

Recommended Websites for Core Subjects

MATHS

www.MyMaths.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.nrich.maths.org

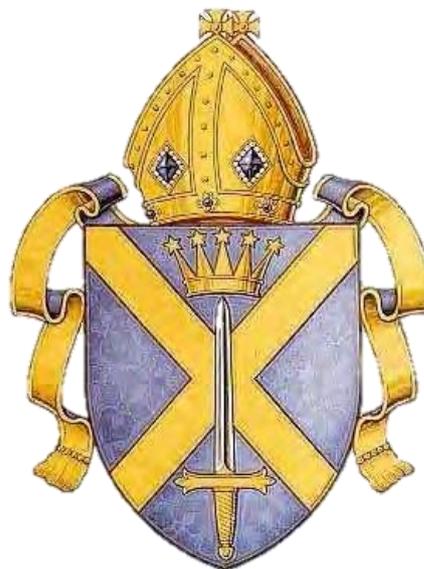
ENGLISH

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.senecalearning.com

SCIENCE

www.bbc.co.uk/bytesize



Top Tips for Literacy

30 mins reading a day, listen to them read as much as you can. Should have books at home as well as books from school. Talk to your child about their book, what's happening? Who are the characters etc.? Take an active interest. Literacy is the most important factor in pupils succeeding even in what you might consider to be less wordy subject, say science for example. GCSE exam texts are aimed at a reading age of 15 years and 8 months – the average age of student taking their GCSE exams. If a student's reading age falls below their chronological age then they go into their exams with an obvious disadvantage. If they can't understand what they are reading they will not be able to analyse it. Can you do word puzzles with them, countdown conundrums? Crosswords?

Top Tips for Numeracy

Be positive about numbers/maths/numeracy even if you haven't had the most positive experience in this area in the past! Lots of websites, YouTube videos that you can use to look up how to solve mathematical problems. Can you do a little bit of numeracy every day? Do pupils know their times tables off by heart? Do they know their number bonds? If not these need learning as a matter of urgency. Can you do supermarket maths when working out 'best buys'? If driving abroad, can they convert Km to miles? Can they work out exchange rates?

All of the above will help with your child's literacy and numeracy, please support us with this.

What can you do as parents to support your children?

Sleep – please make sure that your children do have adequate sleep, 9-11 hours recommended, an hour each side may also be OK, depending upon the individual.

We need learners who are focussed, sharp and engaged!

We have many students with early starts due to busses etc. good night's sleep is crucial. Taking phones to the bedroom is not going to help as they will be on them late into the night.

Breakfast – fuel for the day! Healthy breakfast is ideal, we have the breakfast club here at school where pupils can come and have fruit juice and toast should they need it for free in the small canteen. Lots of students make use of this.

Equipment – Be ready for learning. Students are required to have the following equipment in a pencil case: Pens, pencils, ruler, sharpener, rubber, protractor, compass and calculator (£8 for a scientific one, will last them to Year 11 if they look after it!).

Space – Have somewhere at home where they can sit down uninterrupted by siblings to concentrate on doing Homework. If this is not possible then there is always homework club to attend in IT4 Monday – Friday. 3-30pm to 5pm. All staff will help any pupils who are struggling but they need to use initiative and find them at lunch or after school.

Communicate any issues that your son/daughter may be having, speak to their Form Tutor in the first instance, that way we can be prepared and put some support in place.

Attendance & Punctuality – 95% and above please, ideally 100%. Research says that there is a link between attendance and achievement! Please get them into school! Punctuality is tricky with the traffic in St Albans, and the estate which the School is on.

Organisation – They will need assistance and I know that you will do this already, remind them to pack their bags the night before, check when they have PE? Do they need food tech ingredients? Have they got any letters in their blazer pockets or at the bottom of their bags? If they have lost something, they need to look in lost property, and all the places they have been where they may have lost it. Name everything!! If clothing, bags and equipment have your child's name in it, we can return it to them.

Respect for All – Please re-iterate this at home, it's a good code to live your lives by no matter what your belief system is.

3 SIMPLE RULES

Be Prepared Give 100% effort Be respectful for all in the room

Assessment – We use the ‘ADAM’ system for assessments in year 7 and 8 to make judgements to whether the pupils are Acquiring Skills and knowledge, Developing skills & knowledge, Applying this knowledge/skills, or Mastering their learning. Their progress will be monitored through 3 data capture points a year plus written report and parents evening where we discuss your child’s progress and what steps are needed to improve. Class teachers may also contact you throughout the course of the year if they have concerns or if they have been particularly pleased with how the pupils are doing. You can also contact subject staff if you or your child has concerns.

Rewards –House Points are given out for a variety of reasons, including excellent effort in class, classwork or homework produced, representing the school and supporting others. For exceptional work, teachers will send Postcards home, or make positive phone calls to celebrate your students achievements and success! All departments and Year groups also have a student of the month for a variety of reasons, and Excellent attendance is rewarded.

Social Media! Phones aren’t going away, they are here to stay. We do need to manage what our children are doing on them though! We need to educate them.

Try following a rule: NO Phones at bedtime and monitor, as I know lots of you do their messaging, especially group chats! Please explain the seriousness of any abuse that they do put out there. Group chats can be useful for communicating but also have their drawbacks.

At school, phones need to be off at 8-45am and can be turned back on at 3-25am. Any phone seen or used through the day will be confiscated by a teacher. It will then need to be collected by a parent/carer

Financial Difficulty If you are experiencing any particular financial difficulty and you need support with learning materials, uniform or a school activity please do talk to your Mr Still in confidence so that we can see how we can support you.