

## *Support reading at KS3*

Your child will be studying more subjects at secondary school, and will be working with many different types of reading materials, from newspaper articles and adverts to scientific explanations and instructions. Parents who support their children's education make a real difference to how well their child does, and there are lots of quick things you can do to help.

### *Instant ideas*

- Try some skimming and scanning together. Skimming is when you read through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is; scanning is glancing through a piece of text to find a specific piece of information. You can do this with a newspaper – perhaps ask your child to find something out for you. Why not ask them to scan a newspaper for news about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather, or get them to skim read a recipe to tell you the basic steps?
- Help your child to work out what an unfamiliar word means by getting them to read the rest of the sentence and look for clues.
- Help by testing your child when they have spellings to learn, and by encouraging them to look up words they don't know in a dictionary.

Try making time to:

- Build up the number of words your child knows – their vocabulary. As they go through secondary school, your child will need to know specialist words and recognise them when they are reading. To help them learn these words, you could ask your child to explain to you what they mean.

- Read books or plays that your child needs to study for school – in Year 9 English your child will study two scenes from a Shakespeare play. It can really help them if you read these together, and talk about the language and characters. Why not learn a few short quotations together as a competition?

- Borrow the video of the Shakespeare play from your local library or video rental shop and watch the scenes together.  
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