

A GUIDE TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL EDUCATION

What you'll find inside

Overview of each education stage from preschool to secondary

Practical tips and advice on how to support learning at home

Recommended resources to suit your child by school year

Summary of the changes to tests and exams

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Timetable of New Tests and Exams

Use the timetable below to find out when your child will sit the new curriculum tests and exams.

	PRIMARY & KS3	GCSE	A LEVEL
SEPT 2015		New Maths and English teaching starts	New teaching starts for Business Studies, English, History, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Sociology, Psychology
MAY/ JUNE 2016	First sitting of new KS1 & KS2 tests for Y2 and Y6 children	No change to GCSE exams in any subject	New AS exams for subjects introduced in Sept 2015
SEPT 2016		New teaching starts in all other subjects	New teaching starts for Geography, Languages, RE & PE
MAY/ JUNE 2017		First sitting of new GCSE English and Maths exams	New AS exams for subjects introduced in Sept 2016 and new A Level exams for subjects introduced in Sept 2015
SEPT 2017			New teaching starts for Accounting, ICT, Maths and Media Studies
MAY/ JUNE 2018		First sitting of new GCSE exams for all subjects introduced in Sept 2016	New AS exams for subjects introduced in Sept 2017 and new A Level exams for subjects introduced in Sept 2016

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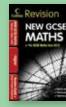
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"Its bright clear layout and pictures which relate to children's lives, will stimulate and encourage. It's an ideal way to give your child confidence in recognising letters before starting school."

Parents in Touch Review

"I got the Collins Revision Guides and worked from those. I went from a U to a B." Student, Twitten



"Just finished Letts Wild About Maths 10-11 Arithmetic book. My son actually enjoyed it, unlike other books. Great!" @BlogOverCoffee

"Covers

everything

for the SPAG

test. Just what

we needed."

Parent review

(Amazon)



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= Success

CONTRACTOR DATE:

and Spelline

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PRESCHOOL

Playing with materials found around the home can provide hours of stimulation and unstructured play. Starting with a childminder or nursery may be the first step your child makes in formal education. Ensuring they settle well in their new environment is key to their happiness and emotional well-being.

What to expect

hildren are born naturally curious, with a real thirst for learning and a desire to enquire about the world around them. As a parent you may find yourself bombarded with 'what,' 'why,' 'when,' 'how' questions that seem never ending. Providing for little ones in their early years may be easier than you think, but these years are vitally important for laying firm foundations for future learning.

Before children ever put pen to paper, they need to have plenty of time to develop their play, their imagination and their physical abilities.

MAKE 2-3 SHORT VISITS BEFORE THEY START WITH ONE PARENT OR FAMILIAR CARER STAYING WITH THEM.

If the setting offers a home visit - take it! These are an ideal way to build a new relationship with a stranger in the comfort and security of your own home.

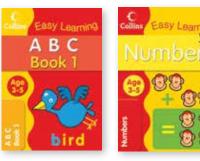
Most children regardless of the setting they attend will follow the Department for Education's Early Years Foundation Stage. This covers seven areas of learning and also focuses on the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which describe how children learn.

THE EARLY YEARS (AGES 3-5)

he Early Years Foundation Stage covers the years children spend from the beginning of Preschool to the end of reception class in primary school. This is recognised as a distinct stage of learning, when children learn best through active play which builds on their individual needs and interests.

Once the foundations are laid, your child will be ready and eager to put pen to paper and do some 'real' work with a 'workbook' of their very own. Our preschool books follow a logical order to guide your child through the natural progression of education, working as a partner to consolidate or stretch daily learning.

COLLINS EASY LEARNING









Starting school

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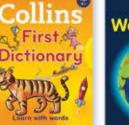
LETTS MONSTER PRACTICE

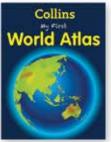




DICTIONARY







PRIMARY

Starting School -What to expect

A child's first day at school is the start of an exciting adventure, filled with new discoveries and challenges. Like any 'new' journey in life, it is always good to be prepared.

When children start school, they are expected to: take turns in both speaking and listening; do simple counting (e.g. up and down stairs, reading door numbers etc.); get dressed and undressed for PE; go to the toilet by themselves and pay attention.

