

## *Supporting GCSE level reading across a range of subjects*

During GCSE courses students have to do longer classwork or coursework which counts towards their final grade, as well as reading many different things to help them pass the course. You will find that your child has much more homework and you can make a difference by helping your child to manage their time. Reading for pleasure can get squeezed out as the amount of homework grows and parents can help by encouraging rest, relaxation and reading as well as school work!

### *Instant ideas*

- Cut out newspaper articles about topics your child is studying.
- Read together if your child is having problems with reading in a particular subject.
- Encourage your child to go to a study support group. Many schools and libraries run free after-school groups – find out if there is one near you and suggest to your child they go along. They could meet new people, and will get help with their homework as well.
- Text message a good read to your child's mobile phone, if they have one, or send them an email with some recommendations from friends' children or from a newspaper.

Try making time to:

- Speak to your child's subject teacher to see if there is anything that they could read that would help their studies or that would help them enjoy a topic.
- Talk about everyday topics, encouraging your child to be the 'expert' and use the technical terms they are learning at GCSE. For example, your child could tell you about tomorrow's weather using words such as precipitation, humidity and isobars, or they could explain how a circuit works when you switch on the light.
- Look up technical words you or your child don't recognise from their work in a dictionary or on the internet and make it your word of the day. When you have a list of new words you could test your child on them.
- Talk to your child about reading. Often GCSE students feel they have little time for reading for pleasure. You can help by talking about what they enjoy reading and helping to make time for it.

## *Supporting GCSE level reading in English and English Literature*

In GCSE English and English Literature students need to read plays, some poems, one or two novels and sometimes short stories as well. Your child's English teacher will be working with the class to study all these texts, but as a parent you can help your child by making sure they have access to many different types of text at home.

### *Instant ideas*

- Borrow audio recordings of the texts your child is reading for their exams from the library and listen to them together, or share them as a family, perhaps while doing the washing up?
- Visit your local library or video store to borrow the film version of a GCSE text. Many have been made into films.
- Encourage your child to read more by helping them to find books, magazines, websites and comics that interest them or tie into the work they have been doing for GCSEs. Wider reading is part of GCSE English Literature.