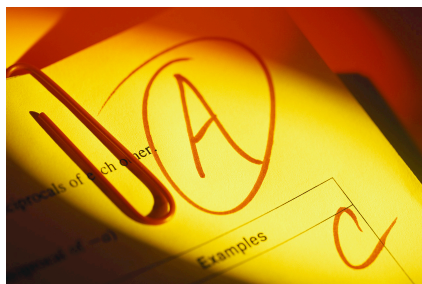


Sixth Form Parental Help



Improving your child's chances



As a parent, you will already know that you are your child's most valuable teacher. The lessons they learn at home will affect how they interact with other people and the world around them. And, like most parents, you will probably want to do all you can to make sure they have a good future ahead of them.

In the Sixth Form there is a massive jump from GCSEs to A' Levels. The workload increases in terms of the size and quantity of assignments set, and there is a need for students to read around their subjects, to undertake their own research, make their own notes etc.

Academic coasting is not an option at KSA and students need to be able to take the initiative and deal with work which requires both more time and more effort. Time management becomes a huge issue in terms of being able to juggle deadlines and social life, prioritising work and planning ahead for revision. The almost inevitable result of these new demands is increased stress and students need to acknowledge this and to develop ways of dealing with this.

Our aim in terms of study is to equip students to deal with the difficulties of a degree course and working life, they need to become self-organised, self-motivating and independent learners.

Often when your son/daughter enters the Sixth Form you can feel out of your depth in terms of the subjects they are studying and feel at a loss as to how to support them with their homework. This, combined with the desire to foster independence, can lead to parents backing off all together. There are however some basic points you can follow at home to help:

Ten practical tips to get involved in your child's education

1. Show them you're interested.

Get to know their timetable and talk about what they've learned that day. If you're not familiar with a subject, get them to teach you so that they are putting their new knowledge into practice.

2. Work habits. Give them a quiet place to do homework and revision. Encourage them to work in a light, airy, uncluttered environment, with the necessary equipment around them, with room to display notes, etc.

No distractions such as mobile phone, email, Facebook, etc. Sufficient sleep, drinking water and a balanced diet can also help

3. Help with coursework and revision, but don't do it for them. Be there to help them find answers to problems. If they need to research a particular subject, go with them to a library or use the internet. Put all the key dates on a calendar and make sure they meet coursework deadlines.

4. Time management.

Discuss deadlines with them and encourage them to display them somewhere at home. They should have short and long term plans and will benefit from discussing what work they have and when they are going to do it on a weekly basis. Encourage them to plan their weeks, including leisure time, so they have a clear idea of what time they have to work (it's usually less than they think...)

6. Get to know the exam board so that you know what they will be studying. If you have access to the internet at home, visit AQA, Edexcel, OCR.

5. Take days out that are relevant to schoolwork.

Plan family visits to places of historical interest, museums, galleries or even the beach; these can bring lessons to life.

7. Get a good attendance record.

A two week holiday means your attendance drops to 94% and miss 40 lessons; that's a lot of work to catch up on!

17 days missed = 1 grade dropped

8. Revision & Study Skills. Have a handy box of pens, pencils, and so on. Buy a dictionary so that they have all the 'tools' they need to do their work. Reading through work is not revision! So encourage them to use a variety of learning techniques:

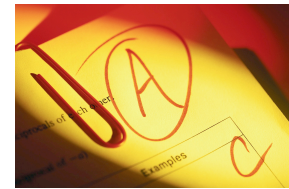
- Make notes in colour/ on post its
- Use diagrams
- Mind maps
- Doing different work in different rooms
- Discussion or group study
- Testing/ self-testing
- Teaching you a topic
- New work to be done in the morning and known work reviewed in the afternoon

9. Stay in touch with the school. *Their teacher is a great source of help and advice – not just if your son/daughter is having problems. They will be able to suggest other ways in which you can help them with their work.*

10. Don't forget to say 'well done'.

We all need praise now and then, but it's particularly important for a child. Congratulating your son/daughter will encourage them to do well next time and show them you genuinely want them to succeed at school.

What's in a Grade?



Grade Progress Pathway

GCSE		AS	A2	University Degree
				1 st
			A*	2:1
		A	A	2:1
A*/A	9/8/7	B	B	2:2
B	7/6	C	C	2:2
B/C	6/5	D	D	3 rd
C	5	E	E	
C/D	4/3	U	U	
E	2			

Please enter your son/ daughters ALPS target grades below:

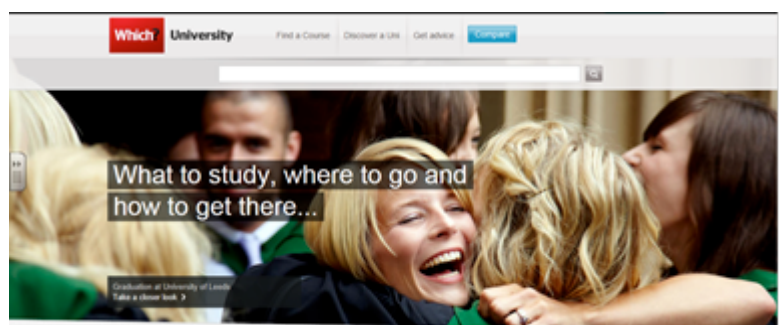
Subject	ALPS AS target grade	ALPS A2 target grade

There is no getting away from it, the next two years are going to be tough, lots of work to do in very little time. But if they want the grades they will have to put the hours in.



