

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled lessons. Its purpose is either consolidation of previous learning or of independent study and is not directly supervised by a teacher. Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and is therefore an important part of the learning process.

Aims

Homework enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom, e.g. develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work and enhance their study skills, e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- Show progress and understanding and to take ownership and responsibility for learning.

Homework can be:

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class, practice of skills - learning by doing
- Completion of work not finished during class during expected timeframe
- Research, reading, writing, drawing etc.

Responsibilities

The Role of the Student

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and do their best.
5. To inform the teacher of any difficulties in advance of the deadline.
6. Attend any homework support sessions set by the school. (See Monitoring section below.)

The Role of the Teacher

1. Publish a homework timetable at the beginning of each school year, with consideration given to balancing out the various subjects through the week.
2. Set subject lesson homework according to the homework timetable wherever possible.
3. Set main lesson homework where appropriate (sometimes daily)
4. Take into account special events or activities which will mean that completing homework is more difficult than usual (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh expeditions or class plays).
5. Ask students to complete tasks that were not finished in the expected timeframe during lessons.
6. Give full and comprehensive instructions.

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7. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
8. Mark and return all homework as soon as possible, giving the student guidelines for improving their work.
9. Provide help and support when asked for.
10. Inform the class guardian, class teacher and homework monitor as appropriate, when problems arise.

The Role of Parents

The role of the student's parents is crucial if students are to get maximum benefit from doing homework. Parents can support the students by emphasising the importance of homework, thus giving students the confidence to persevere, do their best and reach a high standard of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

1. Providing a suitable quiet place to work.
2. Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done. We recognise that a student's free time is equally important!
3. Checking the time spent on and quality of individual tasks.
4. Ensure that homework is the student's own efforts and not done by another person, or copied from the internet or another student.
5. Ensuring that outside activities do not get in the way of completing homework, or affect the quality of work, or put a student under undue pressure.
6. Ensuring that students attend any homework sessions set by the school. (See Monitoring section below.)

Monitoring

Homework not completed by the deadline or of insufficient quality will be recorded by teachers as a homework default. Students will be informed that a default has been recorded. Parent(s) will be informed that a default has been recorded – via Parent Mail and will be informed how many defaults have been incurred.

When a student has built up three defaults, the school will intervene by asking the students' parents to come in for a meeting to discuss the matter and see what can be done to support the student and a detention will be issued at this point. These are not to be considered as optional sessions and we count on parental support to enable this to happen.

For the Academic Year 2016/17 these will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 4pm to 4.45pm in the Pupil Support Room and are supervised by an Upper School member of staff.

Each term, the counter is reset to zero.