

# Revision Digest - Issue 3

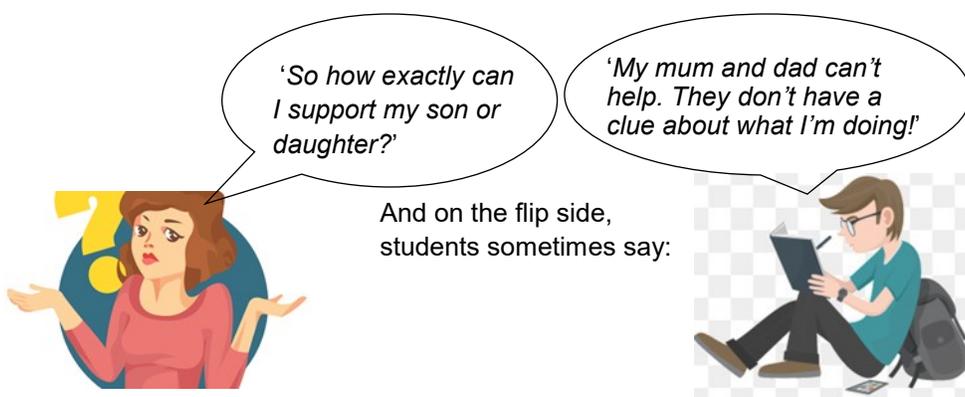
## Bishop Stopford School

faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

High quality revision depends on a number of factors coming together:

- ◆ Good notes, classwork, textbooks, online resources from which to revise;
- ◆ Understanding of the spec for each subject, and what exactly is required;
- ◆ A purposeful working space in which to do revision;
- ◆ Clear planning about the amount of time allocated to different topics, and the discipline to stick to the plan;
- ◆ Knowing which revision strategies work and having the resources to hand to carry them out effectively;
- ◆ Support from parents, other family members and friends in the process;
- ◆ Rewards for meeting revision targets.

The last but one of these can be most difficult. Parents rightly ask:



The good news is that the student perception is wrong and parents can do something very simple which will have an invaluable impact:

***In short, let your son or daughter teach you what s/he is revising.***

### How Does this Work?

The key skill from the student is to explain what they've learnt, and the role of parents is to listen and to encourage the clearest explanations possible.

This listening is really helpful if it prompts students to consider how they could strengthen explanations, use subject specific vocabulary and give examples and reasons in their responses.

Let the student talk, and make a note of what was strong and what needed improving.

Helpful questions could be:

- ◆ 'I didn't quite understand that. Could you tell it to me again?'
- ◆ 'Is there any important vocabulary you needed to use to explain that?'
- ◆ 'Why is that the case?' (Or less confrontational, 'And that's because...?')

### **What's the Benefit to the Student?**

After revising material – usually involving reading and writing – having to articulate that material verbally is another way of recapping, but in a different form. Having a listening audience means the student receives immediate critical feedback on their learning. S/he may believe they've assimilated all the information, but sharing it with a 'non-expert' may reveal that they've missed out important sections because they've taken them for granted.

All of this can only help in an exam situation, because examiners need to see logical progression in all answers.

### **And the Rewards?**

Students receive immediate feedback; parents know they have contributed significantly to the revision process.

If there really does seem to be a problem in understanding, either the student or parent can talk to school, and the areas where help is needed will be really focused.

And finally we'd also suggest coffee, chocolate or your favourite treat as rewards for both sides when using this technique!

