

5 WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD AT BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL KEY STAGE 4

Art

- Encourage your child to visit art galleries and other cultural experiences.
- Talk to your child about what they are studying in their art lessons and their achievements.
- Ensure that SMHW is being used regularly and that homework is completed.
- Ensure that they are prepared for lessons with their sketchbook and equipment, (HB, 2B pencils, colouring pencils, ruler, rubber and sharpener, Acrylic paint and brushes).
- Encourage your child to attend extra-curricular sessions.

Business Studies

- As parents, you are a very useful resource! You will have experience of Business in one form or another, be it as an employer, employee, manager etc. Therefore your knowledge and understanding of Business will be important and discussing your experiences may help your child put Business theory into a real life context.
- Watch the news and read news articles about the Business and the economy with your child. Ask them questions that check they have understood the report and ask them to give their opinions. News websites such as <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/Business> are a great source of information for Business Studies.
- Look for opportunities to talk to your child about Business and the Economy. Try to find topics you're both interested in and encourage debate. For instance Brexit - Was the outcome of the referendum the right choice for the UK? How does it affect UK businesses?
- The Business Studies course introduces lots of new terminology which as adults we may take for granted. Students often struggle with these new words. Talk to your child about what they have been studying in school. Ask them to explain key concepts/terms to you to help embed their knowledge and understanding. Their exercise book and the school VLE have lots of information that you could use to guide you.
- Whilst TV programmes such as *Dragon's Den* or *The Apprentice* can be assumed to be unrealistic light entertainment, they are an excellent way of introducing pupils to key terms and business terminology. Therefore watching these programmes may offer an appropriate way to relax in between homework and revision!

Child Development

- Talk to your child about what they have been studying in school. Ask them to explain key concepts to you.
- Talk to your child about how they changed as they grew up.
- Watch programmes such as 'Secret life of a 4/5/6 year old' to help you understand how children develop at different ages.
- Encourage them to read around the subject.
- Talk to them about their progress and attainment.

Dance

- Support your child in doing some sort of exercise or join an exercise class together to aid stamina and strength
- Listen to different genres of music, particularly instrumental tracks
- Ask them about the topic that we are working on at the moment, get them to tell you what is expected during the written/ practical work for assessment
- Encourage them to read/ research around the subject about different styles of dance
- Talk to them about their progress and attainment.

Design and Technology

- Talk to your child about what they have been studying in school and how they are progressing. Ask them to explain key concepts to you.
- Encourage them to read around the subject and become more aware of what is happening in the world of design.
- Look at objects to see what materials they are made from and how they might be manufactured.
- Practise drawing and rendering techniques to improve the quality of their design work.

Drama

- Take your child to the theatre to watch a variety of performances.
- Talk to your child about what they have been studying in school.
- Watch a variety of films and TV Dramas that are suitable for their age.
- Encourage your child to do further research on different styles and genres. This will help them to be creative when developing their own performances.
- Encourage pupils to read plays.

English

- Read the books, plays and poems that your child needs to study for school. It can really help them if you read these together and talk about the language and characters. Try to learn few short quotations together.
- Borrow or download film versions of the set texts your child is studying and watch these together, discussing characterisation, plot and themes as you do so.
- Go through your child's work (in all subjects – not just English) and try to identify the top dozen or twenty misspellings / grammar issues. Help them to make their own personal 'hit-list' of literacy issues.
- Visit the BBC Skillswise website together. In particular, look at the section on word grammar and check your child's understanding of the different parts of speech, such as verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.
- As at KS3, rather than correcting any errors in your child's work, put a small dot in the margin next to any spelling, punctuation or grammar issues. Then encourage your child to work out what the issue is for himself or herself.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

- Talk to your child about what they have been studying in school. Ask them to explain key concepts to you.
- Get your child to cook more at home and build up their practical skills and confidence in the kitchen.
- Watch cooking programmes/ visit food fairs and discuss techniques being used.
- Encourage them to read around the subject.
- Talk to them about their progress and attainment.

Geography

- Read and discuss newspaper articles about the topic studied.
- Ask students to explain why natural disasters take place.
- Discuss local issues e.g. traffic, recycling, changes to area, new housing etc.
- Use past exam papers and questions to test knowledge
- Record and watch geographical documentaries.

History

- Encourage your child to watch a History documentary or Historical film occasionally to help develop your wider knowledge and understanding of History. This could be Horrible Histories.
- Check that your child knows what level they are working at and know how to improve their work
- Encourage your child to consolidate their learning – to spend approx. 30 minutes reading over their work from their last lesson the night after or before their next lesson.
- Watch the news with your child. Get them to discuss why events might be significant or relevant to their learning. Get them to try and be able to argue two sides.
- If your child wants or needs some additional help with History, encourage them to attend intervention on Tuesday night.

ICT and Computer Science

- E-Safety for parents - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- Check SMHW for homework from ICT and Computer Science. Discuss the homework with your child and ask if there is anything that you can do to help.
- Discuss with your child the changes and developments in technology and how it has affected our society. Use the BBC technology news website to initiate your discussion.
- Check your child's exercise book/folder to help with organisation and understanding – have a discussion about the work they have completed that week and highlight any areas that they found particularly interesting or challenging.
- During the exam sessions – help your child to develop a revision timetable and encourage them to complete past ICT (Edexcel) and Computer Science (OCR) exam papers. Use the mark scheme to assess the paper and highlight any areas for further revision.

