



NORTHGATE
High School

Helping your child to learn



Key Contacts for Further Support:

Form Tutor

Progress Director

Pastoral Officer

Mr D EmeryAssistant Headteacher – Pastoral

Mr R GraingerAssistant Headteacher – Progress

Mrs S AsherAssistant Headteacher – Learning Support

Mr J TunaleyDeputy Headteacher – Behaviour & Wellbeing

Mr D BanhamDeputy Headteacher – Teaching and Learning

How can parents help students learn effectively?

Help develop a 'growth mindset' and a positive attitude towards learning

Some students can develop a 'fixed mindset' (a belief that intelligence is fixed). This can lead them to:

- avoid challenges
- give up easily
- see 'putting effort in' as a waste of time
- ignore useful constructive feedback
- feel threatened by the success of others.

As a result they tend to achieve less than their full potential.

As parents and teachers we can encourage students to adopt a 'growth mindset'. Students with a 'growth' or 'open' mindset believe that intelligence and skills can be developed through hard work and determination. Students with a growth mindset are more likely to keep going in the face of challenges and learn from feedback and constructive criticism. Research has shown that students who believe that smartness increases with hard work, are those who make the best progress.

Encourage reading

- Make use of the school library to borrow books of an appropriate reading age.
- Reading for pleasure is very valuable for developing literacy, helping all subjects.

Support organisation

- Teach your child a routine for emptying their school bag each day after school, making sure any homework is identified ready for completion.
- Regularly read through the planner with your child and check Go4schools, asking questions about any work or notes.
- Keep resources for each day in a set place so that books and work can be placed there. This will help with bag organisation.
- If necessary, help your child pack their bag the night before, using their timetable.
- Keep a note of your child's timetable and important key events on the fridge.

Support good behaviour

- Reward positive behaviours whenever possible and celebrate any rewards issued by the school.
- Support decisions made by the school in relation to negative behaviour and its consequences. This is part of our Home- School Partnership.
- Communicate with the school about any issues and concerns which may be affecting your child's behaviour.

Encourage good study skills at home

It is important that students start to take responsibility for their own learning. There are a number of things that students can do at home to improve their grades. We summarise these essential study skills as **the 5 Rs**.



1. Research

This means carrying out their own research into the topics they are studying in class. Encourage your son/daughter to use a variety of sources of information (for example – library books and documentaries). Make sure that they record their findings in their own words and do not simply 'cut and paste' from the first website they come to.



2. Reviewing

This means going back over the work they have done in class and checking that they understand it and can explain it to someone else. It also means revising thoroughly for class tests. Revision resources should be created as part of a constant cycle of review and self-testing.



3. Responding to feedback

It is crucial that all students read the feedback that has been provided by their class teacher. They should then make sure that they respond to this feedback – either by improving the piece of work they have just completed or by making sure that they use the advice that has been provided in a future piece of work.



4. Reflecting on how they are doing

Students who achieve high grades regularly reflect on their strengths and weaknesses. Help your son/daughter set short-term, manageable targets. Encourage them to work on their weaknesses and ask for help when they need it.



5. Reading around

This means reading around the topics being covered in class and developing a wider understanding of how the topics fit in with other ideas. This could mean getting out library books or magazines on the articles or going on websites recommended by the teacher.

Support homework and responding to feedback

- Agree a set homework routine with your child that fits with your family's lifestyle.
- Agree limited usage of social media, and leisure activities until homework is completed.
- Talk about homework, praising good quality work, effort and the time invested in it.
- Check your child's planner and Go4schools regularly to make sure all homework has been completed correctly and fully.
- Encourage taking pride in homework. Students should check their homework before they hand it in. For written pieces encourage your son/daughter to:
 1. Make sure that their work is neatly presented and easy to read.
 2. Use a dictionary or a subject glossary to check spellings.
 3. Check that they have used capital letters for names and places, as well as at the start of every new sentence.
 4. Use full stops regularly and check their work for other punctuation.
 5. Check that everything is clear and accurate. Does it make sense to somebody else?
 6. Check that nothing is missing. Have they answered all parts of the question? Have they supported key ideas and arguments with examples?
- Support your child's progress by looking at feedback provided and ensuring that they are responding to it and learning from it.

Support attendance and punctuality

- Check that the half-termly attendance summaries Northgate issue throughout 2019/20 match your own records.
- Talk with your child about school and how they feel. Attendance may improve if they feel supported and their anxieties are listened to.
- Be strong. Only grant days at home for genuine illness. You will know!
- Do not book holidays in term time.
- Praise and reward good attendance and improvements in attendance.
- If you have any concerns telephone the Attendance Officer to confirm whether your child has been to registration and lessons.
- Talk to your child's tutor or Progress Director to resolve issues. We may be able to help you and your child if we know there may be problems.
- Please help your child achieve their potential by ensuring that their attendance remains above 95%.

Further support

Please visit the Helping Your Child to Learn section of the school website at: www.northgate.suffolk.sch.uk/parents/helping-your-child-to-learn/
This contains advice about helping your child prepare effectively for tests and improving their spelling, punctuation and grammar.