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Level 6

Parents punished if kids late to school

10th June, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Parents in the U.K. face being punished if their children are continually late for school. Britain's Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will crack down on what he terms "problem parents". He said too many families fail to "face up to their responsibilities" by ensuring their children get to school on time, and are "ready to learn and show respect for their teacher". Parents are already slapped with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is repeatedly late for school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were unpaid last year, prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines for parents who withdraw their children during term time to take them on cheaper family vacations.

Mr Gove said his plans were all part of raising standards in education, creating a bigger incentive for parents to ensure their children get to school, and tackling the problem of "habitual truancy". Gove also hit back at his critics, accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils up to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said opposition politicians shied away "from anything which might require grit". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without daring to think they might be intellectually curious and capable of greatness, denying them access to anything stretching or ambitious, and setting expectations so low you can never be surprised by someone's potential"

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10881955/Gove-to-dock-parents-benefits-for-condoning-truancy.html>
<http://news.sky.com/story/1277284/parents-to-be-punished-for-kids-bad-behaviour>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/michael-gove-says-parents-will-3657584#ixzz33waR9YHY>

WARM-UPS

1. EDUCATION: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about education. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

parents / late for school / responsibilities / on time / fine / penalty / family vacations / plans / standards in education / truancy / critics / opposition / politicians / potential

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. RAISING STANDARDS: How might these ideas to raise standards in education work? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good points	Bad points
Punish parents		
Cash for A grades		
Webcams in class		
Smaller class sizes		
More online learning		
Homework study groups		

4. PROBLEM PARENTS: Students A **strongly** believe punishing "problem parents" will raise standards in education; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. OBSTACLES: Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest obstacles to learning at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- class size
- the teacher
- computer games
- boring subject
- too little sleep
- little parental support
- television
- too many tests

6. LATE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "late". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Parents will be punished if their children are late for school even once. T / F
- b. The UK education secretary said families need to be more responsible. T / F
- c. Parents failed to pay around 20,000 lateness fines last year. T / F
- d. Parents can take children on family holidays during school time. T / F
- e. The UK government is aiming to reduce truancy levels via these fines. T / F
- f. The government said students would fail with the opposition's policies. T / F
- g. The education secretary said all children know they can be great. T / F
- h. The education secretary said the opposition sets standards too high. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. punished | a. making |
| 2. crack down on | b. duties |
| 3. responsibilities | c. strength of character |
| 4. prompting | d. stricter |
| 5. tougher | e. lifting |
| 6. raising | f. penalized |
| 7. incentive | g. constant |
| 8. habitual | h. promise |
| 9. grit | i. motivation |
| 10. potential | j. get tough on |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Parents in the U.K. face | a. up to their responsibilities |
| 2. he will crack down on what | b. politicians |
| 3. many families fail to face | c. £60 (\$100) fine |
| 4. slapped with a | d. he terms "problem parents" |
| 5. announce a tougher | e. of "habitual truancy" |
| 6. part of raising | f. being punished |
| 7. tackling the problem | g. so low |
| 8. opposition | h. standards in education |
| 9. intellectually | i. penalty system |
| 10. setting expectations | j. curious |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Parents in the U.K. (1) _____ being punished if their children are continually late for school. Britain's Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will (2) _____ down on what he terms "problem parents". He said too many families fail to "face up to their (3) _____ " by ensuring their children get to school on time, and are "ready to learn and show (4) _____ for their teacher". Parents are already (5) _____ with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is repeatedly late for school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were (6) _____ last year, prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines for parents who (7) _____ their children (8) _____ term time to take them on cheaper family vacations.

