How To Help Your Son/Daughter When They Start At Sixth Form

We value and encourage the involvement of parents in helping us to support students throughout their time in further education. While we expect students to accept responsibility for their own learning and academic progress, we acknowledge that a successful partnership with parents is vital to the success of our students and the College will liaise with parents accordingly, taking into account the needs of individual students. At sixth form your son/daughter will need to take on more responsibility for their learning in order to prepare them for the future and the staff at the school will become facilitators rather than teachers, encouraging the students to take on more independence within their learning. The staff integrate the following into classroom routines and the following may help your son/daughter with their work and progress at college and at home:

**Discuss Learning**
Have regular two-way conversations about what your son/daughter is thinking and learning. This is best done without TV, phones or distractions.

- Ask your son/daughter questions about what they have studied at college, question them about the world around us, and introduce new ideas, vocabulary, and concepts. Maybe use our Twitter feed @ChelmerValleyHS, website [http://www.chelmervalleyhighschool.co.uk](http://www.chelmervalleyhighschool.co.uk) or the school magazine (Cygnet News, found on the website) to help instigate conversations!
- Encourage your son/daughter’s questioning!
- Discuss subject topics together and relate to modern circumstances, items in the news and moments your son/daughter can relate to, to help them see how their learning will help them in the future.

**Encourage Learning**
Praise the progress and effort your son/daughter makes to learn.

- Make it clear that learning involves making mistakes and requires effort.
• Share with your son/daughter a positive attitude towards learning, teachers, and college.
• Talk about your own learning, successes, frustrations, times you have had to persist at something. Show your son/daughter that you stick with challenging tasks, even when it is really hard.
• Set high standards and realistic expectations – Discuss and agree on what is expected academically, behaviourally and socially with your son/daughter

Share Learning
Experience activities and learn together. The different activities will change as young people grow older.

• Discuss Homework/Assignments set together – look on Show My Homework with each other to show you are interested in their learning. It can be found through the school website.
• Ensure your son/daughter understand their homework/assignments set and if you or your child are unsure, be sure to contact the staff at the school (you can do this via email contacts on the website).

Remember we are here to help you and your child. Here are some of the ways the school can support you:

• **Contacting Teachers** - All teachers are contactable via email on the schools website or through the contact us form (from September 2016). If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact teachers directly via their email. They will do their best to reply to any emails within two days. For urgent matters please telephone the school.

• **Communication** – Parentmail is used for all communications with parents/carers. Letters from the school will be sent via Parentmail (including those about trips and visits). Weekly bulletins are sent via Parentmail, these contain key information for the forthcoming weeks at the school. Cygnet News (the school magazine) is sent home termly via Parentmail that contains stories of all events that have occurred at the school in the past term and is a great read!

• **Parent Consultation Evenings** – Parents’ evenings will be held for your son/daughters year group during each academic year. Please come along and meet their teachers and discuss your child’s learning/progress. If you have any concerns prior to these evenings, please contact their teachers.

• **Website** – Our website holds key information about the college, including key dates and information about what is on. It also has a rolling Twitter feed and links to Cygnet News on it.

If you are unsure and need help please do not hesitate to contact the college staff through the following email addresses or telephone 01245 440232:

Mr Beadle (Head of Sixth Form) jbeadle@chelmer.essex.sch.uk
Mrs Willcox (Assistant Head of Sixth Form) gwillcox@chelmer.essex.sch.uk
Mrs Mills (Sixth Form Pastoral Manager) cmills@chelmer.essex.sch.uk