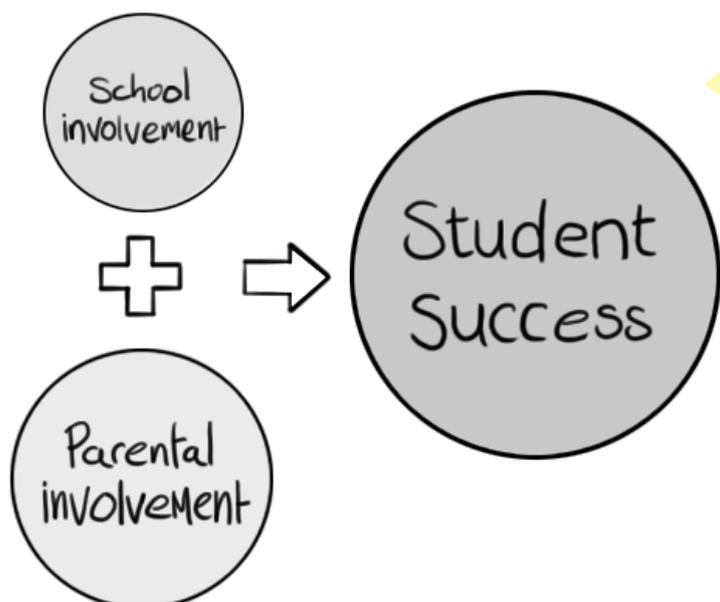
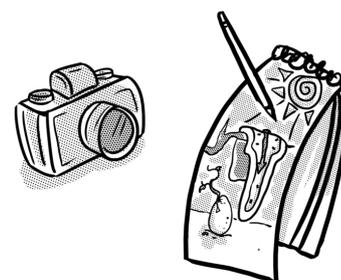


# Did you know?



There is a significant difference between Year 11 and Year 12. The courses are more challenging in the sixth form, and the pressures on students are significant.

However, there are a number of ways in which students can prepare for this change and help to bridge the gap.



# What can you do?

Many colleges run a Post-16 Preparation Day soon after the completion of GCSEs and a number of things happen that will help to prepare your child for post-16 education. These may involve taster lessons or taster days where they can sample the lessons and routines of being in a more independent setting.

- The transition to being in post-16 education should start happening over the summer as students await results and prepare for starting courses. It is helpful if you can encourage them to do some background reading on their subject, or perhaps watch some TED talks or documentaries.
- Many schools give out summer work that needs to be completed for the first few weeks back – ask your child if they have this to complete.
- It would also be profitable if the summer break was used as an opportunity for them to widen their experience by visiting museums, the theatre – or absolutely anything that gets them involved more deeply in things that interest them and perhaps pushes them out of their comfort zone. Many museums and art galleries are free, and many others have a reduced student rate.
- Your child may come home telling you they have ‘free periods’ – most of the time these are actually ‘study periods’ or ‘independent learning’ periods where students should be doing wider reading, prescribed work or working independently. Check what the expectations are!
- Be prepared for a dip! The jump from KS4 to KS5 is a big one. Be prepared that your son or daughter may find the new level quite challenging at first, and it takes a few weeks to become comfortable with the new standard of work and expectations.
- If they have summer work, encourage them to do it in plenty of time rather than the panic and dash towards the end of the holidays.