



## Supporting A Level/L3 BTEC Students: Help at Home

One of the biggest changes students face when transferring from GCSE to A Level/BTEC courses is the requirement for them to study independently.

Research repeatedly shows that the single biggest influence on a student's success is parental (or caregiver) interest and support. However, it's often difficult to know exactly what to do to make a difference at home.

Whilst we would not suggest you attempt to learn the entire A Level Chemistry syllabus, there are some tactics you could employ to enhance your young person's chance of success.

### Asking Questions:

- Ask them to describe one thing they have learned that day.
- Ask them about the assignments they have that week, and whether they need anything to help them complete the work.
- Ask them about events at school, particularly careers or university trips (see calendar for details).
- Discuss exam/assessment results and, in particular, ask them whether they know what they need to do to improve their grades.
- Don't take their word for it. If they claim to have 'day off' or 'home study morning', double check this against the calendar and/or email us in sixth form and we can confirm the situation for you.

### Dedicated Study Time/Space:

- Homes can be busy, crowded places. Try to make sure they have somewhere quiet they can work for set periods of time.
- Monitor their use of social media/games. Encourage them to use gaming time as a reward for finishing a set assignment, rather than a distraction from doing it. And, as we often discover, just because they're on a computer it doesn't necessarily mean they're working.
- If they have a job outside of school, encourage them to balance their paid hours with their schoolwork. Employment hours should be reduced, especially around exam periods.



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### Resources:

- The cost of resources can easily add up, and it's not always financially possible to fund the purchase of expensive textbooks. However, many resources are online, and staff at the school will upload important documents to Teams. As a parent/caregiver, you can log in to this system and see whether your young person is accessing them. You can also find heavily discounted books on sites such as Amazon Marketplace. Many of these are 'used' but are frequently in excellent condition (and of course you can re-sell them when the qualification is finished).

### Organisation:

- Ask to see subject folders. Typically, a large, well-organised folder is the hallmark of a successful student. A collection of loose papers usually suggests the opposite. Encourage them to sit down and get their notes/handouts organised into topic areas.

It is not expected or necessary for students to spend every hour working, nor is it desirable for students to work for long periods without a break. However, successful students must complete some work every day. Help them to make this a habit by creating a routine in your home.



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