KEEPING FOCUSED IS OFTEN A CHALLENGE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN STARTING 'BIG SCHOOL', ESPECIALLY FOR LEARNERS WHO ARE VERY PHYSICAL.

Equipping your child with these essential skills is a good idea and there are many ways to achieve this:

- Practice the school routine, such as getting ready in the morning, getting dressed, travelling to and from school.
- Establish the bedtime and morning routine that they will have when they start school in advance. Sleep is very important.
- Ensure your child has a good breakfast before leaving for school. Choosing breakfast foods that are rich in whole grains, fibre, and protein while low in added sugar can boost your child's attention span, concentration and memory which they need to learn in school.
- Always say goodbye to your child and reassure them that you will be there to pick them up at the end of the school day.
- If your child is worried, ask them what would help them to feel better, for example, where they want to say goodbye, what they want to do after school etc. If you seem worried or 'different', your child will sense this and begin to worry too.
- Don't plan too many afterschool activities for the first few weeks. Rest is very important, and so is free time to explore and play at home, especially when developing gross and fine motor skills.
- Be available to listen to your child. Children often like to say 'how their day went' straight after school. Be 'all ears'.

Remember too that as a parent, you are establishing a new relationship with your child's school and their teacher. You may want to attend the 'preschool' events with your child, such as 'play and stay' sessions; this will ease transition and familiarise your child with their new environment and school family/ staff. You could also speak to the school about their expectations for behaviour and learning and find out if the school has any 'Golden Rules' that you can start to use at home too.

Most of all, be positive and encourage your child to embrace the whole school experience. Through school and learning your child can change their world. Now, that sounds like an exciting adventure.

THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM (AGE 5-11)

Primary schools in England started teaching a new National Curriculum in September 2014.

A wide range of subjects and topics are taught during your child's primary education and schools assess children's progress throughout their learning. National Tests (or SATs) are taken by children at the end of a Key Stage. These tests happen at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 and children in these year groups will sit tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling. Tests are marked externally and the results reported to schools and parents at the end of the year.

In addition, Year 1 children are given a short, simple phonics assessment to make sure they have learned phonic decoding to an agreed standard by the age of 6. THIS PHONICS SCREENING CHECK HELPS TEACHERS IDENTIFY WHO NEEDS EXTRA HELP, SO THEY CAN GIVE THEM EXTRA SUPPORT TO IMPROVE READING SKILLS. THESE CHILDREN RE-TAKE THE ASSESSMENT IN YEAR 2.

New tests will be introduced in the summer of 2016 to assess work from the new curriculum. Test results will be reported as a scaled score, where the expected score is 100, instead of graded levels. Schools may also choose to have internal tests for other year groups around the same time and provide information to you about how your child is progressing.

WHAT IS BASELINE ASSESSMENT?

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rom September 2016, schools in England will be required to demonstrate expected levels of progress from a baseline in reception. The reception baseline assessment will score children against the knowledge and understanding typical for children at the start of reception year.

PREPARING FOR THE NATIONAL TESTS (SATS)

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A lthough they are not the 'be all and end all' of your child's education, the National Tests (SATs) can potentially be quite stressful. Providing your child with some simple 'steps to success' will improve their confidence and help them to feel prepared.

Create a 'learning planner' with your child focusing on the areas within the tested subjects that they struggle with. Vary the subjects daily and stick to a specified time and duration every day.

Talk to your child when they have finished their task: 'How do you feel that went?' 'Do you need any extra help?' 'What areas are you still struggling with?'

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Encourage your child to stay calm. Use breathing exercises, open conversations, or even meditation to help dilute any negative feelings and eradicate the 'stress' side of the tests.

To support this further, why not introduce your child to the 'growth mindset' concept, explaining how it is often our mistakes, errors and challenges in life that fuel our progress and development. Meaning, 'it is okay not to be okay'. By making mistakes we often realise and identify areas to develop and improve.

Learning should be a fun process: try to shape some of the key exam objectives around the interests of your child. For example, with percentages, fractions and word problems, why not take your child shopping? By connecting knowledge with experience, things start to 'make sense' to children.

