



## HOMEWORK POLICY

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**To be read in conjunction with:**

Learning and Teaching Policy

Marking and Feedback Policy

## **Introduction**

We believe that homework is an important part of the academic life of a child and is proven to have a positive impact on progress in secondary schools. Establishing a positive study habit at home is vital in helping students towards their academic goals and success in the direction they choose. It is important that parents and carers support their children and the College in this regard.

## **Homework in Key Stage 3**

Key Stage 3 builds a strong foundation for future examination subjects, so the majority of homework tasks in this key stage are knowledge-based. The purpose of these tasks is to encourage students to memorise and build the core knowledge required for each subject. Research shows that students have increased success in complex tasks (e.g. challenging exam questions, problem solving etc.) when they have a detailed knowledge of a subject's content and the skills required to apply this knowledge. By committing important subject knowledge to long term memory, it frees up working memory so that processing of information is easier when solving complex problems.

In this regard:

1. Subject teachers will set homework tasks that are designed to embed knowledge and skills.
2. The majority of homework tasks will require students to learn information from Knowledge Organisers using techniques such as look, cover, write, check, self-quizzing and revision style techniques (mind maps, note taking etc.) . This is to be completed in their homework exercise book. As a guide, a minimum of one side of A4 should be completed for every subject listed in the homework menu for each day.
3. There will still be the need, at times, for different styles of homework to be set. Where this is the case, instructions and/or resources will be provided by the subject teacher and recorded in the class Google Classroom.
4. If the subject teacher has not set a specific task in a given week, knowledge-based revision should always be completed by the student using the Knowledge Organisers provided by the College – there is an expectation that students will check their Homework Menu to identify subjects that should be revised. This means that students always have homework for every subject every week, even if a specific task has not been set by the teacher. This learning homework must be completed in the homework exercise book.
5. Homework will be assessed through low stakes quizzes at the start of lessons and by regular checking of students' homework folders.

## **What should every student do?**

Self-help and self-responsibility are co-operative values that are essential in helping our students to become successful learners and in preparing them for life after College. Building good work habits is a vital part of this. To that end every student should:

- Bring their homework folder to lessons so that work can be monitored
- Listen carefully to homework instructions in class
- Check their Google classrooms every evening so that any additional tasks are completed on time
- Complete knowledge-based revision every day in line with the homework menu (see below)
- Ensure that all homework is completed in their homework book
- Attempt all work to the best of their ability
- Inform the class teacher/tutor of any difficulties (a note from parents/carers in the homework book is advisable).

### **What can parents/carers do to support with homework?**

The role of parents/carers is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through positive feedback will give students confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

#### **Parents/carers can help by:**

- Checking and signing the bottom of each page of completed homework.
- Reading with your child on a regular basis
- Providing a quiet place to work
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to the College
- Negotiating with your child when homework is to be done as free time is important too
- Ensuring that extra-curricular clubs and activities do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure (In exceptional circumstances, parents/carers would be advised to liaise with their child's form tutor)
- Test your child regularly using the Knowledge Organisers. A guide on how to use the Knowledge Organisers is available on the College website.

#### **Example Homework Menu KS3**

##### Year 7+8 – 60 minutes a day

<b>Minimum time</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Weekend</b>
20 minutes	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
20 minutes	Geography	History	Computing	Technology	Maths
20 minutes	Science	Music	MFL	Art	English

##### Year 9 – 80 minutes a day

<b>Minimum time</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Weekend</b>
20 minutes	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
20 minutes	English	Maths	Geography	History	Science
20 minutes	Geography	History	Computing	Technology	Maths
20 minutes	Science	Music	MFL	Art	English

#### **Homework in Key Stage 4**

In Key Stage 4, homework is an essential element of your child's journey towards GCSE and other examinations, and is a stepping-stone for success in Post 16 courses and/or training. Homework tasks are designed to support and embed the learning in a variety of ways. These can be broken down into four broad categories:

- To prepare for learning, e.g. read an article to introduce a topic before the lesson
- To practise or reinforce what has been taught in a lesson, e.g. to do some questions similar to those done in class or to revise for a test
- To use and apply knowledge or information that has been covered in a lesson, e.g. to write an essay where you apply what has been learned to a different or broader question
- To demonstrate learning through coursework or extended projects that supplement the examinable components of courses (particularly in practical subjects).

In Years 10 and 11, teachers of examination subjects will set approximately 45-60 minutes of homework each week. These are guidelines only but we know that students who adopt a conscientious attitude to their studies and complete the tasks set are more successful. Some students may also supplement this

learning with additional consolidation of learning and revision, for example, they might create revision cards or resources as they complete topics, or units of work.

Homework is posted in Google classrooms for each subject and additional supporting materials and study materials may also be found here.

Some students may be involved in extra-curricular sports, creative arts or have other commitments that will impact upon the time dedicated to homework. We believe that enrichment activities like these are very important and hugely beneficial, but we expect students to take responsibility for managing their time and workload, and to communicate with their teachers regularly to discuss any issues they may have with meeting deadlines. However, it is important during this examination phase of their education journey that studies take priority.

For the vast majority of tasks, teachers will allocate more than one evening to complete the work set. Where homework runs over a number of weeks, e.g. a project, teachers will set weekly deadlines for completion of 'chunks' of work. Students of all abilities are expected to complete homework and teachers will make sure that all students are set tasks appropriate to their level of need and which challenge students appropriately.

We feel that it is important that students develop good study habits and the personal organisation skills to complete homework and meet deadlines. There may be the odd occasion when a student has a valid reason for missing a deadline, and in such cases, they must produce a note from their parents with a good reason for not completing the task. If homework is not completed on time and no note produced, a consequence will be applied.

### **Consequences for missed homework**

Homework is set to support the learning and develop an effective work habit. Where homework is not done this will impact on learning and therefore consequences will be applied to support this. Depending on the context, these may include:

- An extra day to complete the task
- A short break time detention to complete the missing work
- A longer detention at lunchtime or after school to complete work, in the event that deadlines are missed more than once
- Attending at lunchtimes until the outstanding work is completed. This will depend upon the teacher, the circumstances, and the manner in which the student has responded to the lack of homework.

If a pattern of missed homework emerges, additional support measures will be put into place, initially at a faculty level. The aim of this is to support students in organising their time, to help them develop good working habits and to catch up in areas where they are falling behind.

If a lack of homework continues to be an issue, the student will be referred to the pastoral support team and/or the Director of Key Stage, who will enlist the support of parents/carers.

### **Homework in Post 16**

In Post 16, it is expected that 3 hours of independent study per subject per week will be set. Teachers primarily set homework tasks on the subject's Google Classroom, although Maths use a bespoke package called Integral Maths. Homework may take many different forms for example:

- Project work or coursework
- Set exercises from sheets or textbooks
- Wider reading for example in History and Philosophy
- Research for later class work
- Learning vocabulary, formulae, spellings

- Study in preparation for class work, assessment, or examination
- Practising examination style questions including the longer essay style questions.
- Listening practice or rehearsal

Tasks may be completed at home or in supervised study sessions in the College day, depending on the resources and level of support needed to complete them to an appropriate standard.

Not all homework tasks are suitable for written feedback, but those that are should be marked and returned in a timely manner. Most subjects require students to act on the feedback from these assessed pieces of work.

Staff should email home, copying in the Head of Post 16 and the relevant Co-director of Post 16 if students do not meet deadlines or the quality of homework raises concerns over progress.