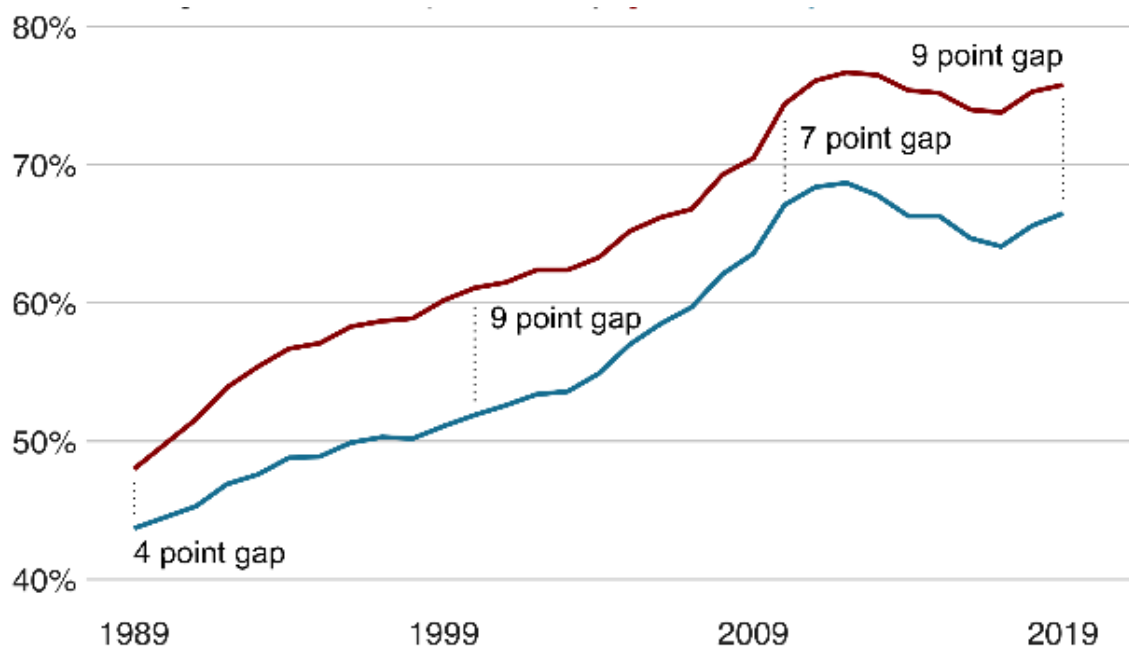


The Gender Gap

Since the 1980s, there has been a concern across the United Kingdom about the 'gender gap' in education outcomes. It must be remembered, however, that the achievement of both boys and girls across England and Wales consistently improves every year!



Source: Buckingham University (1989-2009) / DfE (2010-2019)

BBC

Graph to show % of GCSEs passed by girls and boys across England and Wales

Red line = girls

Blue line = boys

(Source: BBC News, 6 February 2020)

At Maiden Erlegh School we work hard to close the national gender gap and keep it closed! Research consistently shows that our best chance of succeeding in this regard is by working together with students and parents/guardians in the following ways:

In-school:

- *Holding the very highest expectations of both boys and girls at all times
- *Demonstrating our high expectations through quality-first-teaching
- *Regularly reviewing the curriculum to ensure it is fit for purpose
- *Challenging gender stereotypes and use of sexist language
- *Ensuring that boys and girls have equal opportunities and utilise these
- *To monitor progress regularly and intervene quickly where necessary



At home:

We are often asked by parents & guardians 'what can I do at home to help my child to achieve?' From the available research, we suggest:

- *Promoting literacy at home as much as possible, reading for pleasure
- *Expecting high-quality homework to be produced by your child
- *Discussing the problem of gender stereotyping where necessary
- *Nurturing any interest in technology and using this for education purposes
- *Using motivational language: 'How can you?' not 'Why haven't you?'
- *Using the word 'yet' – a reminder that successes aren't closed off

- *Promoting healthy eating & plenty of exercise; nurturing hobbies
- *Encouraging healthy sleep routines in your child
- *Avoiding the pitfalls of stereotypes – boys don't learn differently to girls
- *Promoting the value of meaningful work experience
- *Promoting the 'bigger picture' so that learning has long-term value

Notably, all of the above points equally apply to helping to secure the very best education outcomes among boys and girls. There are no 'quick-wins' in tackling the gender gap, and our resolve to ensure that each and every one of the young people who attend our school fulfils their potential, remains at the heart of what we try to do each and every day.

Useful reading:

Dweck, C. 2012. *Mindset: How you can fulfil your potential*. Robinson.

Farrell, W & Gray, J. 2019. *The boy crisis: Why are boys are struggling and what we can do about it*. BenBella Books

Jannis-Norton, N. 2016. *Calmer, Easier, Happier Boys: The revolutionary programme that transforms family life*. Yellow Kite

Wong, D. (2020): *10 guaranteed ways to motivate your child to do well in school* (online)
Available from:

<https://www.daniel-wong.com/2019/05/13/motivate-children-to-do-well-in-school/>

The complete parents' guide to GCSEs: Motivation 101 if your child just won't revise
(online) Available from:

<https://tutorful.co.uk/guides/a-parent-s-guide-to-gcses/motivation-101-if-your-child-just-won-t-revise>

School guide: 10 proven ways to help your child to do well at school. Simple steps for parents
(online) Available from:

<https://www.schoolguide.co.uk/blog/10-proven-ways-to-help-your-child-do-well-at-school-simple-steps-every-parent-can-try-at-home>

Revision – a parents' guide (online) Available from:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/3312423/Revision-a-parents-guide.html>

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