

# What is mentoring?

## Individual / Group

Helping pupils at **ALL** levels to achieve their full potential and be the best they can be, increasing life chances for pupils

## A typical mentor meeting

- Typical session 10-15 minutes
- Weekly / fortnightly depending on needs of the pupil
- Target setting in 1 or more subjects
- Monitoring progress in subjects – tracking, reports, what teacher says, what pupil says
- Encouraging use of study plans, help with time management
- Help with organisation of materials / resources
- Encouraging use of resources like revision guides, supported study SQA website, subject recommended websites
- Discussing study techniques and exam techniques
- Liaising with class teachers when necessary

## Study Skills

### Suggested techniques

- Mentor meetings explore a variety of techniques to give pupils the skills necessary for studying all their subjects and the opportunity to talk about what is working for them / what isn't
- Past papers are a way of TESTING knowledge – no point in doing them if they are not marked, if pupil doesn't then look at where he went wrong

### Self-testing / preparing for tests / prelims / exams

- Importance of timing – build up speed over time
- Revise material in an organised way, avoid knowledge gaps
- Go back to revise previous topics, self-test – class test / prelim / exam should NOT be the first time pupil has tried this type of work
- Traffic lights for confidence with particular topics – redo regularly

# Time Management

## Creating a balance

We understand that pupils have extracurricular activities and commitments, homework and a need for time off / relaxation – we want to help them manage their time effectively so that they can include all of these without stress. If workload is spread throughout the year the stress can be avoided.

Encouraging use of weekly study plans – have to be realistic – take account of what is happening that week (tests, homework, outside activities)

Same study plan will not be useful for a whole term / year

## Why use a study plan?

- To allow for study time to be organised and planned so it will be more effective
- To ensure that all subjects are covered sensibly over a block of time
- To keep a record of what has been studied
- To avoid panic about what to do and when
- To allow for time off to be proper time off – guilt free!
- To allow for homework AND revision

## What can parents to do help?

### Don't panic

- Subject knowledge isn't important
- Doesn't matter if you don't know the subject / if your knowledge is out of date
- There are things that can help that do not need any subject knowledge

### Helping with studying

- Ask questions about the work covered
- Test child on material he has studied
- Encourage self-testing
- Timing when doing test questions / past papers
- Listen to presentations / speaking tests

### Helping in other ways

- Provide a suitable location, somewhere to store school materials, somewhere to work quietly
- Talk about what they are doing and why
- Encourage attendance at supported study
- Encourage your child to seek help if necessary – class teacher / mentor
- Be aware when your child is online – are they studying?

# Supported Study

## **When does Supported Study take place?**

- At lunchtime / after school Mon – Thurs from the Oct hols to May
- All subjects offer supported study
- Pupils will be given a list of dates from their mentor
- Supported Study timetable is also in parents' newsletter (email) and on school website
- Text reminders are regularly sent to parents

## **Why is Supported Study useful?**

- Gives pupils a chance to ask questions / revise material away from class
- Pupils can revise material they are unsure about
- Supported study will meet their needs – flexible depending on pupils who attend
- Past papers with teacher input / support
- Timed past papers – immediate marking / feedback

## **New reward system**

- Pupils in S4, S5 & S6 will be given an attendance record card
- To be signed if they have attended Supported Study and made an effort with work – NOT just an attendance award
- Will be checked by mentor who will encourage pupil to attend suitable SS sessions
- To be signed by parent at end of every month
- Prizes and rewards for high attendance / effort