

English Department
QUALITY STANDARD
Homework

RATIONALE:

The English Department recognises that homework can be used to build on and develop the skills worked on in lessons. It is an additional opportunity for students to reveal solid evidence of the learning that has taken place, and whether skills have been learnt sufficiently to be transferred and used in different tasks. The department supports the school's rationale for homework, which is to raise overall attainment through:

- Reinforcing and consolidating learning in the classroom
- Allowing the opportunity to extend work in the classroom
- The revision of topics in preparation for assessment or new work.
- Involving parents in the learning process
- Allowing further opportunities to recognise a range of learning styles
- Developing independent learning and teaching time management skills
- Developing thinking skills including research

EXPECTATIONS:

Year 7 and 8

Each half term, all students in Years 7 and 8 will be given a homework booklet. This contains a number of pieces of work – spellings associated with the unit topic, word and sentence level tasks, reading comprehensions and other tasks linked to the unit focus.

It is at the teacher's discretion how the homework booklets are administered. Students can be asked to complete one task per week or they can be given a longer deadline and asked to submit the completed booklet by that time.

It is important to note that the homework booklets are a basis for home learning. Additional tasks can also be set (and should definitely be set for higher ability sets and able students). A lower ability set may start homework tasks with the teacher and complete alone, or may be given a differentiated task to allow them to access the skills at a more appropriate level.

Year 9

Students in Year 9 should be set weekly homework tasks appropriate to the work undertaken in class, as per the homework timetable. Teachers should ensure that tasks cover a range of skills and assessment foci, and should take approximately 40 minutes to complete. Homework can be completed in exercise books, on lined paper or on a worksheet.

Appropriate tasks could include: further research of a topic covered during lessons; worksheets based on word or sentence level skills; spellings to learn; extended writing tasks linked to the unit topic; or creative writing tasks used to illustrate abilities in key assessment

foci. This is by no means an exhaustive list. The timescales for each piece of homework are dependent on the tasks – for example, two days to learn spellings can be appropriate for a top set/ a week for an extended piece of writing are both acceptable.

Key Stage 4

Homework at Key Stage 4 should be set weekly, although the task set will be dependent on the class, the course they are taking and the stage of the course they are at. Teachers should ensure that the tasks cover a range of skills, particularly ones which develop independent thinking skills that students will need in their final examinations.

Appropriate tasks may vary throughout the key stage. For example, during the first few months of Year 10, homework could be related to the CCA task being studied. A student could be asked to research the background to a poet or complete a draft of an essay. Towards the end of Year 11, homework could be a past paper examination question completed under timed conditions.

NB Teachers are requested to track the homework they set for each class by using the whole school Home Learning Monitoring Sheet. Copies are provided in the class background folders and will be requested by the HOD/SLT periodically throughout the year.

Marking homework

All homework should be marked, using the Literacy Marking Code to highlight technical inaccuracies where relevant to the task focus; otherwise the efforts students have put in can be devalued. At Key Stage 3, each homework booklet can be awarded up to 6 commendations. Year 9 homework tasks can be awarded a commendation. Individual teachers can award these through SIMS or can use their own reward structure (e.g. raffle tickets for a chocolate prize)

Failure to complete homework

The English department expects all students to complete homework tasks. Should a student fail to complete their homework booklet, or a significant number of tasks over a half term, the procedure is as follows:

1. At the end of each half term, the HOD will ask staff to identify all students who have not completed homework that half term. (At KS4, this could also include students who have failed to put sufficient efforts into their work, if the teacher feels that a sanction is required).
2. For a student who has never appeared on the list before, they will be asked to attend a lunchtime detention in the first week of the next half term, with notices being placed on student briefing.
3. For a student who has already completed a lunchtime detention, they will be required to complete a one hour after school detention on a Friday evening. Letters will be posted to parents giving at least 24 hours' notice of this. Where necessary, students will be collected from their p6 lesson in order to ensure their attendance.
4. Students failing to attend detention will be passed on to the pastoral detention system.