

HOMEWORK POLICY

Updated: January 2015

Review date: January 2017

Aims

The aims of this policy are to set out:

- the school's commitment to the regular setting of homework for all students which will apply to all subjects areas
- the method by which both the setting and completion of homework will be monitored
- the role parents should play in the completing of homework.

Why is homework important?

- It can help students to make more rapid progress in learning.
- Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
- It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
- It can allow students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- It can involve parents and others in the students' work for their mutual benefit.
- It can give opportunities for long term research and other work.
- This gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules.
- It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at Secondary School.

The nature of homework

We have a system whereby at KS3 the core departments (English Maths and Science) set one piece of homework per week for each class. The foundation subjects (Creative Arts and Sport, Global Studies and The Technologies) set one piece of homework per timetable cycle (every two weeks).

At KS4 and 5, homework is set weekly and is commensurate with ability. Heads of Faculties monitor the homework set.

Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment - see the Assessment policy. We aim to return marked homework to the students as soon as possible, for inclusion in that topic of work and whilst the exercise is fresh in the student's mind.

The homework time will vary for each individual, but it is recommended at all Key Stages that 60 minutes per evening be devoted to homework. If you find that your son/daughter is having difficulty completing the work in this amount of time then please contact his/her subject teacher.

How does the school help students organise their homework?

- Each student is given a student planner at the beginning of the year which states when the homework for each subject area will be set and when it is due in
- Efforts are made to ensure that instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all students have plenty of time to copy them down
- We will mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to students
- Tutors will carry out weekly checks to ensure that homework details are entered in the student's planner correctly
- Supervised homework clubs are run after school to provide students with extra help and the right environment in which to complete their homework
- At least two evenings will be normally allowed for the completion of homework.
- The Learning Resource Centre is open Monday to Friday after school until 4:00pm giving access to computers and information
- The Learning Resource Centre is open Monday to Wednesday where Teacher support for homework is provided until 4:00pm.

Monitoring

Homework is monitored at three levels within the school.

1. Each week tutors check and sign student planners to see that homework is being recorded in them and that parents are signing the planners.
2. Each week subject teachers provide the Heads of Faculty with a record of all the homework they have set. This allows the Heads of Faculty to monitor the quality and range of homework.
3. Senior Leadership Team check a sample of student planners to ensure homework is set.

Incomplete or inadequate homework

We expect homework to be completed and given in on time. This gives students valuable experience in working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules.

If homework is not given in and there is no obvious good reason, the appropriate action is taken:

- the student planner will be examined to see if there is a parents' written explanation
- the class teacher will have a discussion with the student to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the work if not the Head of Key Stage and Head of Faculty will be informed
- students may be told to attend a lunch time subject detention to ensure the work is complete.