

# At a glance: How to provide practical and learning support for your child at secondary school



## Transition

Not all pupils will start off at the same point – academically, socially and physically. Some will need additional support to bridge the gap between KS2 and KS4. Others will need the opportunity to extend their learning. The partnership between home and school will be essential to the success of the pupils at KS3.



### **Ensuring your child has good attendance and punctuality**

Good attendance in school is vital for pupils to achieve their full educational potential. Good attendance leads to positive achievements – fact! Research states that having 20 days off school every year means that a pupil will on average obtain a whole grade lower in their exams than they are really capable of. Pupils with less than 85% attendance are unlikely to gain 5 A\*-C (9-5) GCSE qualifications.



### **Establishing a routine**

The beginning of the school day can be a rush for everyone. Your child will need to be far more organized at secondary school than he or she was at primary school. Establishing a routine in the morning and evening will help the day start smoothly and with minimum stress. Tips for a positive start to the school day:

- encourage your child to pack their school bag and lay out their uniform before going to bed each evening
- try to make sure your child eats breakfast - this provides essential energy and will help him or her perform better at school
- allow plenty of time for your child to get to school - build extra time into your morning routine so that if there are transport or other problems he or she won't be late for registration
- ask your child for their planner on a regular basis
- ensure that priority is given to setting aside time for school work on an evening



## Homework: How you can help

Year 7 will follow a thematic homework booklet for each area of learning throughout their first year at our Academy, plus literacy and numeracy each week. For all other pupils, homework will be set weekly for all subjects and pupils are required to record the detail of this in their planners.

Your child will need to work more independently at secondary school than at primary school. Nevertheless, your interest and input will still be important and will help your child to do well. Look for opportunities to talk to your child about schoolwork - children enjoy sharing what they are learning. Try to find topics you're both interested in so it's more of a conversation than an interrogation. Ask your child if there's anything you can do to help with homework. Discuss the organisation of the work. If your child has several homework pieces due in on the same day, suggest they space the work out rather than leave it all until the night before.



### English and Literacy

Your child absolutely **SHOULD** have a reading book and **MUST** be encouraged to read as often as possible; there is no such thing as 'not liking reading', rather children just need to find a book that stimulates their interest! Children should be seen/heard reading for **at least 30 minutes five times per week**; SPaG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar) are areas that **ALL** pupils will be assessed on. This is better learned through reading!

Children should also be encouraged to keep up-to-date with the news too. Try to encourage your child to read a newspaper at least once or twice a week. Find news stories that connect to lesson topics. If your child is researching a subject, suggest the online archives of a good newspaper or the BBC website.

Useful websites for your child to enhance their literacy skills are:

[www.eslgamesworld.com](http://www.eslgamesworld.com)

[www.primarygames.com](http://www.primarygames.com)

[www.teacher.scholastic.com/activities/](http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/activities/)

[www.meriam-webster.com/game/index.htm](http://www.meriam-webster.com/game/index.htm)

[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise)

[www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)



## **Maths and Numeracy**

The more a child can do without a calculator the better. When doing any ‘sums,’ encourage your child to write down what it is they’re thinking. When we say ‘show your working out’ we actually mean ‘write down what you’re thinking and explain how you got there!’ Additionally, your child should be able to chant their times-tables. Get them to do this regularly at home.

### ***Ways to make Maths an ‘everyday’ conversation:***

- BOGOF and 2 for 1
- Walking up the stairs
- Times tables
- Weighing and baking
- Reading timetables
- Darts/snooker

Useful websites for your child to enhance their literacy skills are:

- <http://www.mymaths.co.uk/> (login details required and available from the Mathematics department)
- [www.mathswatchvle.com](http://www.mathswatchvle.com)
- <http://www.ncetm.org.uk/>

### **KS3 websites that we recommend include:**

- <http://www.emaths.co.uk>
- [www.sundog.com](http://www.sundog.com)
- [www.math-play.com](http://www.math-play.com)
- [www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games)
- [www.math4childrenplus.com/](http://www.math4childrenplus.com/)
- <http://www.mathsisfun.com/>
- <http://mathsisfun.net/>

### **KS4 websites that we recommend include:**

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/maths/>

### **Government publications:**

Helping your child improve their literacy

<http://www.langleyacademy.org/documents/indepstud/2013/Parental%20Literacy%20Support%20-%20Reading.pdf>