

COMMON FRUSTRATIONS FOR PARENTS...

My work is on the computer at School ...

I need to be in the library at school to do it – I'll do it tomorrow...

It doesn't have to be in for ages— I've got loads of time...

Mr. XXX never gives us homework...

My work's at school to do revision...

I'm doing that with a friend and she's got the books...

What does he need to revise? I'm sure he's got exams soon....

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOL

To be forewarned is to be forearmed: We will endeavour to provide you with the clear and practical information that you need to help meet the demands of exams. We hope to provide you with the information and suggestions you need to support your child.

FACT

At this stage of your child's education in preparation for their GCSEs exams they will never have **NO** homework.

Homework may not have been specifically directed, but coursework and revision can always be done. Building homework and revision into a daily routine, along with guiding your child to take responsibility for their own learning, is invaluable to their success.

Your encouragement and interest can make a massive difference. The good news is that you don't have to be an expert in any subject or become a "Super-Parent" giving up your own life and responsibilities – you just need to know how best to spend the time you have at this stage productively.

Why has he never got Homework

WHEN DO I CONTACT SCHOOL?

- If your child consistently tells you they have no homework or coursework.
- If you are worried about your child's behaviour (for example if they don't want to go to school or have had issues with subject staff).
- Contacting school earlier rather than later, there is still time to put things right.

SO WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A PARENT?

Your role in helping your child to succeed will vary according to their needs and strengths. When you, your child and school work in partnership, we can hope for the best results possible.

Your role may include being some of the following:

Attendance Officer: Make sure your child goes to school, attends lessons and understands the importance of making the most of this stage. Help them plan by balancing school, revision and social leisure time.

Banker: Provide the tools, files and revision guides that your child needs. This could be something as simple as providing a “Work Box”; a selection of necessities (for example pens, highlighters, post-it notes, card and paper) all helpful for revising. Provide snacks and regular drinks for revision periods.

Organiser:

- ✓ Create a work area where your child will be comfortable (where they will not be interrupted and free from as many distractions as possible).
- ✓ Help organise you and your child’s time, using the wall planner marking commitments to clubs and revision sessions at school. Work commitments in this demanding period of revision may need to be cancelled or reduced.
- ✓ Agree to a *realistic* revision timetable that fits in with social and home life. Use the exam dates to structure revision times.
- ✓ Have back-up resources. Printing off past exam papers on: www.aqa.org.uk
www.ocr.org.uk
www.edexcel.com

This will give you an idea of what your child is expected to do and is a great way to practice exam questions.

Finally - Plan a reward structure to motivate your child (don’t think these rewards have to be financial, but once agreed stick to them). It could be a well-deserved treat that you and your child can look forward to.

Entertainments Officer: TV programmes and revision downloads are often available, relevant to your child’s subject area.

Minimal distraction is recommended when revising, have a trial with your child's suggestions e.g. music on/off. However, be prepared to compromise and review this.

Adviser:

- ✓ Help your child break down revision into manageable chunks and keeping a subtle eye on their progress. Ensure that revision and coursework is varied. Often students stick to a subject that they like or find the easiest and leave the most important. Using the wall planner by colour coding the subjects should give an immediate indication of the subjects they are studying.
- ✓ Celebrate achievements. Completing coursework or essays is one more step forward.

Study Buddy:

- Show an interest in the subject, helping with homework and coursework, testing them when they ask etc.
- Agree to regular “check-ins” to discuss how coursework or revision is going and if there are any problem areas. Students who fall behind can feel demotivated or overwhelmed at times. This could mean they are struggling with the demands, which will have a negative effect. Talk to them about the issues and acknowledge their feelings and sensible attitude in wanting to sort the problem out.

The most important role is to encourage and praise your child. Show interest by talking to them about what they are learning in different subjects.

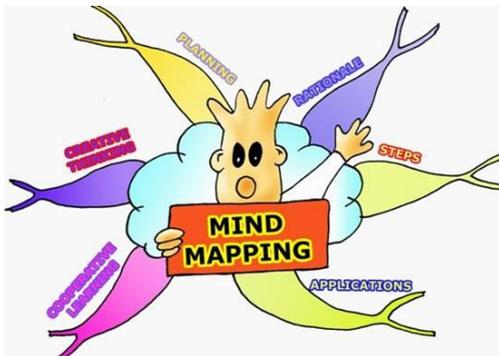
Be sensitive to the pressure your child may be feeling, let them know that you are proud of them and that they are doing really well. Remind them of the good work they have done and the difference it will make...

So what is revision?

It means literally “re-looking” at information you have already learnt. You need to be able to know the information you will be tested on and remember it for the exam.

The aim is to reduce the amount of information relating to the subject into a series of key points which you can expand upon in the actual exam.

People learn and retain information using different strategies. Here are some ideas:



Drawing a “Mind Map” (Spider Diagram) onto a large piece of paper is great for VISUAL learners. Any topic can be revised in this way – showing how different parts of the subject fit together. Flip charts or posters in prominent places around the house can also help retain the information. Put revision aids up around the house especially chemical or mathematical formulas and languages. Read them when your on the loo, brushing your teeth or eating your breakfast.



Highlight points in your revision guide that are relevant to the topic you are revising. This will help you remember. Use picture learning, read a topic, and then draw pictures relevant to the topic with as few words as possible.



Revision cards are a great way of getting a family member or friend involved to help you. Choose a topic. Using your revision guide, write a question at the top of the revision card. Then at least three key points (answers). You are revising; you are reading your notes or revision guide and picking out key points. Leave these for a day or two, then ask someone to test you by asking the question. The test is how much you remembered.



Some people revise by working through and reading their revision guides. Read a page – shut the book and try and write it down, or remember the key points.

**Order of colours in the rainbow,
or visual spectrum.**

Richard	RED
Of	ORANGE
York	YELLOW
Gave	GREEN
Battle	BLUE
In	INDIGO
Vain.	VIOLET

Memory techniques are a good way to remember, Finding out how you remember is the key.
Acronyms – Use the first letter of the prompt word to make another.
Mnemonics – make silly sentences to remember orders of text.
Sometimes the sillier the sentence the easier you will remember.



It can be a great idea to encourage your child to have a friend to share the revision with. Keep a close eye and review this if you feel it is not working.