



Supporting your Child's Education in the Home and at School

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Parents have a strong interest in building a good relationship with their child's school, for a number of reasons. Some teachers might show even more patience and support to students they know to be making their best effort and with a supportive home background, and parents themselves benefit from being in the know in terms of syllabuses, where to find past papers, mark schemes and other resources, as well as the relative worth of different assessments and the vagaries of certain qualifications. Often this communication is achieved most effectively via the child's tutor, however it can also be useful to get to know individual subject teachers – there is likely to be considerable variety in teachers' ability or willingness to provide ongoing and detailed feedback on your child's performance.

At home parents should think carefully about the most appropriate level and type of support and intervention in their child's learning. Many children will prefer to be left completely alone and happily organise themselves effectively, while others may need a frustratingly high level of support. Areas in which parents can offer most support are likely to include organisational (providing stationery and other equipment which the student might really enjoy and benefit from using) and in memory testing to see if they have remembered key points (this can significantly boost their grades in many subjects). Sourcing tutors can also add considerable value.

It is usually a good idea to attend all available events at school, especially those which allow access to subject teachers. Achievement evenings are great opportunities to get detailed feedback on the precise areas your child might need to address; make sure you probe to find out exactly what they need to be doing to achieve the best possible outcomes.