

Blog post: making suggestions

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What have you enjoyed about being at school? What have you found difficult?
- 2 What would have helped you with the things you found challenging?

2 Read the exam task in exercise 3 and the blog posts. Discuss the questions (1–2).

- 1 What style are Beth's and Dani's posts written in?
- 2 Has Dani included all three points in the task in his comment?

3 **EXAM TASK** You have read the following blog post. Write a comment of at least 100 words in which you:

- ▶ express your sympathy for Beth,
- ▶ say how you think her school could have helped her when she returned to school,
- ▶ give her some advice and suggest how her friends could help her now.

Beth's BLOG

I've recently been off school for four months due to an illness and I'm finding it hard to adjust to school now I'm back. I'm way behind with my work and I feel there's such a lot I don't know.

And it's not just the work, it's my relationships, too. My friends have done lots of things without me and I feel left out when they talk about them. I feel I've missed out on a lot, which makes me sad.

I'm also finding it hard to cope with a whole school day, both physically and mentally. I generally feel worn out by lunchtime and find the afternoons really tough. But my friends are fantastic in the way they help me and cheer me up, so hopefully I'll soon be back to normal.

*Beth, I'm really sorry you've been so ill. I think you're doing really well after a very tough time.*

*It sounds like the school didn't help you at all! They could have allowed you to come back to school gradually - starting with just a couple of hours per day at first. They could also have sent you notes from lessons that you'd missed.*

*I don't think you should try to do too much for now. If you wear yourself out, it will take you longer to get better. Maybe your friends could help carry things for you or help you with some activities? And could they go through the lessons you missed with you?*

*Get better soon and have a great term!*

Dani



4 Complete the sentences (1–5) with the correct forms of the phrasal verbs from the box.

cheer up leave out miss out pick on rely on

- 1 I hate \_\_\_\_\_ on any fun so I always go to parties!
- 2 I've always been able to \_\_\_\_\_ my older brother to explain maths problems to me.
- 3 She's feeling quite down, so let's do something to \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 They \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ of the discussion so I don't know what they decided.
- 5 One of my brother's friends has started to \_\_\_\_\_ him by criticizing everything he does.

EXAM STRATEGY

Imagine the person you are replying to and write to them in a direct, friendly way. Say what you want to say clearly.

5 **EXAM TASK** You have read the following post on Paul's blog. Write a comment of at least 100 words to Paul in which you:

- ▶ suggest ways Paul's school could have prevented his bullying,
- ▶ say why you think some people bully others,
- ▶ give him some advice on what he can do now.

Can bullying at school be stopped?

I had a very difficult time last year at school because a group of people in my class started bullying me. They called me names, made jokes about what I looked like and made me give them money.

Luckily, I had a good friend and I used to spend as much time with him as possible, but I was always looking out for the bullies and hoping they wouldn't find me. This went on for several months.

In the end, I told my tutor about it. She spoke separately to the bullies and to me, and it stopped after that. But now I'm wondering what schools could do to prevent bullying in the first place. I wish I hadn't had to suffer for so long.

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6 Check your work.

- Have you written about all three points in the task?
- Have you organized your comments into clear paragraphs?
- Have you used some phrasal verbs?
- Have you written at least 100 words?



## Conversation

### 1 Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions about traditional celebrations in schools.

- 1 Describe your experience of a school tradition. When was it? What happened? How did you feel about it?
- 2 If you could start a new school tradition, what would it be?
- 3 At your school, was the first day of this school year different from a normal day? If so, how? If not, would you have liked it to be different?
- 4 Do you think that formal dances are a valuable part of school-leaving traditions? Why?/Why not?
- 5 'Schools must keep their traditions going. They are an important part of our culture.' Do you agree? Why?/Why not?

## Debate

### 2 Work in pairs. Read the statement and the points in the list and have a debate.

Decide if you are going to argue for or against the statement. If you argue for the statement, you are Student A. If you argue against it, you are Student B. Both Student A and Student B should make notes for each point in the list about what you are going to say and what your opponent might say. Make notes about what you will say in reply to your opponent.

**Student A:** Begin the debate with one point.

**Student B:** Respond with an argument against Student A's point.

**Student A:** Respond by saying something that supports your view. Continue until you have discussed the three points in the list.

**Exams do not prepare people for the real world.**

- memorizing information
- hard work as a key ingredient for success
- working alone under pressure

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## Picture description

### 3 Work in pairs. Look at the pictures (A–C) which show different ways of revising for an exam. Take turns to compare the pictures and say what you think about them.

