stanmore college

Study Guide for Parents

This short guide is designed to help parents to provide the best possible support to their child whilst they are studying at Stanmore College.

In order to do their best students need to attend all of their classes in order to meet the college expectations and to give them the best possible chance to succeed. Missing classes can significantly harm a young person's academic performance. Please help them by making sure they come to all classes and arrive on time as lateness can disrupt the learning of other students.

We know having a job is important and we do encourage our learners to work part-time as they can develop a range of employability skills, but it is a problem if it is interfering with their college work. Encourage them to find the right balance between the two.

Managing time is really important, often the reason a student starts to struggle is when they get behind with their work. If they miss deadlines the course becomes more difficult as there are too many things to do at one time. Help them plan how much time is required, when they are going to do the work and then check it is being done. This will ensure they have a much greater chance of success.

Additional Learning Support can be requested to help learners with identified learning needs. The Pastoral Support Team including Personal Tutors, welfare support and counselling can assist if there are personal factors that are impacting on learning.

Good notes help learners do well. Students need to add their own notes to those given to them by their teachers – it helps them learn and remember what they have learnt later on. After a lesson if they still have questions they can research independently or go back to the teacher for more help.

The college invests in resources to support its learners, these vary from course to course but all learners will be shown how to access Studyspace which is the central point for online support. Assignments are usually given here and often have to be handed in electronically. In addition there will be links to useful resources added throughout the course to support the programme of study.

One of the reasons that we ask for assignments to be handed in online is to check they are not copied from somebody else, which is plagiarism. It is something that all schools and colleges take very seriously. Using books and websites for research is a good thing as long as the learner says where the information comes from in their assignment. Teachers can show learners how to do this correctly and as the same type of referencing is done at university too they will be well prepared.

One last thing to remember is that we all learn differently, most of our young people have a good understanding of what works best for them, you might need to trust them to work out which ways suit them. What worked for you may not be the best option for them. It is generally helpful for all learners of whatever age to have a quiet space to work in – if you can help them with that they will probably do better, they will probably need to access the internet at times for their work too and again this may help them but we respect that as parents you may wish to have some control over their access. The college's learning centre and all of the classrooms use software which stops users accessing unsuitable sites and we constantly keep this updated to keep all of our learners safe online.

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