

# Effective partnership with parents: a practical approach



**Dr Kathryn Weston**

# Parent Power

## ✓ Life chances

Parents' aspirations for their children strongly predict their achievement, as does parents' self-efficacy (Dearing, 2006).

## ✓ Preventing psychopathology

Half of all mental health issues present before the age of 14. Quality of the parent-child relationship and parenting plays a *primary role* (Fac. of Public Health)



# Parents' and attainment

*“At the age of twelve, parental influence on learning is 30% greater than that of the school. At no point does the school have the greatest influence.”*

**Professor Charles Des Forges**

If parents engage with their children's education, the attainment of the child will increase by 15% (Goodall, 2009; 2011).

Parents' aspirations for their children strongly predict their achievement, as does parents' self-efficacy (Dearing, 2006).

*“The effect of parental engagement over a pupil's school career is the same as adding 2-3 years to their education”*

**Professor John Hattie**



# What matters most – the 3Cs

- ✓ Parents need to feel that they can affect change
- ✓ Parents often feel motivated, but need to feel confident
- ✓ Parents' need to believe that they capable of supporting their child's learning;

Parents need knowledge and skills to support their children...



# The third dimension: alignment



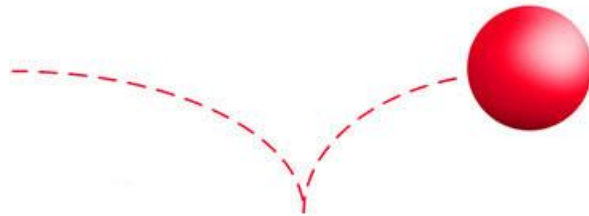
# Pivotal points



- ❖ **During transition, parental engagement is key** (Harris and Goodhall, 2009; Goodhall, 2013;)
- ❖ **Homework** – is it a point of tension or meaningful alignment?
- ❖ **School reports** – the intersection between school and home.
- ❖ **Parent-teacher evenings** are one of the few times of the year parents get an opportunity to discuss their child's progress at school.

# Context: the pressure is on...

## *Resilience*



# GRIT

THE POWER of PASSION  
and PERSEVERANCE



Creativity Perspective  
Judgment Curiosity  
Honesty Bravery Fairness  
PERSEVERANCE HUMOR Zest  
Love Kindness Leadership  
Social Intelligence Love of Learning  
Forgiveness HOPE PRUDENCE  
Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence Humility  
Spirituality SELF-REGULATION Gratitude  
© www.VIACHARACTER.ORG VIA INSTITUTE ON CHARACTER

# An Escalating Crisis...



- Rates of **depression** and **anxiety** in teenagers have increased by 70% in the past 25 years.
- 90% of school leaders have reported an increase in the number of students experiencing anxiety or **stress** over the last five years.
- **Suicide** is the most common cause of death in teen boys.
- Around one in every twelve young people deliberately **self-harm**, though this may rise to almost one in three for girls aged 15.

There needs to be a **greater focus on prevention** through early identification and intervention.

Source: Wise Up Report, Young Minds, 2017.



# Ways forward