During the week of the tests, stay positive and relaxed. Make sure your child has a healthy breakfast (every morning) and drinks plenty of water.

Children sit the following National Tests in Year 2 (7 year-olds) and Year 6 (11 year-olds):

☑ MATHS
☑ READING
☑ GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION
☑ SPELLING

NEW BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE IN JUNE 2015 TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WHO WILL BE SITTING THE TESTS IN MAY 2016 ONWARDS.



See the full range at collins.co.uk/collinsks1revision and collins.co.uk/collinsks2revision



See the full range at collins.co.uk/lettsks1success and collins.co.uk/lettsks2success

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME

f learning is fun, your child will be eager for more! Make up rhymes to help remember times tables, play games to improve Maths skills and memory, and read stories together. Give your child lots of encouragement and praise, rewarding their efforts as well and their achievements.

Read, read and then read some more. Reading should be part of your daily routine. Bedtime stories provide an enchanting end to the day.

Most schools will follow a reading scheme and will often send books home in your child's book bag. Collins Big Cat is a popular choice for many schools as it includes a variety of formats, well-known authors and a great mix of fiction and non-fiction books. Encourage play. Through movement children learn about their world. They acquire self-confidence and self-esteem through play, especially in the motor domain. Provide your child with opportunities to play and discover. Get 'stuck in'!

Look at homework tasks together, talk about the activity and make sure they understand exactly what it is they need to do. Once they have finished, talk together about what they have learned and whether they found the activity difficult.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO DO 'LITTLE AND OFTEN' FOR THE MOST BENEFIT, SO THEY DO NOT GET TOO TIRED - A DAY AT SCHOOL CAN BE EXHAUSTING!

Reassure your child that there is no reason for them to frightened by testing; be matter-of-fact about tests and just present them as a small part of your child's time at primary school.

LOOK OUT FOR COLLINS BIG CAT READING LIONS, A NEW RANGE OF READING BOOKS FOR HOME THAT COMPLEMENT THE READERS YOUR CHILD IS USING AT SCHOOL.



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WHAT BOOKS TO BUY

Make sure you have a great selection of books at home to help children with tricky spellings or to understand the meaning of a word. Our range of Key Stage 1 & 2 activity books, support the new National Curriculum and engage children in Maths and English topics taught at school.

KEY STAGE 1

COLLINS EASY LEARNING



DICTIONARIES & THESAURUSES



LETTS MONSTER PRACTICE



ATLASES



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KEY STAGE 2



DICTIONARIES & THESAURUSES





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On the emotional side, your child is going to be pushed out of their comfort zone. Most children will have been confident and happy in Year 6 at primary school, where they were a big fish in a small pond. Now they will be surrounded by hundreds of new faces in an unfamiliar setting.

You should expect quite a few changes in your child's friendship group in the first year and this can sometimes be unsettling for them. Talk to them about this ahead of time, reassuring them that they will make new friends.

What to expect

S tarting secondary school is a significant milestone for any child. Moving from a relatively small primary school to a much larger school will inevitably bring many changes and these can be both exciting and daunting. Your child is bound to have many questions and concerns, and the best way you can support them through the transition is by helping them to understand what to expect and preparing them as much as possible.

On the practical side, starting secondary school represents a change in routine and a shift in responsibility. Your child may have to get themself to school on time, they will have different teachers for different subjects, and they will be given more homework. You can start to prepare your child for these things early on.

HOW TO PREPARE

- Attending the school's open day is essential. Looking around the school and meeting some of the teachers will really help your child to start to overcome their fear of the unknown. Try to pick up a school map and list of staff names while you are there to look at again before their first day.
- Go through the school rules with your child so that they understand what is expected of them in terms of behaviour.
- Make sure you buy their new school uniform in plenty of time as this will play an important part in helping you child to feel like they fit in.

