

# **Homework Policy**

## **WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT?**

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:-

1. It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
2. It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other pupils on the one hand and the external discipline of the timetable, bells etc. on the other. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
3. Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds providing pupils return to homes that provide this positive environment.
4. It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
5. It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
6. It can involve parents and others in the pupil's work for their mutual benefit.
7. It can give opportunities for long term research and other work.
8. It can form an important part of the pupil's notes.
9. It gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules.
10. It can be a part of pupil assessment.

## **THE NATURE OF THE HOMEWORK**

We have a system whereby most departments set one homework per week for each class. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes and topics of study. We aim to return marked homework to the pupils as soon as possible, whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupil's mind.

Each homework may involve the following:-

- Reading/writing/spelling.
- Watching a TV programme.
- Carrying out a project. This may involve research, collection of information for an individual or group project.
- Observing/Recording/making a model to exemplify an item or work.
- Completing an exercise to practice, enforce or apply aspects of the class work e.g. writing up practical work.
- Revision.

Each half term, in KS3 students will be set an extended project for that half term to be completed. This will allow for extension and differentiation.

The format for the project is:

Date Set	Due Date or term set	Project Aims	Key terms/ words	Presentation tips	Useful links	Skills assessed	Expectations/ success criteria	Extension
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### **HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK?**

- a) Each pupil is given an homework planner at the beginning of the academic year except year 7. Currently this is under review.
- b) A homework timetable is issued for Yr. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
- c) We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all pupils have plenty of time to write down what is expected.
- d) Homework is recorded on webfolder so all students can access this at home via VLE which is password protected. Parents are issued with login details at the beginning of the year.
- e) Homework assignments for most subject are available on the school website
- f) We aim to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to pupils.
- g) Year 10 & 11 are expected to study for a minimum of one and a half hours every evening

### **HOW CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?**

Parents/guardians can:-

- a) Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the homework planner and sign in the space provided to confirm that they have done so – Currently this can be done for years 8-11.
- b) Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- c) Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home
- d) Take a positive and active interest in your child’s work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- e) Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the class/subject teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help and then the Head of Department.

### **PROBLEMS WITH HOMEWORK**

We expect completed homework to be handed in on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not handed in appropriate action is taken which may include:

- the class/subject teacher having a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to complete the work;
- the class/subject teacher contacting the parent
- a pupil being asked to attend a detention

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