

HOMEWORK POLICY

Guiding principles

Homework for secondary students can have an excellent effect on progress. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) states: "The evidence shows that the impact of homework, on average, is five months' additional progress". Homework tasks are integral to departments' schemes of work and relate directly to the units of study within them. Our guiding principles are focused on:

- Purpose: All homework assignments are meaningful and students must also understand the purpose of the assignment and why it is important in the context of their learning.
- Efficiency: Homework should not take a disproportionate amount of time and needs to involve some hard thinking.
- Ownership: Students who feel connected to the content learn more and are more motivated. Providing students with choice in their assignments can help to create ownership.
- Competence: Students should feel competent in completing homework and should not need help to do so. Parents should contact the relevant HOD if they feel their child is struggling to access homework for any reason.
- Feedback: pupils should receive specific and timely feedback on homework. There should also be recognition or reward for work done.

Homework should include opportunities for:

- Planned and focused activities linked to what is being learned in class e.g. learning factual knowledge and new vocabulary.
- Retrieval practice opportunities e.g. spaced learning homework, revising for and completing a low stakes on line quiz.
- Pupils to choose from a variety of tasks with different levels of challenge so that they can demonstrate their learning and creativity.
- Independent deliberate practice of skills pupils have learned in the lesson.
- Active revision for external and internal examinations.

Use of computers and the internet

When setting homework, teachers will take account of the range of access that students have to computer equipment and printing facilities outside school. For example, some students may not have access to a computer at home or the number of people in the home trying to use a single computer restricts access. Homework can be set through on line learning platforms; Seneca, Educake, Microsoft forms, MyMaths and MathsPad.

The management of homework

A homework timetable is issued at the start of the autumn term for Years 7-11 to students and parents. This aims to balance homework across the two week timetable. Teachers set homework each time their subject appears on the homework timetable. Homework will not be set by subject teachers on days other than those given on the homework timetable and 'finish off' work will not be set outside of the homework timetable. Homework club is held Monday to Thursday in A1 and is open to all pupils.

In Years 7 to 9, students will complete, on average, two homework tasks every day, each of which will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. In Years 10 to 11, homework tasks will take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete. Students are advised that if a task is not completed in the set time and looks like taking significantly more time, then they should stop work and record how long they have spent on the task in their exercise book. At KS5 pupils are expected to complete an hour of work independently for each taught lesson.

All homework tasks must be posted on Class Charts. Each homework task must be shared with students and explained in the lesson prior to the task being set.

Monitoring of homework setting:

Teachers will be able to keep a record their homework tasks on Class Charts. Heads of Department are responsible for monitoring the frequency and quality of homework set for their subject. This is possible by accessing the teachers' and subjects' tasks on Class Charts. This will be monitored over the year by the Assistant Headteacher (teaching and learning).

Procedures for students who fail to complete homework

If a student fails to attempt or to complete homework, the teacher may:

- give additional time for completion;
- give additional time for completion and an additional task;
- require the homework to be completed during a break or lunchtime.

If a student fails to complete homework on a regular basis, the teacher may:

- use an appropriate sanctions such as detention at lunchtime or after school;
- work with the relevant Head of Year to establish if there are matters out of school which are making it difficult for the student to complete homework;
- contact the parents or carers to work with them to support the completion of homework.

Associated policies:

Curriculum Policy

Assessment and Reporting Policy

Discussed by Trustees' Teaching and Learning Committee: November 2022

Approved by Full Trustees' Meeting: November 2022

Review: November 2024