

Supporting Your Child

What works...

Professor John Hattie is a researcher in education. He passionately believes that parents/carers can have a major effect in terms of the encouragement and expectations that you transmit to your children. I am in total agreement. He and I are not alone, many other studies confirm the central but indirect role you as parents/carers play by shaping your child's concept of themselves as learners.

The fact that your child is a teenager does not mean they need you any less than they did when they were at primary school. Please know that you do have a huge part to play in their lives and their learning. You really do matter and working together we can ensure your child fulfills their potential. One major way to have an impact is for you to communicate your expectations. There are lots of ways you can do this – see the list below.

Activities at home which support children's achievement:

- The use of interesting and complex vocabulary
- Discussions about school progress
- Feedback that is specific and praises effort
- Conversations about external events
- Encouragement to read for a range of purposes
- Cultural activities such as visiting libraries, museums, historic sites
- Encouragement to develop hobbies
- Encouragement to question
- Encouragement to try out new things
- Establishment and valuing of learning routines
- Support in practising sport, music or dance
- Opportunities and encouragement to undertake everyday household tasks.

You will see that they all have something in common – they involve talking! It is good to talk and I feel that Carol Dweck (teaches courses in Personality and Social Development as well as Motivation) puts it really well:

‘If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort and keep on learning. That way they will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence.’

We at WUTC are continuously looking to create opportunities for our Learning Family to be able to develop as young people and become confident young adults, that are academically secure and technical able.

Thank you for all you do as parents/carers, we thoroughly relish working with you to secure the best possible future for our students, your children.