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AKEB Newsletter



Welcome to the third edition of the AKEB's newsletter for parents with children in secondary school. Our aim is to share insights and provide access to useful resources to help you navigate your way around the education system and make informed decisions with your children at critical times during the academic calendar.

Did You Know?

Over 2 million students benefit from AKDN education programmes annually. Programmes range from early childhood development to primary and secondary schools, from vocational studies to university degrees.

Out and about during the school holidays

Following on from the STEM event, the Education Board would like to share some events and interactive exhibitions which are taking place during the Christmas holidays. For more information please visit the websites highlighted or contact akeb@iuk.org



The Royal Institute: Explore over 200 years of history-making science in the Faraday Museum at the Royal Institute. There's something fun and interactive for young and old. Visit www.rigb.org/whats-on for more information.



The Science Museum: The Statio Gallery – what happens when you mix science and maths together? How can explosions help us in our everyday lives? For curious minds of all ages visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk for details of workshops, events and bookings.



The Natural History Museum: Under the ocean wave or amongst the stars and planets, back in history or a look into the future The Natural history Museum is where curious minds find answers. Visit www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/whats-on.html for details of events and timings.



Royal Albert Hall

Royal Albert Hall: A morning visit to the Royal Albert Hall is sure to be the talk of the evening at the dinner table. Discover music with interactive concerts and shows. For information visit www.royalalberthall.com



National Portrait Gallery: Interact with members of Youth Forum for lively Gallery talks giving a youth perspective on portraiture or join an artist for a drawing session in the gallery. A visit to the National Portrait Gallery is a must for budding artists and creative minds of all ages. Visit www.npg.org.uk for information on events and expositions.



Museum of Science and Industry: With activities, workshops and festivals at the Museum of Science and Industry there's always something new to learn! Free Special event 'Light' from Thursday 21 December 2017 - Sunday 07 January 2018. Visit www.msimanchester.org.uk/whats-on/light or contact the museum for further details.



National Sea Life Birmingham: Take an underwater adventure at the National Sea Life Centre with 60 displays of freshwater and marine life and over 2000 creatures! Come nose to nose with reef sharks in the ocean tunnel or stroke a starfish and feel crab shells in the Rock pool. Visit www.visitsealife.com/Birmingham for more information.



Life Science Centre, Newcastle: Experience the most immersive, absorbing journeys through space and the solar system. Join the Coderdojo sessions or interact with the live science shows where experiments unravel scientific facts. Log on to www.life.org.uk/events for more information and bookings.



There is no question that when parents support their children's education, their children are more successful. Research shows that parental involvement can have a big impact on their child's learning.

- Set a schedule that allows plenty of time for homework to be finished.
- Have conversations about what they are learning in specific subjects, followed by positive comments. Simply saying, "That sounds really interesting. Tell me more" will motivate them to talk about their learning.
- Make time for reading. Try reading the same book and then discussing it. This could lead to an interesting debate on view points.

Ask the right kinds of questions to improve your child's thinking

Experts recommend asking questions to build your child's thinking skills.

A well-known classification system, Bloom's Taxonomy, divides thinking skills into six categories. Ask your child questions that fall under these categories:.

Knowledge

Find out what your child knows about a topic. Talk about facts. Start with the basics, such as who, what, when and where.

Application

Encourage your child to connect previous learning to new experiences.

Synthesis

This involves thinking about old information in new ways.

Comprehension

Test how well your child understands the subject. Ask them to describe, explain or predict something.

Analysis

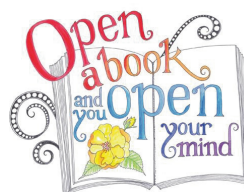
Discuss how something works or how it's organised.

Evaluation

Help your child be creative without worrying about right or wrong.

How do you encourage your child to read?

Research shows that reading amongst teens is becoming a short lived past time. Boys in particular are less motivated to read than girls. Luckily, there are some strategic methods parents can use to encourage those non readers to pick up a book.



Keep reading materials handy. Leave comics, magazines, books, newspapers and other materials around the house where your child is likely to pick them up.

Male role models are really important. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles and older brothers can all play their part by letting younger boys see them reading.

Experiment with genres by encouraging a variety of books and authors to see what suits their taste - fast-paced adventure, horror and science-fiction are often popular.

Organize a reading schedule for your teens and make sure they follow it. Whenever your teen is free ask them to read. It could be either after dinner or just before bedtime.