

I  **REVISION**

Your Support

We value the support and encouragement you give your son/ daughter. This booklet is to help you support your son/ daughter when preparing for their summer exams.

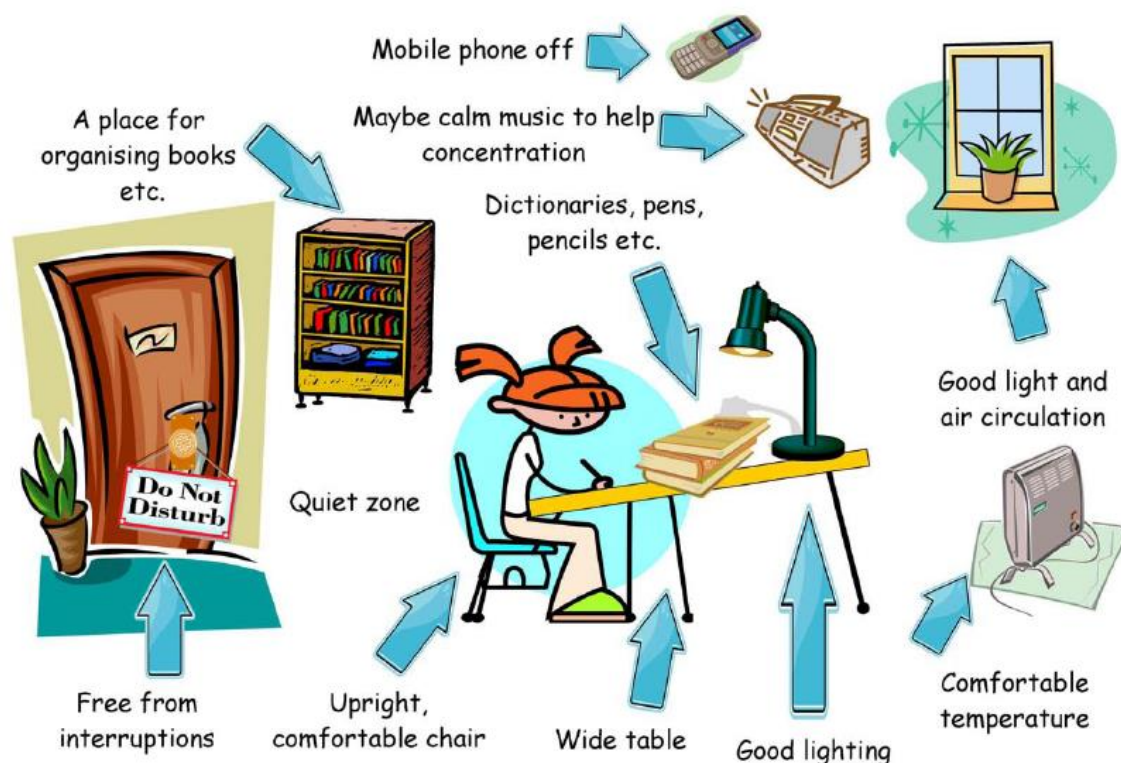
We would ask you to continue to show an active interest in your son/ daughter's school work this year especially in the following areas:

- Recognising how important these exams are and how much time your son/daughter will need if they are to do as well as they can.
- Securing a quiet place for study, where their work can be safely kept.
- Encouraging relaxation time (too much study is not helpful).
- Praising hard work, also emphasizing the need for plenty of sleep.
- Look over the work he/she has done that evening.
- Check his / her planner for revision or homework.
- Ask him/ her to show you his/ her revision plan for the week ahead.
- Each night ask him/her what subjects/topics he plans to study that night.
- Ask him/her about particular subjects.
- At the end of each study session ask him/ her to explain something he/she has learnt to you.
- Reminding them that it will soon be over!

Your involvement during this crucial year can make an enormous difference –

'In other words, while both school and family involvement are important, the role of family involvement is stronger when it comes to academic success,' 'Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class, according to a recent study. The Campaign for Learning found that parental involvement in a child's education can mean the difference between an A* and a D at GCSE.' 'Our study shows that parents need to be aware of how important they are. Parents should invest time in their children, checking homework, attending school events and letting kids know school is important. That's where the payoff is.'

