

# KS4: Supporting GCSE Revision and Home Learning

## Introduction

As your young person prepares for their GCSEs, your support at home can make a significant difference in their motivation, confidence, and academic success. The GCSE years can be both exciting and challenging, and students benefit greatly when home and school work together to provide structure, encouragement, and a positive learning environment.

## 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="#">GCSE - England - BBC Bitesize</a>	An excellent resource for most subjects. It is important your child knows the exam boards for different subjects. This information as well as help on how to revise can be found here <a href="#">Revision Guidance - Carrington School</a>
<a href="#">The Carrington School Shop</a>	Revision guides can be purchased here

Past papers and suitable videos can be accessed via the internet search engine by using this format: "GCSE (exam board and subject/ subject and topic) past papers/ revision" for example "GCSE Combined Science Biology Edexcel past papers" or "GCSE Combined science revision Enzymes"