

21. HOMEWORK

Homework is a central element of the school's Teaching and Learning Policy.

'Show My Homework'

The school subscribes to the virtual planner: 'Show My Homework' (SMH). This means that staff will assign homework and students will be able to access the details via the internet and on an app on their devices. The app also sends push notifications to students. Parents will also be able to see what it set. In some cases, homeworks will also be submitted via this platform.

It is essential that you check the SMH on a regular basis and ensure that you meet homework deadlines. There is a link to the site on the school website – there is a public version which students can use but it is better that they use their own login so seeing work for their own class is easier.

Parents are requested that if their child has been absent from school, to ensure that he/she catches up on the work missed as soon as possible on return, prior to the next lesson if possible. SHM is the first port of call for this. Teachers should explain the work if the student requires additional support. We are making use of SHM to post homework, and a variety of platforms such as our VLE as a matter of course and in exceptional circumstances such as 'snow days'.

The Homework Planner

To emphasise the importance which we attach to homework for learning outside of school, a student planner is provided for each student in all year groups at the beginning of September (or when a student joins the school later in the academic year). The planner should be to record the work set for each evening and its due date.

The planner is another source of information for parents about homework schedules. It is also a means of communication for teachers who may use the planner to make comments for your perusal. Achievement points for good work, for instance, can be recorded in the planner. For students, the planner is used as a reminder of work set and an aid to the planning of homework.

We ask parents to keep an eye on their child's homework generally to ensure that it receives proper attention. The planner is helpful in developing organisational and time management skills.

Some students may find it difficult organising their homework in the first few weeks. It takes planning to do the work properly and on time, and to remember to give it to the right teacher on the right day. The amount set will vary in length according to the student's age. Generally, the older the student, the more time is allocated for home learning tasks.

Taken from our Teaching and Learning Policy on Homework

Homework is set (a) to enrich students' classroom learning and (b) to give teachers as an additional means to assess their learning. It is used to consolidate the day's work at school, or begin preparation for the next topic. It forms part of formative assessment and should generate valuable opportunities for students to

work independently at their own pace outside the classroom environment. Teachers value and instil the importance of homework and plan schemes of work that (a) include homework tasks as part of overall learning and (b) incorporate formal assessments that are homework-based. Teachers will sometimes set homework at the beginning of lessons so that students have a focus for their learning that will be done subsequently after the lesson.

Discrete recommendations for time given to do homework exist for each year group in lower, upper school and Sixth Form in order to differentiate learning needs, to build in progression and to promote the development of independent learning strategies as students move up the school. Normally, 48 hours is allotted for students to complete a piece of homework.

We believe that Homework is valuable for five principal reasons

- 1 To encourage students to make their own decisions, to develop their own style of orderly presentation and to assess their own work.
- 2 To follow up, revise, or extend work done in class. We consider that the sound introduction given to a subject in the classroom can be developed into a deeper knowledge and understanding when homework is regularly and carefully done.
- 3 To develop students' study skills. We aim to increase their awareness of neatness, sequence, checking, accurate spelling, the following of instructions, the need to test themselves, the need to meet deadlines and personal time management and organisation.
- 4 To help students recognise the link between good study habits and higher standards of achievement. University life will entail being able to manage time and independence in learning. These are skills we encourage at school from Year 7 onwards.
- 5 To increase substantially the time available for study in each year and so, therefore, promote higher achievement.

Presenting Homework on time

It is very important that homework is presented when required so that the teacher can assess the work; we expect teachers to give advice and encouragement, and to have to apply 'reasonable' pressure. We do not feel, however, that teachers' time is well spent trying to obtain work from students who are persistent in their refusal to complete homework and/or hand it in on time. Parents will be informed if this is the case, and we rely on support at home to make sure that homework gets done. For students who do not complete their homework satisfactorily, we operate a system of notification that requires parental co-operation and, where appropriate, parental comment. Students may be required to attend 'Prep' (see Standards section) if failure is repeated and consistent.

How much time to spend on Homework

Year 7	Core subjects 1 x40 mins each week; non-core 1x 40 mins each fortnight
Year 8	Core subjects 1 x50 mins each week; non-core 1x 50 mins

	each fortnight
Year 9	Core subjects 1 x60 mins each week; non-core 1x 60 mins each fortnight
Years 10 & 11	All GCSE subjects 1 x 60 mins each week
Years 12 & 13	A level 3-4 hours per subject each week IB 2 hours per subject each week