- Plan and practise the journey to school (several times if necessary). Try to find out if here are any classmates who they could make the journey with. Talk through different scenarios with them, e.g. what will they do if they miss the bus or lose their travel card, and make sure they have all the contact telephone numbers they might need and some emergency money. You might consider buying them a mobile phone too.
- Resist the temptation to do everything for your child. They need to start taking some responsibility for their own time management and personal organisation. Discuss their new routine with them and encourage them to:
- Get ready the night before, making sure they have the right books ready and anything else they might need the next day, e.g. PE kit or cookery ingredients.
 - Do their homework in the evenings and plan it to fit around other activities.
- Make sure the following documents are on display somewhere you can all see them:
 - The weekly timetable
 - A daily checklist, including things like dinner money / packed lunch, travel card, books, PE kit and keys.

secondary

HOMEWORK HELP

omework is intended to reinforce or build on what has been learned in class. It is most useful for your child to complete the homework while the lesson is still fresh in their mind.

YOU WILL WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AS BEST YOU CAN, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ALSO START TO HELP THEM TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT LEARNER.

Try to encourage good habits, for example:

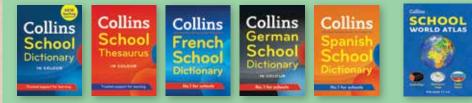
- Completing homework in a timely manner and not leaving it until the last minute
- Doing homework in the evenings so that it doesn't eat into their weekends
- Balancing work with fun activities, like spending time with friends or watching TV.

When it comes to completing the homework, ask your child to tell you what they have got to do or read the task out to you. Ask them questions to ensure they understand what is required and give them the opportunity to ask for your advice. Over the first year, you should expect to see them gradually become more confident in this area, requiring less and less input and guidance from you. MUST-HAVES AT HOME MAK A C DICTIO TO H

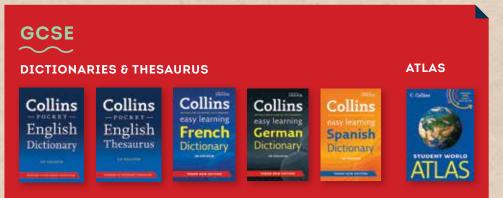
MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A GREAT RANGE OF DICTIONARIES & ATLASES TO HELP YOUR CHILD COMPLETE HOMEWORK TASKS MORE EASILY.

KEY STAGE 3 DICTIONARIES & THESAURUS

ATLAS



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PRACTICAL WAYS TO SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

ake sure your child has

Somewhere suitable to work.

away from distractions, where it is guiet and they can concentrate.

In addition to a table or desk, try to

boxes where they can keep all their

Keep a good supply of basic

stationery items like paper, pens,

pencils, a ruler and erasers. They

will also need special equipment

for Maths, including a protractor,

pair of compasses and a scientific

calculator. The school should

provide you with a list of items.

books and projects.

supply them with shelving or storage

The internet can be a very useful tool, especially when your child has to conduct research for a project. However, it is important to set some ground rules around internet usage and possibly put some parental controls in place to restrict what your child has access to.

There will be times when your child will come to you because there is a question that they can't answer or a problem they are having difficulty solving. Rather than doing the work for them, talk through it with them step-by-step and ask them about the approaches they are using.

FOR SOME SUBJECTS, MATHS ESPECIALLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE AWARE OF THE METHODS CURRENTLY BEING USED IN SCHOOLS.

It is worth buying a good revision guide at the beginning of the year for each of the main subjects. These can be an invaluable resource when you want to quickly look-up or check a technique.

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KEY STAGE 3

ey Stage 3 starts in Year 7. Some schools teach KS3 over three years, whilst others teach it over a shorter period so that they can begin teaching for GCSEs in Year 9.

There are no formal exams at the end of KS3, however, it marks the start of your child's secondary education and is an important stage in terms of laying the foundations for GCSEs and beyond.

THE NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR KS3, INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER 2014, IS GENERALLY MORE DEMANDING THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CORE SUBJECTS OF MATHS AND SCIENCE. This is to ensure students are better prepared for the transition to Key Stage 4 and their GCSEs.

The old attainment levels that were used to assess progress have now been removed. Schools must put in place their own assessment systems to ensure individual students are progressing and have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding.

