



Homework Policy & Independent Study Policy

Lead Person: Director of Studies
Governing Body Committee: Full Governors

Homework is an essential element in the educational policy of the school. As well as being of inestimable benefit to pupils, it also comprises a key factor in parents' expectations of grammar school education. Homework allows pupils to make further progress in their subjects and to deepen their levels of knowledge, understanding and interest.

Homework is a key ingredient in the academic progress and attainment of our students. Not only does it help them develop as independent learners but it enables them to cover more of the material – either in depth or breadth - than they can do in class. Although not always an easy task, we do ask our parents/carers to help support our students with this aspect of their school life. Not only by taking an interest in the tasks set and in signing the homework planner but also by providing an environment in which the students can work effectively.

We would recommend parents/carers to give some thought as to how they can best manage this within the home situation. Ideally, homework needs to be done free from distractions – away from siblings and with the TV and X-Box turned off. If the laptop is being used then it has to be for work and not for social media purposes. It is also helpful if the homework can be done at a desk, table or flat surface. Although homework routines will differ according to daily and weekly circumstances, it is helpful if a fixed time slot can be established as the “routine time” for homework to be done. Some students will want to do it as soon as they arrive home, others will appreciate a break first and then get down to it later. Either way, it is important that enough time is put aside for the completion of all work to be done in an evening – the policy will give you guidance here. Finally, in addition to the homework timetable in their planners, it can also be of use to have a copy of the homework timetable up on the kitchen notice-board or some other prominent place.

If, for whatever reason, it is not possible to provide these conditions at home then there is the opportunity for students to work in homework club in the library after school – however, this facility is only available for an hour at present

Each pupil in years 7 to 9 are provided with a homework timetable. Homework should, therefore, be set as stated, it should be designed to occupy the pupil outside of lessons for the time allocated, and it should be collected promptly, assessed, marked, recorded and returned to pupils within a reasonable time frame.

Members of the teaching staff will wish to plan for the regular setting of homework, in the same way that they plan lesson material. Homework may take a variety of forms:

- Traditional written tasks, e.g. descriptive / creative piece, essay, answering of set questions, ongoing research, draft or a final piece of coursework, poem.
- Reading in preparation for the next lesson.
- Preparation for individual / group presentations
- Linked to an IT software task
- Practice of a skill, e.g. physical (practical subjects), oral (languages).
- Revision for a subject test.
- Vocabulary test.

In the case of extended coursework or project work, there must obviously be a degree of flexibility which is not altogether appropriate to rules governing conventional homework. However, the expectation should be that a pupil will devote to such work that amount of time regularly available within the homework timetable and they will be helped by staff setting short term coursework deadlines. Pupils will be encouraged to afford equal importance in terms of time to the range of subjects that they are studying.

Teaching staff will ensure that sufficient time is allowed in the lesson for the copying down of homework details. These need to be recorded in the students' planner on the day that the homework is given and a reminder on the due date to encourage students to 'plan ahead'.

Recording of the homework by pupils will be checked by tutors once a week. Parents are also asked to check that the homework has been completed, and to sign the homework diary every week.

The school expects pupils to undertake the following amount of homework and independent study each fortnight.

Time allocated per subject per fortnight. (This may be set as one homework per fortnight, or split into several shorter homeworks).

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10 / 11	Year 12	Year 13
English	1 hour	1 hour 30	1hr	2 hour per subject	6 hours per subject	10 hours per subject
Maths	1 hour	1 hour 30	1hr			
Science	1 hour	1 hour 30	1 hr			
Biology			1 hr			
Chemistry			1 hr			
Physics			1 hr			
History	45 minutes	45minutes	1 hr			
Geography						
French						
German						
IT						
DT						
RS						
Music						
Drama Art						
Approximate TOTAL	10 hours	12 hours	15 hours	18/20 hours	24 hours	30 hours

Citizenship and AWE and PE will set at least 1 formal homework per term.

Year 7 in term 1 will only have Maths, English and Science homework to allow them to settle into their new school.

Homework timetable

Year 7, 8 and 9 students will have a homework timetable which will be published at the beginning of year, which staff are requested to adhere to. The school wishes to establish a routine for these younger students and especially those students new to the school. Tutors will talk through this timetable with their groups at the beginning of the year. If any concerns arise over homework pupils need to mention this to their tutors who will then speak to the relevant HOD.

From Year 10 onwards the school wishes to adopt a more flexible approach to the setting of homework which relates to the different learning styles associated with different subject areas and individual circumstances of each class. Some subjects may therefore set 1 piece of homework for the allocated amount of time, others may set 2 / 3 shorter pieces of homework which will add up to the allocated period of time. Similarly, rather than set a class a homework because of a pre-determined timetable that is unrelated to what has been taught, the teacher can choose the appropriate time during the week to set the homework related to the learning process.

Homework Guidelines

- Students should write homework in their planners on the set date **and a reminder on** the due date. This should encourage forward planning by students.
- There should be a minimum of 48 hours to complete the homework.
- **Any homework undertaken in exercise books needs to be clearly identified by students, e.g. titled 'Homework', underlined and dated.**

Failure by students to complete homework

- Teacher gives 24 hours extended deadline (optional).
- Teacher places student in Homework Detention. This is to be done via the progresso on-line system and written into the student planner.
- Detention is for 30 minutes Years 7-9. 45 minutes Years 10-11 and 1hr for the sixth form.
- Failure to attend the detention results in HOD on detention duty issuing a School Detention for 48 hours later. This allows time for the PLP letter (sent by the School Office) to reach parents and provide adequate notice.
- If a student is repeatedly being given homework detentions a letter will be sent home to parents. Parents may then be asked to come into school to discuss the issue with the HOD or HOY or Director of Studies so that the pupil can get back on track quickly. **NB**: students will use the detention time to complete homework or other subject related work.

In the event of parental enquiry about homework for a specific subject this should normally be referred, in the first instance, to the teacher. The enquiry may then be referred to the Head of Department if necessary. In the event of an enquiry about homework in a variety of subjects or in general, this should normally be referred to the HOY in the first instance. The enquiry may then be referred to the Director of Studies.

Approved by Governors :

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