slapped
withdraw
responsibilities
during
face
unpaid
crack
respect

Mr Gove said his plans were all (9) _____ of raising standards in education, creating a bigger (10) _____ for parents to ensure their children get to school, and tackling the problem of "habitual (11) _____ ". Gove also hit back at his critics, accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils up to fail and of (12) _____ "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said (13) _____ politicians shied away "from anything which might require grit". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without (14) _____ to think they might be intellectually curious and capable of greatness, denying them (15) _____ to anything stretching or ambitious, and setting expectations so low you can never be surprised by someone's (16) _____ "

opposition
access
truancy
potential
part
daring
incentive
promoting

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

- 1) Parents in the U.K. face being punished if their children _____
 - a. are continue all late
 - b. are continual be late
 - c. are continually late
 - d. are continually be late
- 2) Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he _____
 - a. will crack up on...
 - b. will crack down on...
 - c. will cracked down on...
 - d. will crack down none...
- 3) He said too many families fail to "face _____"
 - a. up to their responsibilities
 - b. up two their responsibilities
 - c. up for their responsibilities
 - d. up four their responsibilities
- 4) Parents are already slapped with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child _____
 - a. is repeat and late
 - b. is repeated less late
 - c. is repeatedly late
 - d. is repeat tidily late
- 5) prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher _____
 - a. penalties system
 - b. penalty is system
 - c. penalty system
 - d. penalty systems
- 6) Mr Gove said his plans were all part of raising _____
 - a. standard sin education
 - b. standards on education
 - c. standards in education
 - d. standards for education
- 7) ensure their children get to school, and tackling the problem _____
 - a. of "habitual truancy"
 - b. of "habitual truant" see
 - c. of "habitual truants" see
 - d. of "habitually truancy"
- 8) set pupils up to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-_____"
 - a. down courses
 - b. own courses
 - c. downed courses
 - d. down in courses
- 9) without daring to think they might be intellectually curious and _____
 - a. cape able of greatness
 - b. capable of greatness
 - c. cape a bull of greatness
 - d. capable of great nest
- 10) setting expectations so low you can never be surprised _____
 - a. by someone's potential
 - b. by someone's potentially
 - c. by someone's potent shall
 - d. by someone is potential

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Parents in the U.K. (1) _____ if their children are continually late for school. Britain's Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will (2) _____ he terms "problem parents". He said too many families (3) _____ their responsibilities" by ensuring their children get to school on time, and are "ready to learn and show respect for their teacher". Parents (4) _____ a £60 (\$100) fine if their child (5) _____ school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were unpaid last year, prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines for parents who withdraw their children (6) _____ take them on cheaper family vacations.

Mr Gove said his (7) _____ raising standards in education, creating a bigger incentive for parents to ensure their children get to school, and tackling the problem (8) _____. Gove also hit back at his critics, accusing (9) _____ policies that set pupils up to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said opposition politicians (10) _____ anything which might require grit". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without daring to think they might be intellectually (11) _____ of greatness, denying them access to anything stretching or ambitious, and setting expectations (12) _____ be surprised by someone's potential"

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

1. What is Michael Gove's position in the U.K. government?

2. What did Mr Gove say many families failed to do?

3. What did Mr Gove say children should show teachers?

4. How many fines were unpaid last year?

5. What could parents do during term time that would get them a fine?

6. What does Mr Gove hope to raise?

7. What habitual problem does Mr Gove hope to tackle?

8. Who did Mr Gove accuse of setting students up to fail?

9. What did he say some politicians shied away from?

10. What did Mr Gove think was set too low by some policies?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

1. What is Michael Gove's position in the U.K. government?
 - a) Education Secretary
 - b) Minister for Schools
 - c) Secretary for Student Success
 - d) Leader of Youth Development
2. What did Mr Gove say many families failed to do?
 - a) stay together
 - b) pass exams
 - c) face up to responsibilities
 - d) homework
3. What did Mr Gove say children should show teachers?
 - a) their good side
 - b) their homework
 - c) ambition
 - d) respect
4. How many fines were unpaid last year?
 - a) 12,000
 - b) 20,000
 - c) 22,000
 - d) 2,000
5. What could parents do during term time to get a fine?
 - a) take their children on holiday
 - b) not go to school
 - c) help with exams
 - d) do their child's homework
6. What does Mr Gove hope to raise?
 - a) awareness
 - b) nice children
 - c) money
 - d) education standards
7. What habitual problem does Mr Gove hope to tackle?
 - a) urgency
 - b) flippancy
 - c) truancy
 - d) leniency
8. Who did Mr Gove accuse of setting students up to fail?
 - a) Britain's leader
 - b) opposition politicians
 - c) school heads
 - d) the system
9. What did Mr Gove say some politicians shied away from?
 - a) accepting poor grades
 - b) responsibility
 - c) anything students need grit for
 - d) photographers
10. What did Mr Gove think was set too low by some policies?
 - a) exam pass marks
 - b) expectations
 - c) language level
 - d) the height of students' desks

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Role A – Class size

You think class size is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the teacher, sleep or online learning.