For computer science pupils ONLY

- Pupils must practise their programming skills in preparation for the NEA (non-examined assessment and we encourage pupils to code as much as possible. In order to do this, pupils can use the following online resources:
 - <https://www.codecademy.com/>
 - <https://www.python.org/>
 - <http://www.pythonschool.net/>

Maths

- Regularly encourage your child to bring a scientific calculator and other mathematical equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, pair of compasses) to all their maths lessons. Equipment can be bought at the school finance office.
- Use show my homework to keep up to date with what maths homework has been set for your child and check with them that it has been completed or to see if they require help with it (see subsequent points).
- Encourage your child to come to an after school enrichment session to get help with their maths work. These are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school on the upper school maths corridor. They can bring with them maths homework that they are struggling with or work on a topic that they have found difficult.
- Encourage your child to use the online help available to them. These include mymaths (Username 'bwhs' , Password 'maths5'. Ask your child for their own personal username and password, www.corbettmaths.com (containing demonstration videos, practice questions, 5 a day regular daily practice), Mrbartonmaths.com (go to the 'GCSE revision page/GCSE past papers and solutions/GCSE Maths takeaway)
- Familiarise yourself with the resources on the school VLE and find extra practise on topics that your child struggles with. The login is username: pupil, password: appleton. Go to Mysubjects/maths/Students/ New GCSE 1-9 where you will find lots of practice booklets/papers with solutions using lots of problem solving questions which are a feature of the new GCSE.

MFL

“What can we do as parents to help, particularly if we don't speak the language our child is learning?”

This is particularly true for parents whose child has opted to take an exam course in a foreign language – feeling that their child is “on their own” can be very stressful. However, even with a knowledge of no other language, there continue to be basic things to do with learning that any parent can do to help. The general school advice of asking to see their work; checking they have done the homework; helping them to organise their time so that work is not left to the last minute all apply to modern foreign languages, as well as the following more specific ideas:

- Make sure that they are recycling the language they have learned and covered in class. Too many pupils work through a topic or a point of grammar really well in class, and once faced with a blank page at home, just try to make it up on the spot. Writing style homework is designed to reinforce what has recently been happening in class.
- Again, as at Keystage 3, stop them using Google translate – they will be using more complex ideas and language at GCSE, and Google translate often mangles it. And if they are lucky and they find a sentence where it doesn't, then it stops them learning to think on their feet which they need to do in the exam.
- Practise reading and listening skills. There are a wide variety of texts available for listening and reading online – from accessing yahoo in French or German (fr.yahoo.com or de.yahoo.com) for really challenging level language up to date news (but decipherable with a bilingual dictionary or www.wordreference.com for French and dict.leo.org for German) to youtube having a series called “Extra French” or “Extra German” designed for GCSE level listening.
- Explore the options available for learning a language through Apps on their phone. We won't mention any here, as there are many, both free and to buy. Most work on helping the learner to learn vocabulary, but some focus on other things – check the App stores you download other Apps from. Sign up for the free profile on memrise.com and follow the links sent through showmyhomework by your child's teacher to help with active vocabulary learning – a list of the GCSE AQA vocabulary can also be searched for on that site..
- Let your child teach you some of what they are learning – having to explain things is one of the best forms of learning and organising what they have learned in the minds. Let them laugh if you mangle the pronunciation, but get them to correct you as well!

Music

- Encourage students to listen to different styles of music, particularly popular and classical music.
- Encourage students to share examples of world music with you.
- Take your son/daughter to music concerts, orchestras and festivals where possible.
- Encourage your son/daughter to learn an instrument.
- Encourage your son/daughter to take part in a band or a music performance group.

PE (core)

- Ensure your child has their correct PE kit for all practical lessons.
- Encourage your child to attend extra-curricular activities either inside or outside of school.
- Encourage and support your child to be active each day.
- Encourage your child to watch sport either live or on the television.
- Discuss the benefits of PE & Sport in maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

PE (GCSE)

- Ensure your child is appropriately equipped for both practical and theory lessons.
- Encourage your child to be regularly participating in sport and extra-curricular activities to support their practical grades.
- Encourage your child to continually read over their class notes on a regular basis to embed learning.
- Support the process of your child completing homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Support your child in their revision programme for QMA's, end of unit tests and mock exams by encouraging them to access and complete past papers from the AQA GCSE PE website.

Performing Arts BTEC

- Take your child to the theatre.
- Discuss use of costume, set and lighting and the way actors perform their characters when you watch films and TV.
- Talk to your child about what they have been studying in school. Share your thoughts.
- Encourage your child to watch clips from musicals on YouTube.
- Encourage your child to read plays.

RS

- Encourage your child to watch a documentary, film or TV programme to help develop their wider knowledge and understanding of religion and ethics. This could be anything from The Big Questions to any of the soaps.
- Check that your child knows what level they are working at and know how to improve their work
- Encourage your child to consolidate their learning – to spend approximately 30 minutes reading over their work from their last lesson the night after or before their next lesson.
- Watch the news with your child. Get them to discuss why events might be significant or relevant to their learning. Get them to try and be able to argue two sides.
- If your child wants or needs some additional help with Religious Studies, encourage them to attend intervention on Tuesday night.

Science

- Encourage your child to log on to their 'Show My Homework' account to check for any homework that has been set by their science teacher.
- Encourage the use of the online 'Science Kerboodle' resource that all KS4 pupils have access to for the support of their learning.
- Ensure that they know when assessments (QMAs) are taking place and are doing the necessary revision for them.
- Watch for science in the news and read science news articles to stimulate interest and engagement in the world of science.
- In school holiday periods, maybe arrange visits to local science exhibitions and museums..

Textiles

- Encourage your child to visit art galleries and other cultural experiences.
- Talk to your child about what they are studying in their Textiles lessons and their achievements.
- Ensure that SMHW is being used regularly and that homework is completed.
- Ensure that they are prepared for lessons with their sketchbook and equipment, (HB, 2B pencils, colouring pencils, ruler, rubber and sharpener, bit box).
- Encourage your child to attend extra-curricular sessions.