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Helping your son or daughter with GCSE Maths

GCSE maths is one of the hardest and most highly regarded subjects your child can study. It gives young people problem solving skills that they can use in real life and it is also an important subject in its own right and can lead to further or higher education.

The problem for us adults, even if we have a good understanding of maths, is many find that the way young people are taught maths these days is totally different from our own schooldays.

But don't worry if this applies to you, you can still help.

First of all, make a plan. Young people tend to have problems with subjects they do not enjoy. So making a careful study plan where you can go through topics carefully can help.

Split study sessions into 3 lots of 15 minutes with three five minute breaks. This has been found to be the most effective study technique. One of the major problems is remembering content. A good way forward is to learn Mind Mapping. This is an information management system that can help your son or daughter to learn more effectively.

Keep to the plan, make sure your children are actually working and not on social media. One thing your child must understand that in maths, the only way to learn is to practice with lots of questions. It really is important and cannot be ducked.

Don't forget that there are free resources that you can use and we particularly recommend Bitesize from the BBC. This site will help with all subjects. There is also an app they can get for their phone, Google Bitesize app and you will be able to download it. This means they will be able to revise on the go: if they have a few spare minutes they can revise using bite-sized chunks that are the trademark of the Bitesize team.

GCSEs are a marathon, not a sprint. To be successful in GCSE maths you need to start early and revise often. People who leave it until the last couple of weeks before the exam, do themselves a major disservice. If your child was going to perform in a school play, he/she would rehearse for many weeks before the performance; this is the way to treat GCSE Maths. If you want your child to do well, he/she have to rehearse and the exam is the final performance.