

Humanities Home Learning Policy

Rationale

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education." - 1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools.

Homework enhances student's learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for tasks which may require resources (books, software, and equipment) are more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

Homework enables pupils to:

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- access resources not available in the classroom.
- develop research skills.
- have an opportunity for independent work.
- show progress and understanding.
- provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- to enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- to take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- engage parental co-operation and support.
- create channels for home school dialogue.

KS3

Extended learning tasks are favoured at KS3 and are used to build upon, as well as extend student's work. They are seen as a way of challenging and engaging students as well as developing their independent learning skills important for future life.

KS4

Homework at KS4 should be set weekly, although the tasks 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 which develop independent thinking skills that students will require to be successful in their final exams.

Marking homework

At KS3 homework should be marked and levelled against the national curriculum. Teachers will provide diagnostic written comments when marking students work to support improvement. At KS4 homework will be assessed and marked according to the exam board grading specification. In addition the Department encourages students to take an active role in their learning and they will be given the opportunity to reflect and comment on their own individual progress.

Failure to complete

The History Department expects all students to complete homework tasks.

- If a student fails to complete homework the subject teacher can either issue a renewed deadline for submission of the work or keep the student in for a lunchtime detention. If a pupil then submits their work no further action is needed.
- If a student fails to hand in their work their names will be passed to Head of Department who will then require the student to complete the task in a lunchtime detention. If felt necessary an appropriate letter will be sent informing parents.
- Failure to complete two or more tasks will result in informing their Achievement Coordinator who will then decide whether a Friday night detention is the next appropriate action to take.

The department offers separate weekly study support for both key stage 3 and 4 whereby students can access any support materials and be given individual help from the subject specialists.