

Home Learning Policy

Introduction

A good, well-managed home learning programme helps students to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Home learning also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

The key principles of Home Learning

- Home learning can reinforce and embed classroom learning.
- Home learning can extend and develop classroom learning.
- Home learning can prepare students for subsequent classroom learning.
- Home learning can engage and motivate.

Home Learning is effective when it:

- Allows students to increase their knowledge, understanding and application of skills.
- Is linked to prior knowledge.
- Is differentiated so that it is accessible for all but also contains stretch and challenge for the most able.
- Contains an element of independent research thus empowering students and giving them some responsibility for their own learning.
- Is reflective and enables learners to monitor and review their thinking and learning.
- Allows students, parents and teachers to assess progress.
- Leads to a dialogue with regard to how students can improve.
- Promotes self evaluation
- Is perceived to be of value by students, parents and teachers.

What is expected of:

Students

Home learning activities are:

- Recorded in planners with an accurate description of the activities and deadlines for completion.
- Completed and handed in on time.
- Completed to a level of quality commensurate with the student's potential.
- Allocated an appropriate amount of time and completed with care and thought.

Teachers

Home learning activities are:

- Designed so that they facilitate the key principles outlined above.

- Designed to maximise learning and progress by ensuring that the ‘effectiveness’ criteria outlined above, are considered, when home learning activities are devised.
- Recorded in schemes or work and/or lesson plans.
- Set in accordance with the School homework timetable.
- Checked for completion and action is taken when work is not handed in or is incomplete. In addition, teachers are expected to communicate with all stakeholders (Subject Leader, Form tutor, Student Support Team and Parents etc) if students are not meeting expectations with regard to the completion and/or quality of homework.
- Marked where appropriate with feedback that enables the students to assess progress against targets and to know what to do in order to improve.
- Evaluated as learning activities and developed/improved for future years.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to:

- Check planners and ensure that students complete the home learning activities by the deadlines.
- Provide a quiet working environment that is conducive to study and encourage a structure in terms of regular home learning times.
- Communicate concerns with regard to home learning by writing in the pupil’s planner or by contacting the subject teacher.
- Provide support and assistance with home learning activities if students are experiencing difficulties.
- Ensure students devote sufficient time to home learning activities. Guidance for each year group can be found by perusing the homework timetables.