Organisation is key. Being well organised from the outset will make homework and revision quicker and easier. A lever arch file with dividers will be needed not only for each subject but for each subject teacher. 4 AS subjects = 8 files. Due to locker size and no bag policy a day folder with dividers will be a great idea.

<http://university.which.co.uk>



But what does an A grade pupil look like?



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Is uni worth it?
"The average graduate earns around 30% more than someone with just A levels"

bC4me is independent, free and shows the link between what you study, what you earn and the jobs you can get.

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- HOW-TO - A set of short videos showing how to get the information you need

what do you want to do?

Look at career options  Look at study options

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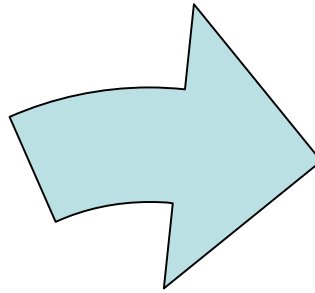
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Information for
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Parents
Advisers
HE staff

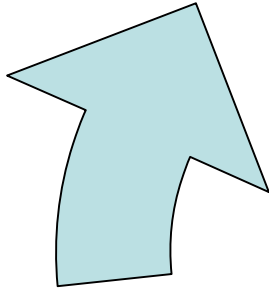
<http://www.ucas.ac.uk>

What does an E/ U grade pupil look like?

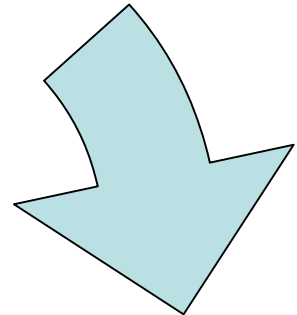
Has a part-time job and works more than 13 hours.



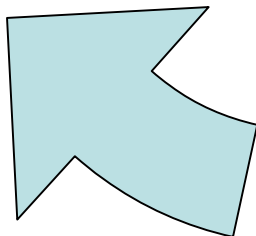
Class notes are untidy, incomplete and disorganised.



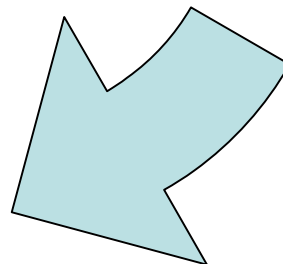
Homework is scribbled on to a spare bit of paper, handed in late and incomplete.



Does the bare minimum and will only complete the work given in lessons.



Revision is left until the night before and will consist of reading over their untidy & incomplete class notes.



Get a job! Up to 12 hours paid work has been shown to improve your grades. It's all about being organised.

TESCO
Every little helps

Making the most of parents' evenings



You will be invited to KSA twice to discuss your child's progress, at the beginning of the academic year and before the examination period. These meetings aren't just a chance to see how your son/daughter has done over the past year but a great opportunity to meet teachers and talk about positive ways to help your child move forward.

Before the parents' evening

- Talk with your son/daughter about what they have done well and what could be better. Look at their report together.
- Write a list of questions that you may have to take to the parents' evening with you.
- Take your son/daughter with you because they need to hear what their teachers say.

Meeting the teachers

- At the parents' evening, be prepared to listen to what the teachers have to say. You need them to be clear and honest with you, so you get a good picture of how your son/daughter is doing at sixth form.
- Don't be too embarrassed to ask questions if you don't understand what the teacher is saying and take notes if you think it will help remember what has been said.
- If you and a teacher disagree, it is important to find a way forward that puts your son/daughter needs first.

After the event

- Talk with your son/daughter about what was discussed and agreed with the teachers and go through the list of action points together.
- Pin the action list up where you can both see it and discuss their progress regularly.
- If you need to, stay in touch with their teacher; email will be best and they will be able to tell you how things progress in lessons.

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students>

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Student Finance 2013 - how it works

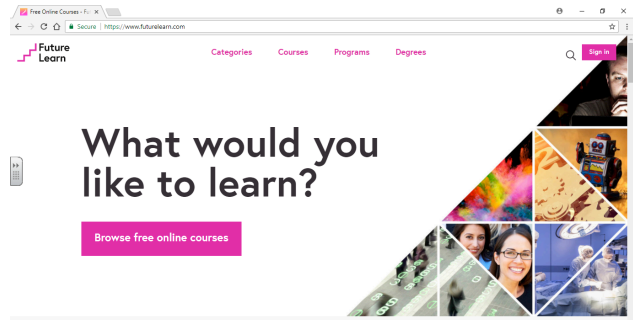
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<p>Empowering young people to get the top grades and into the best universities. Making kids cleverer every day...</p>	<p>Follow us for A-level results day advice, Clearing tips & tricks & Fresher's wisdom. We'll get you ready for GCSE results too</p>	<p>The online course for your revision. Enhancing study time and reducing procrastination through technology.</p>	<p>We're here answering your general questions: 🕒Monday-Friday 9am-5pm 🕒Saturday 9am-4pm</p>