Teamwork: In education

Teamwork is critical if you are to be successful in education. In some subjects your final result will depend on your ability to work with other people, for example in Drama, part of your final performance will be a group performance and in PE your final practical exam may involve you playing with other people. At university, you may be assessed on group presentations at seminars or tutorials.

However, learning to be part of a team is about far more than being successful in exams. Students who co-operate do better at school because they can benefit from the ideas of other people e.g. they listen to other people’s feedback and use this to improve their projects in Technology or their writing in English.

Moreover, students who study in groups often make more progress than those who study alone – students can help each other by explaining topics that they don’t understand and motivating each other to work harder.

Teamwork: In the world of work

Teamwork is vital for almost all jobs. Companies almost always expect their workers to work with other people in order to finish projects and tasks. It is therefore one of the most common skills requested by employers. Workers who refuse to participate in teams will lose their jobs.

Moreover, employers want their employees to be happy and hardworking (as happy teams usually work harder). Employees who can motivate other people to work hard are highly valued. They are often promoted as their teams are more successful.

Moreover, once you are promoted, you will probably need to manage other people. People who cannot work as part of a team find it very difficult to manage other people as they do not pay attention to the skills and needs of other people.

Teamwork: Personally

Many hobbies rely on your ability to work as part of a team – team games (e.g. football, rugby, volleyball) obviously rely on teamwork. People do not want to play with people who do not play as part of a team e.g. refuse to pass, are rude about other people’s performance or are unreliable.

All relationships rely on teamwork. Friends quickly disappear if one person claims all the credit or takes advantage. It is hard to have a happy relationship at home if work is not shared out equally – both partners need to do an equal share of housework, shopping, childcare etc. It is also important that you can discuss any issues responsibly and take criticism without getting angry.

Moreover, all the experts suggest that parents need to able to work as part of team. Children will try to break this team to get what they want (e.g. asking the same question to both parents to see if they receive a different response). It can be difficult to look after children and you need to help each other out (sometimes one person will be tired and need a break). It is important that you agree to work together and help each other out.