Role B – The teacher

You think the teacher is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): class size, sleep or online learning.

Role C – Sleep

You think sleep is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the teacher, class size or online learning.

Role D – Online learning

You think online learning is the best thing to raise education standards. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so effective in raising standards. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the teacher, sleep or class size.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'education' and 'standard'.

education	standard

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• continually• up• show• 20,000• system• cheaper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• part• ensure• set• away• access• low
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EDUCATION SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Write five GOOD questions about education in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

EDUCATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'education'?
- c) What do you think of the education you had?
- d) What do you think of children who are always late for school?
- e) Is it a good idea to punish parents if students misbehave?
- f) How can we get students to show more respect to teachers?
- g) What do you think of the term "problem parents"?
- h) What should happen to parents if kids do not respect teachers?
- i) How much respect do children have for teachers in your culture?
- j) Is it wrong for kids to go on overseas vacations during school time?

Parents punished if kids late to school – 10th June, 2014
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EDUCATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What would you do to raise standards in education?
- c) What other incentives could we create for parents?
- d) What can schools do to reduce truancy?
- e) What kind of policies set students up to fail?
- f) What kind of grit did you show at school?
- g) What signs of greatness did you show as a kid?
- h) What expectations would / do you have of your own children?
- i) Have you realized your potential? Why?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Mr Gove?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Parents in the U.K. face (1) _____ punished if their children are continually late for school. Britain's Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will crack down (2) _____ what he terms "problem parents". He said too many families fail to "face (3) _____ to their responsibilities" by ensuring their children get to school on time, and are "ready to learn and show respect for their teacher". Parents are already (4) _____ with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is repeatedly late for school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were (5) _____ last year, prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines for parents who (6) _____ their children during term time to take them on cheaper family vacations.

Mr Gove said his plans were all (7) _____ of raising standards in education, creating a bigger incentive for parents to ensure their children get to school, and tackling the problem of "(8) _____ truancy". Gove also hit back at his critics, accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils (9) _____ to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said opposition politicians shied away "from anything which might (10) _____ grit". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without daring to think they might be intellectually curious and capable of greatness, (11) _____ them access to anything stretching or ambitious, and setting expectations so (12) _____ you can never be surprised by someone's potential"

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) having | (b) doing | (c) being | (d) feeling |
| 2. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) for | (d) by |
| 3. | (a) up | (b) over | (c) off | (d) down |
| 4. | (a) slapped | (b) slipped | (c) supped | (d) sapped |
| 5. | (a) payees | (b) unpaid | (c) payments | (d) paying |
| 6. | (a) insert | (b) deposit | (c) unfasten | (d) withdraw |
| 7. | (a) party | (b) partners | (c) part | (d) partnering |
| 8. | (a) habits | (b) habituate | (c) habitat | (d) habitual |
| 9. | (a) up | (b) down | (c) along | (d) over |
| 10. | (a) require | (b) requite | (c) requisite | (d) request |
| 11. | (a) denoting | (b) denying | (c) degenerating | (d) denigrating |
| 12. | (a) beneath | (b) under | (c) down | (d) low |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Paragraph 1

1. tnuaylicnol late for school
2. face up to their pinreiisseslbtio
3. their child is deetlrpyea late for school
4. nrusgnie their children get to school
5. anuoncne a tougher penalty system
6. parents who ihtdwra their children

Paragraph 2

7. create a bigger eevntciin for parents
8. the problem of habitual ratcyun
9. sniopootip politicians
10. intellectually suucori
11. access to anything stretching or iumtiasbo
12. surprised by someone's opalntiet

