

Advice for Parents of GCSE pupils

Your child will be more likely to succeed if they try to do the following things:

- Form good relationships with other pupils and with staff
- Take a positive attitude towards study Get themselves organised for study
- Listen carefully inside and outside class
- Spend on average an hour every day on work at home
- Take a careful and positive attitude to research
- Read as much as they can
- Work hard on their numeracy skills
- Work hard on their ICT skills – even if they have not chosen to do ICT
- Be open to new ways of revising
- Learn to bounce back after setbacks

The key areas to focus on in learning

The main skills we focus on in learning are as follows:

- Organisation and Planning
- Active Listening
- Extended Writing and Thinking
- Research
- Revision

Organisation and Planning

Good organisation is the key to success. Poor organisation is the main reason for underachievement. Your child will need to plan how they are going to get their work done, keep a tidy file, study in a well organised way at home and stick carefully to deadlines.

Active Listening

Your child will need to make an extra special effort to listen carefully in class. With the time constraints of GCSE, a limited amount of time is available in lesson delivery. Guidance will be provided in helpful listening techniques.

Extended Writing and Thinking

Your child is likely to discover that in a number of subjects, they will be required to write longer answers. Structured help will be provided to help your child in this area. Your child's thinking and problem-solving skills will also grow.

Research

At GCSE, in a number of subjects Controlled Assessment Tasks are completed. These tasks count as part of the GCSE mark and often will require your child to find out information for themselves. Once again, guidance will be provided on how they do this.

Revision

Your child will find that at GCSE that...

- there is more information to revise for tests and exams
- topics will be set to revise for tests, but there will be less direction given on specifically what will be coming up in the test

To assist your child in coping with these challenges, your child will be shown the essentials of successful revision and a range of revision strategies to help them learn the information they have.

FAQs

1. How much homework should my child have?

Your child should be doing on average three hours of revision a week. They should balance their time around all the subjects they do, and not simply focus on a few

2. Is it OK for my child to have a phone on while doing their homework?

In some circumstances it will be justifiable for your child to have their phone on. For example, they may need to reference information or may need to keep up to date with information from their teacher via social networking sites such as Twitter. However, it is important to check that they are using their phone for valid reasons

3. How do I find out more about what my child is studying/what my child needs to do?

The best way of doing that is through the school website (www.lurgancollege.co.uk) or departmental websites linked to the school website. For examination information, the best source is the NICCEA website on www.ccea.org.uk

4. How much help should I give my child?

We aim to make your child into an independent learner. This means he/she should be able to carry out tasks himself/herself, using the support that we provide. It would be useful to encourage them to use this support (e.g. through Twitter or departmental websites). However, if your child is in significant difficulties, you could give a little assistance, provided that your child is not simply attempting to get you to do his/her homework for them!