

Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

Aims

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental cooperation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Minimum Homework Expectations: When, how much and by whom?

Core KS3 + KS4: Once a week (alternate week's can be reading homework) guideline 1 hour per week per subject (or as project based tasks, see Non-Core KS3 x 2 per term)

Non Core KS4: Once a week (alternate week's can be reading homework) guideline 1 hour per week per subject (or as project based tasks, see Non-Core KS3 x 2 per term)

Non Core KS3: Once a half-term guideline 2-6 hours per subject per half term

Faculty Directors will Quality Assure the homework being set and that the minimum expectations for regularity of homework are being adhered to.

Project Based Tasks

Homework can be set as project based tasks which span a half-term period. Project based tasks should be set at the start of half term, revisited within the half-term period to check progress/clarify understanding and misconceptions and could form the basis of productive cover.

Core subjects might apply project based approaches for either 2 projects per half-term or one more substantial project.

Project based tasks should enable intense DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) activities in class.

Homework Schedule

Students should be given at least one week to complete homework. There is a schedule of nights on which students are expected to complete homework for each subject to assist with their forward planning. Subject teachers must ensure when they set homework that the time period for completion straddles this day of the

week (they do not need to set it on the day within the schedule but must allow students to complete it on the scheduled day).

[KS3 Schedule](#)

[KS4 Schedule](#)

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.

Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. House Points for achievement and sustained effort should be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may be sent home.

Sanctions

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet the student's needs. If this is so, then sanctions should be used.

Detentions should be set for non-completion of homework, it is advisable that students are given a second chance to complete homework before setting detentions. When a teacher sets a detention for non-completion of homework this must be recorded on the Behaviour Hub and in student planners. When detentions are set for homework, students must have the homework re-identified to them in planners so that they know what to do in the detention. Tutors should, through weekly monitoring of diaries, identify students with homework problems across several curriculum areas and refers to Head of House. Head of House discusses and negotiates with student, applies sanction or supports where appropriate.

Responsibilities

The role of the student:

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.
5. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor:

1. To include homework in student mentoring where appropriate.
2. To see that homework is being set and recorded.
3. To check that the diary is being signed by the parent/guardian.
4. To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher:

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set **meaningful** homework according to the timetable.
2. Provide the stimulus.
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions and ensure that students have recorded this in their planners, with a due date also recorded.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met. Students should be given a sufficient time period to complete each piece of homework, at least one week from homework being set to its due date.

5. There is no obligation that teachers mark and provide feedback on every piece of homework, however each piece of homework should be checked by the teacher. Homework can be either teacher/peer/self marked.
6. Provide help and support.
7. Inform the Faculty Director and Curriculum Leader, Tutor and Head of House, as appropriate, when problems arise.

We encourage the use of Google Classroom to set homework and this is advisable as it means that full instructions for each piece of homework can be viewed by both students and parents/carers.

A "Flipped Learning" approach to homework is also encouraged, whereby students are introduced to the learning material before class, with classroom time then being used to deepen understanding through discussion with peers and problem-solving activities facilitated by teachers.

Extra Credit Optional Homework

Students should be encouraged to complete the following examples of Extra Credit Optional Homework:

- Literacy - 1 hour Reading (fiction for preference) per week
- Numeracy Homework - 1 hour Mymaths per week (student selected topic)
- Health & Fitness - 1 hour of sporting activity per week
- Social & Community -1 hour of charitable work, volunteering or similar selfless activity
- Cultural - Visit to a museum, theatre or arts production (not cinema), visit a historical landmark, zoo, national monument or nature reserve or similar.

House points should be awarded by form tutors for completion of Extra Credit Optional Homework, in addition to those awarded for subject based homework set by subject teachers.