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Parents in the U.K. face being punished if their children are continually late for school. Britain's Education
- () ensuring their children get to school on time, and are "ready to learn and show respect for their teacher". Parents are already slapped
- () ambitious, and setting expectations so low you can never be surprised by someone's potential".
- () Mr Gove said his plans were all part of raising standards in education, creating a bigger
- () with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is repeatedly late for school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were
- () parents". He said too many families fail to "face up to their responsibilities" by
- () curious and capable of greatness, denying them access to anything stretching or
- () incentive for parents to ensure their children get to school, and tackling the problem of "habitual
- () up to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said opposition politicians shied away "from anything which might
- () Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will crack down on what he terms "problem
- () unpaid last year, prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines
- () truancy". Gove also hit back at his critics, accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils
- () for parents who withdraw their children during term time to take them on cheaper family vacations.
- () require grit". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without daring to think they might be intellectually

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

1. "problem terms he what on down crack will He . parents"

2. teacher to show their Ready and for learn respect.

3. school repeatedly their \$100 late child fine A for is if .

4. , year were of 20,000 unpaid these , However last penalties.

5. children Parents during who term withdraw time their.

6. education His plans were all part of raising standards in.

7. policies pupils fail to set to Adhering that up.

8. Shied might away require from grit anything which.

9. might Daring be to intellectually think curious they.

10. be surprised You by can someone's never potential.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Parents in the U.K. face being punished if their children are *continuous* / *continually* late for school. Britain's Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will crack *up* / *down* on what he terms "problem parents". He said too many families fail to "face *up* / *down* to their responsibilities" by *ensuring* / *insuring* their children get to school *in* / *on* time, and are "ready to learn and show respect *from* / *for* their teacher". Parents are already *slapped* / *slipped* with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is *reportedly* / *repeatedly* late for school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were unpaid last year, *prompting* / *promoting* Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines for parents who *deposit* / *withdraw* their children during term time to take them on cheaper family vacations.

Mr Gove said his plans were all part *for* / *of* raising standards in education, creating a bigger *incentive* / *inventive* for parents to ensure their children get to school, and *tickling* / *tackling* the problem of "habitual truancy". Gove also *hit* / *slapped* back at his critics, accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils *down* / *up* to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said opposition politicians *shied* / *shooed* away "from anything which might require *grit* / *great*". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without *during* / *daring* to think they might be intellectually curious and capable of *greatly* / *greatness*, denying them access to anything stretching or ambitious, and setting expectations so *small* / *low* you can never be surprised by someone's potential"

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

P_r_nts _n th_ _K. f_c_ b__ng p_n_sh_d _f th__r ch_ldr_n _r_ c_nt_n__lly l_t_ f_r sch__l. Br_t__n's _d_c_t__n S_cr_t_ry M_ch__l G_v_ h_s _nn__nc_d h_w_ll cr_ck_d_wn _n wh_t h_ t_rms "pr_bl_m p_r_nts". H_s__d t__ m_ny f_m_l__s f__l_t_ "f_c_ _p_t_ th__r r_sp_ns_b_l_t__s" by _ns_r_ng th__r ch_ldr_n g_t_t_ sch__l _n t_m_, _nd _r_ "r__dy t_ l__rn _nd sh_w r_sp_ct_f_r th__r t__ch_r". P_r_nts _r_ _lr__dy sl_pp_d w_th _ £60 (\$100) f_n_ _f th__r ch_ld_s r_p__t_dly l_t_ f_r sch__l. H_w_v_r, 20,000 _f th_s_ p_n_l_t__s w_r_ _np__d l_st_y__r, pr_mpt_ng Mr G_v_ t__ _nn__nc__ t__gh_r p_n_lty syst_m. Th_r_w_ll l_s_b_f_n_s f_r p_r_nts wh_w thdr_w th__r ch_ldr_n d_r_ng t_rm t_m_ t_t_k_ th_m _n ch__p_r_f_m_ly v_c_t__ns.

