

Tring School Science Department Home Learning Policy

Throughout their life at Tring School students are encouraged to take an increasing responsibility for their learning. Home learning is viewed as an integral part of this process so that students are required to complete work in accordance with published timetables and to keep records in their planners.

Home learning is that work which is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum but not necessarily at home; which contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised or controlled by a teacher; and which represents an extension of the learning activities provided and organised in accordance with the objectives of the school curriculum.

Some of the reasons for setting home learning in science are :-

- to encourage students to develop the practice of independent study and develop independent learning skills.
- to develop perseverance and self discipline; as students progress through the school they will be increasingly expected to work on their own.
- to allow practice where it is needed of skills learned in the laboratory.
- to cover work and to make rapid progress in the subject where the teacher's help or expertise is not required.
- to enable classwork to concentrate on those activities requiring the teacher's presence or the specialist facilities of the Science laboratory.
- to open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the laboratory.
- to involve parents (and other adults) in students' work.

Teachers and students should expect to set and receive homework on the occasions indicated on the home learning timetable. However, where groups are shared, home learning may be set on an alternative day.

Some homework tasks such as project work may be set over an extended period of time. However it is important to monitor that steady progress is being made with the task in hand, through interim inspections of work.

While it is recognised that it is neither possible nor desirable for every piece of home learning to be "marked" in the traditional way, procedures are in place to support and monitor the work done. (see marking policy).

Teachers will inspect students' books at a convenient point in the lesson to ensure that home learning tasks have been attempted. On many occasions students can check the validity of their own answers as they are discussed in class.

Students who do not attempt homework should expect to receive appropriate sanctions.

Years 12 and 13 do not have a home learning timetable as such but they do receive regular activities for independent learning. At this level it may be appropriate to allow a period of one week (or more) for the completion of tasks in order to allow students time to plan their work schedules and research tasks. However it is important to maintain the discipline of deadlines for the completion of tasks.