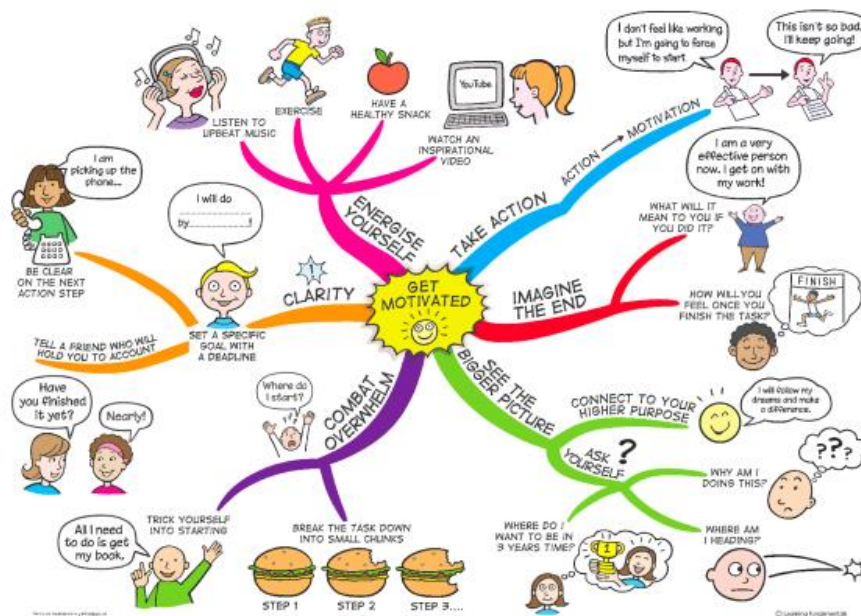
(BBC, 12 October 2012)



What Can A Parent Do? Ensuring success

Exam Timetable

- Get your son/daughter to check that they have all the notes and texts they need for revision.
- Get them to talk to their teacher if they are missing any.
- Check they have a revision timetable which includes the dates and times of the examinations. Also include any other important dates (such as birthdays) when you would want them to take some time off from revision.
- The timetable should be used to plan revision sessions. These should be spread out evenly so that your son/daughter is not planning to do too much all at once.
- Having the timetable displayed in their room is a good idea which helps them stick to the plan.
- Check how they are doing by letting them explain something they have just learned. It's a good rule of thumb that if you can follow their explanation then they will be able to produce a good answer to an exam question on that topic.
- Encourage your son/daughter to ask for help at school on any parts of their work they do not understand. Encourage your son/daughter to persevere and to work hard in the run-up to the exams.



Useful revision tips

You can support your son/daughter by helping them to follow these tips:

We learn:

- 10% of what we read
- 20% of what we hear
- 30% of what we see
- 40% of what we see and hear
- 70% of what is discussed
- *95% of what we teach to someone else*



This means that the best method of learning is having to explain or teach a topic to someone else.

- Plan for 20 minute sessions or half an hour at most. Any longer and it is likely that nothing more will sink in. Take a short break in between sessions and have a glass of water or something similar to drink.
- In the evenings after school, plan to revise one or two subjects only. Leave some time for relaxation.
- Plan to revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once.
- Ensure that each session starts by tackling the most difficult bits.
- Plan to cover each subject several times and revisit each one near to the exams.
- Revising with the TV or radio on or with loud music is not a good idea. Having their favourite music in the background may help.
- Reading is not generally enough. Making brief notes in either words or pictures helps them to remember.
- Have all the books they need to hand so they don't have to go off looking for information.
- Working with a friend can be useful because it allows them to test each other and to talk about the work.



During the exam period

Try to ensure that:

- Your son/daughter gets a good night's sleep before exams.
- They have all the equipment they need:
 - A couple of pens and sharp pencils;
 - A rubber and ruler;
 - A watch.
 - Sometimes they may also need:
 - A calculator;
 - A protractor.
- They know the start times of every exam that day.
- You wish them well; tell them they have worked hard enough and that they can only do their best.
- You look forward to seeing them at the end of the day.

And when it's all over...Tell your son/daughter to relax and forget about studying for a while. Perhaps you can celebrate by cooking them their favourite meal.

So what is my role as a parent?

Of course your role in helping your child to succeed will vary according to their needs and strengths. You will find that in the areas covered by some sections of the booklet you will have little to do, while others will require more support.

Your role may include some or all of the following:

- Attendance officer – making sure your child goes to lessons and understands the importance of making the most of lesson-times.
- Partner with school and child – going to parents' evenings, asking questions and finding out how you can best help your child at home.
- Provider of the tools for homework and revision – a quiet space, a 'workbox' of pens, paper and other necessities.
- Banker – paying for the tools, files and revision guides they need.
- Study buddy – showing an interest in the subject, helping with homework (but not doing it for them), testing them when they ask you etc.
- Entertainments officer – finding out about TV programmes, theatre productions, films, exhibitions relevant to your child's learning and enjoying them together.
- Sounding board and adviser – helping your child to break tasks down so that they are manageable, keeping a subtle eye on progress and celebrating achievements, and seeing a positive way forward when things go badly.
- Project manager – agreeing the rules for homework or revision (they won't work if they're imposed), helping them to make a realistic timetable, balancing work against the 'fun stuff' and revising the plans as necessary.
- Go-between - for your child and the school when necessary; making sure problems are nipped in the bud and asking the questions your child can't or won't.
- Information provider and interpreter - finding copies of old exam papers, searching out websites, finding out about the subject, exam structures and content.

Whatever your individual child's needs your chief role will always be that of person who cares most in the world, champion of their needs and admirer of every achievement. The most important role you will play is that of person who will love them and be proud of them whatever happens.