



SUPPORT MY CHILD

#1

# SHOW MY HOMEWORK

**ShowMyHomework** is a wonderful tool for both students and parents to track, complete and plan homework. Here at Soar Valley College **ShowMyHomework** forms the cornerstone of our homework provision.

*So to get organised and start making forgotten homework a thing of the past scan the QR code below. You can download a free QR code scanner from the apple app store or from the Google Play store. Both will be completely free.*



*Showmyhomework For  
Parents*



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#2



**Soar Valley College**  
A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE  
**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

# GET THEM READING

(no matter how old they are)

## How to read with children of any age

- **Set aside some time**

Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.

- **Ask your child to choose a book**

Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.

- **Sit close together**

Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.

- **Point to the pictures**

If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.

- **Encourage your child to talk about the book**

Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.

- **And lastly, above all - make it fun!**

It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices - children love this!



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#3

# ORGANISATION

## Organisation Top-Tips:

- Each night after school check what homework they have coming up and what they have to do.
- **Get you bag ready for the next day!**
- Don't leave homework to the last minute. **Plan ahead!**
- Have a **set time** each day that you do homework. That way, once its done they can relax.
- Have a place setup for you to do homework, with good lighting, a comfy seat and no distractions. That means **no TV or social media!**
- Use your planner as well to record your homework and what date its due on.



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#4

# A HOMEWORK SPACE

## Getting organised – A space to work

What resources are rally useful to support you child in completing work at home.

- Pens (a couple of colours, including green)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Glue
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils
- Paper (a pad of plain and lined)

## An ideal space

Natural light is best or a lamp will work, make sure they are not straining their eyes  
It is quiet and away from distractions

## Rules for the family

When they are working at home, what rules should be in place for the rest of the family

- TV turned down (ideally off)
- All other family members know they can not interrupt
- Mobile phone is away (e.g., they give to you during 'work time')



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#5

# SAM LEARNING

## Key points:

- It's an online revision resource covering all of the subject areas.
- All students at Soar Valley have been provided with logins.
- All students have been shown how to use SAM learning.

## Why use it?

- Research shows that using SAM Learning can gain on average 2 GCSE grades better than those that don't use it across their best 8 subjects.
- It creates greater independence.
- It supports your child in consolidating key areas.

## What can you do?

- Encourage your child to use SAM learning outside of school.
- Ask them to show you tasks they have completed.
- Help them to form positive habits and aim to complete 10 hours of independent SAM learning study per half term.



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#6a

# SUPPORTING WITH HOMEWORK

1. Know the teachers and what they're looking for. Attend school events, such as parents evenings and school meetings, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.
2. Set up a homework friendly area. Make sure your child has a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
3. Schedule a regular study time. You know them best. Some children work best in the afternoon, following a snack or playing out; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
4. Help them make a plan. On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary — and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
5. Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about a piece of homework can be helpful.)



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#6b

# SUPPORTING WITH HOMEWORK

6. Make sure your child does their own work. They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's the students job to do the learning.
7. Be a motivator and monitor. Ask about homework, revision, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns. Regularly check show my homework
8. Set a good example. Do your children ever see you watch the news or reading a book? Children are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.
9. Praise their work and efforts. Display certificates, postcards or projects on the fridge or fire place. Sharing the positive news with other relatives is a brilliant way to show them how proud you are (even if it does embarrass them).
10. If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Talk about it with your child's teacher. There may be specific issues in certain areas that we or yourself can help with.



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#7

# KS3 HOW TO REVISE

## Overall advice:

- It's important that our KS3 students get used to the process of revising and studying so they'll cope at KS4.
- Getting students into a habit of working at home regularly trains their brains into routines of learning.
- Encouraging students to work in bursts of 25mins at a time is proven to help students retain the information they are learning.
- Guiding children to work in a quiet environment with clear start and end points to study time is essential.

## Revising makes longer term sense:

- KS3 revision is about students being aware of assessment deadlines and working towards them in a balanced way.
- KS3 students should also be revising on a regular basis to consolidate what they've learnt in class. This way, information in their short term memory is transferred into their long term memory and accessible later in termly assessments.
- Mind maps/Cue Cards/Posters/Post it notes and highlighting of key words are all good ways to get your child to revise the topics they have been studying.



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#8

# ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

## Know When to ask and What to ask

### WHEN:

- Most children need time to rest and make the transition from school to home. Let them
- Most children don't want an audience of siblings, or their friends
- Don't ask when their head is buried in their phone, when they are eating, or when you have just nagged them about if they have any homework
- Catch them alone, as they are working or a great time is when they are stalling going to bed

### WHAT:

Keep them open ended such as;

- "What was the most challenging thing you had to do at school today?"
- "Which was your favourite lesson today? How come?"
- "How are you doing in Drama at the minute?"
- "Which subject are you not enjoying? Why?"

LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN



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#9

# KS4 HOW TO REVISE

1. Check your child knows wh**a**t they need to revise for each of their exams
2. Encourage your child to treat mo**C**k exams like they would their final GCSE exams
3. Encourage your child to be organised, be **h**onest, and make sure that they are using revision timetables. Ask for a copy and put it on the fridge
4. Check that your child is **making** notes, rather than just taking notes. Encourage creat**i**ve revision, making revision games, activities etc.
5. Make sur**e** they have an area that they can revise without distraction
6. Encourage them to practise rele**v**ant past paper questions.
7. Encourag**e** your child to avoid high sugar snacks and 'energy' drinks.
8. Get your child into the positive **habits** of getting enough rest. Don't let them stay up too late revising. A minimum of 8 hours sleep is recommended.