Mr G_v_ s__d h_s pl_n_s w_r_ _ll p_rt _f r__s_ng st_nd_rds _n _d_c_t__n, cr__t_ng _b_gg_r_nc_nt_v_f_r p_r_nts t__ns_r_ th__r ch_ldr_n g_t_t_ sch__l, _nd t_ckl_ng th_ pr_bl_m _f "h_b_t__l tr__ncy". G_v_ _l_s_h_t_b_ck_t_h_s cr_t_cs, _cc_s_ng th_m _f _dh_r_ng t_p_l_c__s th_t s_t_p_p_l_s _p_t_f__l _nd _f pr_m_t_ng "_d__t_f_d_mb_d-d_wn c__rs_s". H_s__d pp_s_t__n p_l_t_c__ns sh__d_w_y "fr_m _nyth_ng wh_ch m_gh_t r_q__r_g_r_t". G_v_ w_rn_d th__r p_l_c__s w__ld s_nd ch_ldr_n t_ sch__l "w_th__t d_r_ng t_ th_nk th_y m_gh_t b__ _nt_ll_ct__lly c_r__s _nd c_p_bl_ _f gr__tn_ss, d_ny_ng th_m _cc_ss t__ _nyth_ng str_tch_ng _r_mb_t__s, _nd s_tt_ng _xp_ct_t__ns s_l_w_y__ c_n_n_v_r_b_ s_rpr_s_d by s_m__n's p_t_nt__l"

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

parents in the uk face being punished if their children are continually late for school britain's education secretary michael gove has announced he will crack down on what he terms "problem parents" he said too many families fail to "face up to their responsibilities" by ensuring their children get to school on time and are "ready to learn and show respect for their teacher" parents are already slapped with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is repeatedly late for school however 20000 of these penalties were unpaid last year prompting mr gove to announce a tougher penalty system there will also be fines for parents who withdraw their children during term time to take them on cheaper family vacations

mr gove said his plans were all part of raising standards in education creating a bigger incentive for parents to ensure their children get to school and tackling the problem of "habitual truancy" gove also hit back at his critics accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils up to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses" he said opposition politicians shied away "from anything which might require grit" gove warned their policies would send children to school "without daring to think they might be intellectually curious and capable of greatness denying them access to anything stretching or ambitious and setting expectations so low you can never be surprised by someone's potential"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140610-education-standards.html>

Parents in the U.K. face being punished if their children are continually late for school. Britain's Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced he will crack down on what he terms "problem parents". He said too many families fail to "face up to their responsibilities" by ensuring their children get to school on time, and are "ready to learn and show respect for their teacher". Parents are already slapped with a £60 (\$100) fine if their child is repeatedly late for school. However, 20,000 of these penalties were unpaid last year, prompting Mr Gove to announce a tougher penalty system. There will also be fines for parents who withdraw their child during term time to take the month-long family vacations. Mr Gove said his plans were all part of raising standards in education, creating a bigger incentive for parents to ensure their children get to school, and tackling the problem of "habitual truancy". Gove also hit back at his critics, accusing them of adhering to policies that set pupils up to fail and of promoting "a diet of dumbed-down courses". He said opposition politicians shied away "from anything which might require grit". Gove warned their policies would send children to school "without daring to think they might be intellectually curious and capable of greatness, denying them access to anything stretching or ambitious, and setting expectations so low you can never be surprised by someone's potential"

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about standards in education. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. EDUCATION: Make a poster about education. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PUNISHMENTS FOR PARENTS: Write a magazine article about punishing parents for their children's bad behaviour. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an education expert. Ask him/her three questions about raising standards in education. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to do this. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d F e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. punished | a. penalized |
| 2. crack down on | b. get tough on |
| 3. responsibilities | c. duties |
| 4. prompting | d. making |
| 5. tougher | e. stricter |
| 6. raising | f. lifting |
| 7. incentive | g. motivation |
| 8. habitual | h. constant |
| 9. grit | i. strength of character |
| 10. potential | j. promise |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Education Secretary
2. Face up to their responsibilities
3. Respect
4. 20,000
5. Take their children in holiday
6. Education standards
7. Truancy
8. Opposition politicians
9. Anything that required grit from students
10. Expectations

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. d 7. c 8. b 9. c 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)