

5

THINGS EVERY PARENT MUST KNOW

BEFORE THEIR CHILD SITS GCSE MATHS

What most parents get wrong — and what to do differently so your child walks into that exam ready, not terrified.



AVOID COMMON PARENT MISTAKES



HELP THEM BUILD CONFIDENCE & SKILLS



KEEP THEIR FUTURE OPTIONS OPEN



By **Miss Bukky**

The Children's Education Centre

A note from Miss Bukky

If you're reading this, you already care. And that matters more than you know.

In over 20 years of teaching and tutoring Maths, I've worked with hundreds of families. The parents who reach out are the ones who notice their child is struggling and actually do something about it, those are the parents whose children turn it around.

But I've also seen a lot of well-meaning parents make the same mistakes. Not because they don't care, but because nobody told them what actually works.

This guide is my attempt to change that. Five things I wish every parent knew before their child sits GCSE Maths. Simple, honest, and practical.

Read it. Share it with someone who needs it. And if by the end you think your child could use more structured support, the link at the bottom will take you exactly where you need to go.

— Miss Bukky

01

Waiting for the school to fix it is the most expensive mistake you can make

The gap doesn't close on its own.

I hear this all the time: "We're just going to see how they get on this term." I understand why parents say it, nobody wants to overreact. But Maths gaps compound. A small gap in Year 7 becomes a wall by Year 10. The school will do what it can, but with 30 students in a class, your child's specific gap won't get the individual attention it needs.

- If your child is in Year 9 or 10 and struggling, act now not next term.
 - Ask the school for a specific breakdown of which topics they're behind on.
 - One hour of targeted support per week makes more difference than a full weekend of unfocused revision.
-

01

Waiting for the school to fix it is the most expensive mistake you can make

The gap doesn't close on its own.

I hear this all the time: "We're just going to see how they get on this term." I understand why parents say it, nobody wants to overreact. But Maths gaps compound. A small gap in Year 7 becomes a wall by Year 10. The school will do what it can, but with 30 students in a class, your child's specific gap won't get the individual attention it needs.

- If your child is in Year 9 or 10 and struggling, act now not next term.
- Ask the school for a specific breakdown of which topics they're behind on.
- One hour of targeted support per week makes more difference than a full weekend of unfocused revision.

02

Revision and practice are not the same thing

Reading notes doesn't build Maths skills. Doing Maths does.

This is one of the biggest misconceptions I see. A student sits at their desk for two hours with their Maths notes. But in Maths, reading about how to solve a problem is not the same as solving it. Your brain learns Maths by doing it, repeatedly, with feedback, until the process becomes automatic. Passive revision barely works for English. For Maths, it barely registers.

- Past papers are the single most effective revision tool for GCSE Maths.
- Practice under timed conditions, the exam environment is part of what needs to be practised. Every
- wrong answer is information. Find out WHY it was wrong, not just what the right answer was.

03

Maths anxiety is real, and pressure makes it worse

How you talk about Maths at home matters more than you think.

"You need to try harder." "Why don't you just get it?" "I was never good at Maths either." All said with the best intentions. But anxiety literally reduces working memory capacity. The child who "goes blank" in the exam isn't being lazy, they're overwhelmed. The language we use at home either feeds that anxiety or helps dismantle it.

- Never say "I was bad at Maths" in front of your child, it gives them permission to give up.
- Replace "why don't you get it" with "let's figure out which bit is confusing."
- Celebrate effort and progress, not just grades. A child who improves from Grade 2 to Grade 4 has done something remarkable.

04

Grade 4 is not the goal - Grade 5 is the gateway

Most sixth forms and colleges require a Grade 5 in Maths.

A lot of families aim for Grade 4 because that's the "pass" threshold. But most sixth forms, colleges, and apprenticeship programmes now require a Grade 5 in Maths as a minimum. If your child gets a Grade 4, they may find themselves locked out of the next step they want to take. Grade 5 isn't just better; it's the difference between keeping options open and having them close.

- Check the entry requirements for your child's chosen sixth form or college now.
- If they're currently predicted a Grade 3 or 4, a 12-week programme can make the difference.
- The jump from Grade 4 to Grade 5 is very achievable with the right support I see it regularly.

05

Consistency beats intensity every single time

One hour every week beats five hours the night before.

Every year, parents come to me in a panic the month before GCSEs. "Can you do intensive sessions every day?" But intensive cramming doesn't build the deep understanding that GCSE Maths requires. What works is consistent, structured practice over time. One focused hour each week, every week that's what builds the confidence and the skill to walk into that exam and deliver.

- Book tutoring sessions in advance so they don't get cancelled when life gets busy.
- Shorter, regular sessions beat long, infrequent ones; the brain needs repetition over time. If you start
- in Year 9, you have the most time and the most options. Don't wait for Year 11.

Ready to take the next step?

If your child is in Year 9 or 10 and you want to find out whether the GCSE Maths Success Programme is the right fit — book a free 20-minute discovery call. No pressure, no commitment. Just a conversation.

Book your free discovery call → [Here](#)