At Key Stage 3, the compulsory national curriculum subjects are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography
- A Language
- Design and Technology
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical Education
- Citizenship
- Computing

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TIPS ON SUPPORTING SPECIFIC SUBJECT AREAS AT HOME

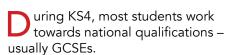
- Ensure your child gets plenty of maths practice, as maths skills are needed in other subjects like Science and Computing.
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling are particularly important skills and are relevant to all subjects, not just English. For example, it is important that your child can produce written work in all subjects that is accurate and easy to understand. Word games are great for improving vocabulary and checking spelling.
- Reasoning and problem-solving skills are relevant to lots of subjects. You can help your child develop these skills by involving them in all sorts of projects at home, e.g. planning a dinner party (menu planning, working out how much of each ingredient is required, calculating costs) or a decorating job (working out how much carpet / paint / wall-paper is needed).

A NEW RANGE OF COLLINS KS3 REVISION AND PRACTICE BOOKS SUPPORTS THE NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM, PROVIDING LOTS OF PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT.

NEW LETTS KS3 REVISION SUCCESS GUIDES COMBINE AUDIO, VISUAL AND KINESTHETIC ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT ALL LEARNING STYLES.



GCSE



GCSE qualifications are about to undergo changes. A new curriculum for Maths and English will be taught to Year 10 children from September 2015 and to Year 11 children from September 2016. Changes in other subject areas will be introduced a year later, for example, Year 10 children will be taught a new curriculum from September 2016 and Year 11 children from September 2017.

The purpose of the changes is to make GCSE qualifications more challenging and better prepare students for further education and their careers beyond.

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM SUBJECTS FOR KEY STAGE 4 INCLUDE:

- English (core subject)
- Maths (core subject)
- Science (core subject)
- Citizenship (foundation subject)
- Computing (foundation subject)
- Physical Education (foundation subject)

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SCHOOLS ALSO OFFER AT LEAST ONE SUBJECT FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Humanities (including
- Geography and History)Languages

The main changes are:

- A new grading scale is being introduced that uses numbers to identify levels of performance. The numbers are 1–9, with 9 being the top level.
- All GCSE courses will now be linear with exams taken at the end of the course in June. There will be no modular courses and re-sit opportunities will be limited.
- Assessment will be by external exams only. Non-exam assessment (e.g. practical assessments) will only be used in subjects where exams would not properly test the skills required.
- Where students could be entered for Higher or Foundation Tier exams in the past (according to their ability), science and maths are the only subjects where this tiered system will be retained.
- Qualifications are administered and awarded by an exam board. The main exam boards are AQA, Edexcel, OCR, WJEC and CCEA (Northern Ireland).

FOR CHILDREN REVISING FOR EXAMS PRIOR TO CURRICULUM CHANGE (MATHS AND ENGLISH EXAMS IN 2016 ONLY)







New GCSE

See our full range of Collins GCSE Revision books at *collins.co.uk*

FOR CHILDREN REVISING FOR EXAMS PRIOR TO CURRICULUM CHANGE (MATHS AND ENGLISH EXAMS IN 2016 ONLY)

Success Spanish See our full range of Collins GCSE

Revision books at collins.co.uk

AVAILABLE FROM THIS SUMMER:

FOR CHILDREN REVISING FOR THE NEW CURRICULUM EXAMS (FIRST SITTING OF NEW MATHS AND ENGLISH EXAMS IN 2017)









Find out more at collins.co.uk

PREPARING FOR GCSE EXAMS

Here are three essential revision tips to share with your child:

1. USE YOUR TIME WISELY

Allow yourself plenty of time and try to start revising at least six months before your exams – it's more effective and less stressful.

2. MAKE A PLAN

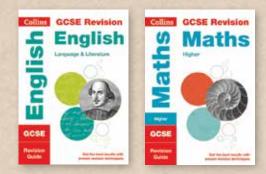
Most students think that revision is about making sure they know stuff. This is important, but it is also about making sure they retain that stuff over time and can recall it quickly when needed. Experts have discovered that Identify all the revise and p for each top should be ar the key idea out the pract topic – the out

there are two techniques that help students recall relevant information quickly and consistently produce better results in exams compared to other revision techniques. Helping your child to apply these techniques will ensure they have all the relevant knowledge at their fingertips in the exams.

