

# KS3: How to Support Home learning

## Introduction

Supporting your young person with their homework can make a real difference to their confidence, independence, and long-term academic success. Managing different subjects, teachers, and increasing expectations can be challenging so your support at home can help them stay organised, motivated, and on track.

## Practical tips

1. **Create a positive homework environment:** Choose a quiet, well-lit area with minimal distractions - ideally not the bed or sofa
2. **Provide the right tools:** Ensure they have access to pens, pencils, a ruler, calculator, dictionary, and internet (if needed) - all within reach
3. **Set a routine:** Encourage a regular time for homework each day, ideally after a short break and snack after school
4. **Don't do the work for them:** Offer support but let them think for themselves. It's better to help them *understand* than to give answers
5. **Be a guide, not a teacher:** Ask questions like: "What do you think the teacher wants here?" or "Have you checked your notes?" If they're stuck, suggest ways to find the answer (e.g., using their textbook, online resources, or asking a teacher)
6. **Minimise distractions:** Encourage homework time without distractions from apps, games, or messages. If they need the internet, encourage tools like BBC Bitesize, Seneca, or school portals
7. **Keep in touch with teachers:** If homework is consistently too hard, stressful or taking too long, don't hesitate to contact the school
8. **Celebrate effort, not just results:** Praise them for staying organised or improving focus, not just high marks. Allow them to make mistakes, struggling a little is part of learning

**Remember home learning is important, but so is rest!** Make sure they have time for hobbies, exercise, friends, and sleep. Most importantly, show interest in their learning and celebrate their efforts – your encouragement goes a long way.

## General Subject support

<a href="#">KS3 - England - BBC Bitesize</a>	An excellent resource for most subjects
<a href="#">Seneca learning</a>	provides resources and quizzes and has free parent and student logins

## English

<a href="#">School reading list - recommended books for children and teens</a>	<b>Wider Reading</b> - It is really important that students are reading regularly to boost their vocabulary and comprehension skills as well as sparking their imagination. This website is regularly updated with new recommendations.
<a href="#">Home - CBBC Newsround</a>	Explore non-fiction and latest news articles in a child friendly environment.
<a href="http://theweekjunior.co.uk/">http://theweekjunior.co.uk/</a>	A subscription service for a digital or print magazine covering a range of topics that support their education.
<a href="#">KS3 Spelling, Punctuation &amp; Grammar Workbook (with answers): for Years 7, 8 and 9 (CGP KS3 Workbooks): Amazon.co.uk: CGP Books, CGP Books: 9781782941170: Books</a>	This is a great workbook for anyone struggling with the basics.
<a href="#">Free KS3 English teaching resources   Y7, 8, &amp; 9   Page 1 of 2   Oak National Academy</a>	This site has lots of useful online lessons that support the key skills we teach in English and often on the specific units and texts that we teach
<a href="#">Talks to watch with kids   TED Talks</a>	A list of interesting, well-argued speeches on a range of topics

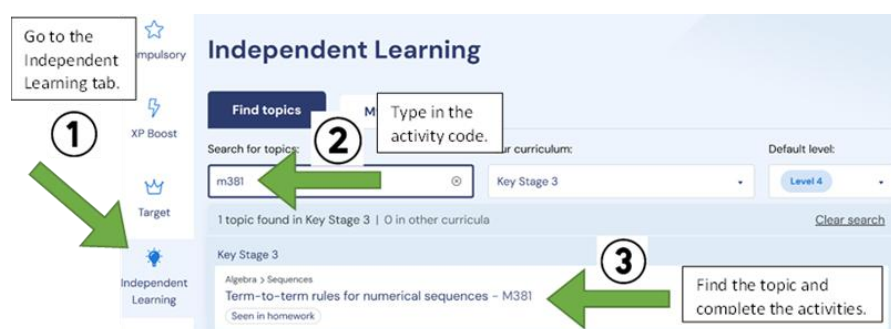
## Maths

Students need to know what topics to work on, for example, algebra, shapes etc. To revise them, they can use the resources below. It is important to check understanding with practice questions.

