual passwords for each student
 - Tracks progress and gives instant feedback
- ▶ YouTube tutorial videos

