



# Helping your child learn.

Why do I need to help my child with reading?

The move from primary to secondary is an exciting time for parents and children, however we appreciate that you may worry about the extra demands of secondary school and wonder what you can do to help your child succeed.

One of the best ways to help your child achieve at school is to help them enjoy reading for pleasure: whether they like newspapers, magazines, noels or comics. Research shows that children who read for pleasure do better at school and also that parents play a key role in developing a love of reading.

**RESEARCH FINDINGS: Reading means achieving!**

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than children who don't read for pleasure. The study also found that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help keep their children interested in reading.

Studies also suggest that having newspapers, books and magazines around at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.

### Instant ideas for helping your child to love reading.

- Let your child choose what to read rather than choosing what you they should read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, newspapers, comics and the internet as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books or magazines you haven't enjoyed as well as ones you did.
- Make time to read together.
- Buy books as presents. Remember many TV shows and films have book tie ins; there are also many books which link to computer games or music.
- Remember that reading is happening when your child is looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides, the internet and Delete.

Supporting GCSE level reading across a range of subjects.

During GCSE courses, students will have to complete controlled assessments which count towards their final grade as well as reading a wide range of materials throughout their courses.

#### INSTANT IDEAS:

- Cut out newspaper articles about topics your child is studying.
- Read together if your child is having problems with reading in a particular subject.
- Encourage your child to go to a study support group.
- Text message a good read to your child's mobile phone.
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#### TRY MAKING TIME TO:

- Speak to your child's subject teacher to see if there is anything that they could read that would help their studies or that would help them enjoy a topic.
- Talk about everyday topics, encouraging your child to be the 'expert' and use the technical terms they are learning at GCSE.
- Look up technical words you or your child don't recognise from their work in a dictionary or on the internet and make it your word of the day. When you have a list of words you could test your child on them.
- Talk to your child about reading. Often GCSE students feel they have little time for reading for pleasure. You can help by talking about what they enjoy reading and helping to make time for it.

Supporting GCSE level reading in English, English Language and/or English Literature.

#### INSTANT IDEAS:

- Borrow audio recordings of the texts your child is reading for their exams, listen to them together or share them as a family, perhaps while doing the washing up.
- Visit your local library or video store to borrow the film version of a GCSE text. Many have been made into films.
- Encourage your child to read more by helping them to find books, magazines, websites and comics that interest them or tie into the work they have been doing for GCSE. Wider reading is part of the GCSE English Literature course.

#### TRY MAKING TIME TO:

- Talk about adverts and think about what messages they are trying to get across when you are watching TV or reading a newspaper or magazine. Encourage your child to use technical language when discussing these.
- Use the internet to help your child. Website often give reading tips for GCSE texts.