

## **Top 10 Tips for ... Transition to GCSE's**

Teenagers report feeling “under pressure” when making the transition from year 9 to year 10 - the formal GCSE years. They comment that education suddenly becomes “more serious” and that their parents’ expectations add to the pressure. We hope that our “Top 10 Tips ... “ will help you to make this transition with confidence.

### **1. Identify your strengths and areas for improvement**

It is easier to study a subject which you enjoy and are good at but your study ought to be focussed where there is greatest need. A number of online diagnostic tools are available which will identify your strengths but you could use a curriculum checklist to help you with this - you will need to know which exam board you are using for each subject.

### **2. Study in small chunks**

Your study will be more effective if you study a subject for a short period, regularly. Studying for half an hour each day will be far more productive than 4 hours at the weekend. It will be easier to fit in with your other commitments but you will retain more by engaging with a topic regularly. Little and often is the key.

### **3. Develop a routine**

Don't wait until you have a test to revise for. If you start early enough, you can get into a routine for homework and regular study. You should receive a homework timetable from school and this is a good place to start. If you can plan to study for just half an hour each day, on top of your regular homework it will make a big difference.

### **4. Create a good working environment**

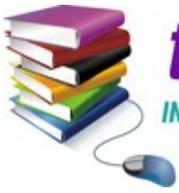
You will need somewhere suitable to study with enough room to spread your books out and access any other resources you might need. If you don't have a quiet spot at home suitable for this purpose then ask at school about a homework club or perhaps use the local library after school.

### **5. Understand your learning style**

Learners are often described as Visual, Auditory or Kinaesthetic learners, which means that you learn best by visualising, talking and listening or doing. Adapt your study to your preferred learning style: Create colour coded revision cards or diagrams to display; record your notes on MP3 player and replay them often; act out scenes from literature / history; put key information on notes around your room or in the hallway between rooms.

### **6. Make your revision notes as you go along**

Use your additional study time to make notes and summarise the topics you have learnt in school. This will serve three different purposes: Firstly, it allows you time to recall and reinforce details from earlier that day / week; secondly, it allows you to convert information from school into a format perfect for your learning style and lastly, you will produce your own set of revision notes in your own words and style—perfect when it comes to revision time. You will find that you get quicker and quicker at this as the term progresses.



## Top 10 Tips for ... Transition to GCSE's

### 7. Focus on understanding

Try to develop your understanding of a topic rather than spending time memorising rules / dates etc. Understanding is much deeper and the time spent on putting these foundations in place will enable quicker recall later and a more logical approach to functional skills questions required for both GCSE Maths and English.

### 8. Ask for help

Don't ever be afraid to ask for help. Your teachers and parents are just as keen for you to do well as you are and will be only too happy to help. If you don't understand something it is better to ask and get help straight away. Understanding topics as you go along is really important as often topics will build in complexity. Missing something early on could result in a whole topic becoming more difficult and time consuming than necessary. Your teacher could explain a different method to you, which suddenly makes sense. They can also provide extra work to help you to practice and consolidate your learning.

### 9. Taking responsibility

Moving into your GCSE years means that you will need to take more responsibility for your own learning. You will need to be organised and ensure that you have all equipment with you at each session. Ensure that you don't miss deadlines for homework or other tasks: It is easier to do things as you go along than it is to catch up later.

### 10. Be positive

With a realistic plan and a determination to stick to it, you can achieve your aims – **BE POSITIVE !**

Good luck to all during the forthcoming GCSE years.

For further help and information about our specialist tuition you can contact us on 0800 048 8864, email: [enquiries@tutors4gcse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tutors4gcse.co.uk) or visit our website: [www.tutors4gcse.co.uk](http://www.tutors4gcse.co.uk)