<a href="#">KS3 Maths - BBC Bitesize</a>	Learning resources for Parents and students
<a href="#">Free KS3 Maths teaching resources   Y7, 8, &amp; 9   Page 1 of 2   Oak National Academy</a>	Free online KS3 maths learning resources from Oak National Academy

## Sparx Maths

If you want to improve upon the areas you find challenging, then use the Sparx codes from our Big Picture sheets to do some independent practice.



## Science

- **Watch science documentaries together:** Explore engaging programmes on BBC iPlayer like *The Planets*, *Earth*, or *Secrets of the Universe*.
- **Explore the Royal Institution:** Visit the Royal Institution YouTube channel for exciting science talks and experiments.
- **Make revision visual:** Support them in creating mind maps, diagrams, or posters to summarise topics.
- **Discuss science in everyday life:** Talk about science in cooking, nature, technology, or news stories to make it relevant.
- **Celebrate curiosity:** Encourage questions and help them research answers together.
- **Attend local science events:** Look out for science fairs, museum exhibitions, or STEM clubs in your area.

## MFL

<a href="#">Free KS3 Spanish teaching resources   Y7, 8, &amp; 9   Oak National Academy</a>	A great website to help revise the units studied in class for Spanish
<a href="#">Library   ActiveLearn</a>	This is the website that we use for our lessons, and your young person has a login to access it
Duolingo	Download the free Duolingo app to practice your 4 skills (reading-writing-speaking-listening)

## History

Secondary History at Carrington takes use of a thousand years of English, British and Global History from the Middle Ages to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. If we want to understand today, we need to know how we got here.

Some useful resources to inspire a love for and of understanding of History include:

<a href="#">BBC Teach - Secondary History</a>	A playlist of clips showing – everything from the Battle of Hastings to the development of the jet engine!
<a href="#">BBC Bitesize website</a>	A classic for a reason
<a href="#">Seneca learning platform</a>	We subscribe to this as a school
<a href="#">Carrington History</a>	Where we store all our lesson materials
<a href="#">History Documentaries - A to Z - BBC iPlayer</a>	Sit down and watch one of the amazing documentaries that iPlayer provides
<a href="#">KS3 Geography   CGP Books</a>	For those of you who prefer non-digital CGP do some excellent and very affordable resources

## Geography

Secondary Geography is incredibly varied – from physical effects such as earthquakes to social and economic aspects of how countries develop. It is really about anything that happens in our world in terms of space and location.

Some useful resources to inspire a love for and of understanding of Geography include:

<a href="#">BBC Teach - Secondary Geography</a>	A playlist of clips showing, rather than reading about
<a href="#">BBC Bitesize website</a>	A classic for a reason
<a href="#">Seneca learning platform</a>	We subscribe to this as a school
<a href="#">Carrington Geography</a>	Where we store all our lesson materials

## Religious Studies (Years 7–8)

At KS3, students learn about the beliefs and practices of world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism) as well as non-religious worldviews such as Humanism. They begin to tackle “big questions” about meaning, morality, and identity, for example in relation to whether there is a God, medical treatment, artificial intelligence.

### How to help at home:

- Ask your young person to explain a belief or practice they’ve learned and then compare it with your own perspective - this builds reasoning and empathy.
- Watch a short documentary or news story together and discuss how different religious or non-religious groups might respond.
- Encourage them to create flashcards of **keywords** (e.g. *sacred, reincarnation, justice, agnostic*) and test them regularly.
- Support them in forming their own opinions by asking: “*What do you think - and why?*”

### Useful Links:

- [Oak National Academy](#) – KS3 RS – free video lessons and activities.
- [RE:Online](#) – engaging articles, classroom resources, and interactive activities.