They simply need to: test themselves on each topic as many times as possible; leave a gap between the test sessions. Identify all the topics you need to revise and plan at least five sessions for each topic. A one-hour session should be ample to test yourself on the key ideas for a topic. Spread out the practice sessions for each topic – the optimum time to leave between each session is about one month but, if this isn't possible, just make the gaps as big as realistically possible.

3. TEST YOURSELF

Methods for testing yourself include: quizzes, practice questions, flashcards, past-papers, explaining a topic to someone else, etc. Don't worry if you get an answer wrong – provided you check what the correct answer is, you are more likely to get the same or similar questions right in future! COLLINS COMPLETE REVISION AND PRACTICE BOOKS SUPPORT THIS APPROACH AND PROVIDE SEVEN DIFFERENT PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES PER TOPIC.



Find out more at collins.co.uk/revision

WELLBEING

t may seem obvious, but if your child is fit and well, their brain will work more efficiently (aiding revision) and they will be better equipped to cope with the pressure and stress of exams.

Encourage them to take regular exercise. Physical activity increases oxygen to the brain, releases endorphins and will give them a break from revision.

Make sure they are getting enough sleep. Not only is it important for them to 'recharge their batteries', but many studies have shown that going to sleep after trying to learn something has a beneficial effect on memory.

Your child is likely to get a better night's sleep if they work with their 'body clock'. A teenager's 'body clock' is different to those of young children and adults. They are more likely to feel awake and alert if you allow them a moderate lie-in (a couple of extra hours in bed) than if they get up at the crack of dawn.

Finally, help your child to feed their brain. Make sure they eat plenty, drink lots of water and eat a wellbalanced diet.

DEALING WITH STRESS

The main source of exam stress is fear of failure and this can have a very negative impact on performance. It's a vicious circle. If your child dwells on the consequences of not doing well, the thought of exams will become even more terrifying, shaking their confidence and magnifying their nerves further.

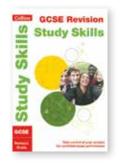
Encourage your child to replace any negative ideas with more productive ones. Remind them that the exams are an opportunity for them to showcase their ability and all the hard work they have put in over the past few years!

A practical approach to tackling stress is get organised and put a revision plan together. Once your child has done this and revision is underway, they will feel a lot more in control of the situation, which will help to alleviate some of their anxiety.

You can also talk to your child about strategies for coping with nerves:

- Point out that nerves are a good thing they are proof that your child wants to succeed.
- Encourage them to visualise sitting in the exam hall calmly answering all the questions with ease.
- Discuss how they can use deep breathing to relax themselves when they start to feel panicky.
- Get them to put together a playlist of songs that make them feel relaxed, which they can play when they feel particularly stressed.

Collins GCSE Study Skills is packed with invaluable advice on how to plan, prepare and study effectively for the GCSE exams, looking at all aspects of your teenager's life, including diet, wellbeing and dealing with stress and pressure.



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A LEVEL

A levels are the most popular qualification at Key Stage 5 and the most common entry qualification for higher education.

The Government has started to implement changes to AS and A level qualifications in the same way as they have at GCSE.

The main features of the nem gualifications are:

- Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- All courses will be linear and exams will be sat at the end of the course in summer. There will be no modular courses and no exams in January.
- AS and A levels will be decoupled – this means that AS results no longer count towards an A level (however, they can still be taught alongside the first year of A levels).
- The content for the new A levels has been reviewed and updated with greater input from universities.

The changes will take place over three years, starting with English language, the sciences, psychology, sociology, business studies and economics. The planned starting date for these subjects is September 2015, with the first AS examinations in summer 2016 and the first A level examinations in summer 2017.

OUR LETTS RANGE OF A LEVEL REVISION GUIDES SUPPORT ALL CHILDREN PREPARING FOR AS & A2 EXAMS THIS SUMMER.



DICTIONARIES & THESAURUSES





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VISIT COLLINS.CO.UK/PARENTS AND GET A 25% DISCOUNT + FREE P&P ON OUR FULL RANGE OF BACK TO SCHOOL BOOKS UNTIL 30 SEPTEMBER 2015.

USE CODE SCHOOL25 AT CHECKOUT.