

## How Can I Support my Child in English? A Parents' Guide

### Why is English important?

- A good English GCSE is required for college courses and apprenticeships.
- Most universities and employers demand GCSE English, often at grade 5 and above. Solid GCSE grades give students an academic edge over their peers.
- English teaches you vital life skills that give you confidence and an ability to communicate in a wide range of situations.

### Getting the basics right

- ✓ Develop a regular routine for working at home in a place free from distractions.
- ✓ Ensure your child is completing all homework. Homework tasks are always set via Show My Homework.
- ✓ Look through their exercise books and talk about their work.
- ✓ If they have been absent for any reason, check that they have caught up on missed work.
- ✓ Never say "I was never any good at English" as this will lead them to believe there is no point trying.

### How to revise

Some people say "You can't revise for English" but this is not true!

1. Re-read the texts! Most of can be downloaded for free onto a tablet or smartphone using an app
  - a. A Christmas Carol
  - b. An Inspector Calls
  - c. Macbeth
  - d. The AQA Conflict poetry anthology– [www.aqa.org.uk/English-e-library](http://www.aqa.org.uk/English-e-library)
2. Use self-quizzing to memorise information about texts (e.g. Macbeth) using 'knowledge organisers'.
3. Create flashcards with questions on one side and answers on the other.
4. Use the Seneca Learning to answer quiz questions on English Literature texts.
5. Subscribe to English teachers' YouTube channels (e.g. Mr Bruff) and watch two videos each week.
6. Read for pleasure – challenging novels from different genres, plus non-fiction, e.g the Guardian.
7. Be aware of your child's areas for development with SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). Test them on the spellings they keep getting wrong.
8. Encourage your child to redraft/rewrite work following the advice given by the teacher.
9. Use websites to explore key topics, e.g. BBC Bitesize, GCSEPod and SparkNotes.
10. Learn quotations by putting posters/post-it notes up around the house.

### Talking Together

- Ask your child to tell you any new vocabulary they have learned in English and explain what these words mean.
- Get them to tell you what the book/play is about and what they find interesting about it.
- Read their creative writing pieces together and tell them what you like about them