

HOMEWORK POLICY

2018

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Evidence suggests that students in the highest achieving schools spend more time on homework than pupils in other schools.

The purpose of homework:

- To develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study on their own.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school.
- To extend school learning, for example, through additional reading.
- To involve parents in the management of pupils' learning and keep them informed about the work that they are doing.
- To manage particular demands, such as the GCSE syllabus.

The type and frequency of homework task:

Following research and discussion within our 'Teaching and Learning' working group it has been decided that for pupils in Key Stage 3, Modern Foreign Languages, English, Humanities, ICT and Physical Education will set 'project based' homework. These projects will have a clear, timetabled starting point and a deadline for completion spanning several weeks. Class tasks issued within this period will be associated with the project and may require independent research, completing worksheets or creating something, for example. Teachers from these departments will check on the progress of projects part way through and encourage students to meet the deadline set. After school detentions will be issued if a project deadline is missed. All resources for projects will be posted in 'Google Classroom' and pupils will be given a code in order to access these materials. Parents will not automatically be sent the code but should ask their child for it in order to support them in completing the project. Doing projects over holidays will not be encouraged by staff as we view it as a time to relax a little and spend time doing other activities. Alongside projects, these departments will set additional revision, vocabulary work, reading and any other meaningful tasks. Projects will be the 'minimum' work set.

Mathematics, Science and Design Technology will set homework every week in accordance with their own published timetable. Tasks will be published on Google Calendar which can be viewed by parents from our school website. Simply locate your child's teacher and class and the work set can be viewed.

There should never be a time when a student says they have no homework. Homework Diaries are supplied in September at cost price, currently £1.50

The Role of the School and the Teachers:

Teachers will set homework relevant to the learning within the classroom. They will write it on the board so that it can be copied down and post it on Google Calendar linked to our school website. Some students may have it written down for them or photograph the task with a device such as an iPad. They will allow enough time, at some point in the lesson to enable students to write it into their diary. They will tell the students when it is due in so that they can write that in the appropriate column. If a student fails to do homework on time, they may be given an extension or they may be given a Teacher or Departmental Detention.

Tutors will sign the Homework Diaries on a regular basis. Within school there will be quiet areas, like the Library, where homework can be done and a homework club runs every lunchtime in D9. There are two members of staff present at this club to support students in the completion of homework. We consider homework to be any task completed outside of the normal daily timetable.

The School will investigate any concerns expressed by parents over homework and report back to them. Letting parents know about lapses in homework is usually extremely effective in sorting out the problem. If no homework is set, there is additional information in the homework planner that the pupil can study.

Feedback for Pupils:

If homework is to benefit students' learning, they must be given prompt and appropriate feedback on what they have done. Parents have a role in encouraging and praising children for the effort that they have devoted to their homework, but they look mainly to their teachers for a response on the quality of their work.

Homework should be marked according to the whole school Marking Policy and include 'what went well' and 'even better if.' It needs to be acknowledged and appreciated.

The marking should happen fairly soon after the homework is done. At the following lesson, staff should at least check visually that the work is done and try to ensure that work is marked on a fortnightly basis.

Heads of Department are expected as part of their monitoring role to periodically check the quality and quantity of homework being set within their departments. Periodically members of the Senior Team will help tutors by checking that the Diaries are being used.

At certain times of the year, when teachers have a particularly heavy load of marking, (eg. the Spring Term exams for Y11), homework may be reduced or even cease for a week or two in the Lower School. By the same token, when examinations are imminent and revision is the order of the day, we ease back on homework in the Upper School. If a major course-work project is underway, that subject teacher will not set any *additional* work.

The Role of Parents:

Parents should try to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework. Parents should make it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress at school. Parents should encourage and praise their son/daughter when they have completed their homework.

We would like Parents to sign the Homework Diary on a regular basis. Please feel free to add a comment, and ask your child to share it with the subject teacher concerned at the earliest opportunity. Parents will try to check that deadlines are met and ensure that homework is taken into school on the right day.

School Policy on Work Provided for Absent Pupils:

The school will always fulfill the statutory requirement to provide work for pupils who are excluded for a fixed term and for pupils who are permanently excluded, up to the date of any appeal.

Where pupils are absent due to illness, work will be sent home, when requested, if the absence is longer than one week. Work will not be set for pupils who are absent because of a family holiday. While we understand that some families, due to work commitments, can only holiday during term time, we can neither condone nor support such absences by providing work. Requests for work to be sent home should be made to the relevant Key Stage Director. Parents should arrange to collect work set from, and return completed work to, the School Office.

Where an absence is long term, work will be sent home on a regular basis, as long as completed work is regularly returned to subject teachers for marking. Pupils who are absent, for any period of time, are expected to catch up with all work missed – this is imperative for pupils following GCSE courses.