

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT HOMEWORK POLICY

Staff Responsible: G. WOOD, A COWELL

Reasons for setting homework

Specifically, there are several reasons why we believe that we should set all students homework:

- It encourages and helps to develop independent study skills.
- It can strengthen and consolidate school learning.
- It permits appropriate extension of work done by students in lessons.
- It may be a requirement of particular courses (e.g. aspects of GCSE courseworks).
- It formalises for students the fact that learning can, should and does occur outside school as well as inside school.
- It permits some parental involvement in students' school-related work.

Features of good homework

If homework is to be effective in achieving its desired aims, it will ideally have the following features:

- Be clearly set and explained, written down and properly recorded in student planners.
- Be relevant and of interest to pupils.
- Be appropriately differentiated.
- Be carefully planned and appropriately integrated with classwork.
- Be structured and manageable.
- State how long the homework should take (minimum and maximum time indicated).

The amount of homework set

The amount of homework set is in line with the most recent DfES guidelines:

Years 7 and 8: Each individual weekly homework set by subjects should, on average, be 30 minutes long.

Year 9: Each individual weekly homework set by subjects should, on average, be 40 minutes long.

Year 10 and 11: Each GCSE subject receives an average weekly homework of one hour. This amount is likely to be higher in the lead up to assessments.

Setting Homework

Homework should be clearly written down for students or the students given instructions on how to access ELT's on the school website.

All homework set must be recorded by students in their homework planners.

Developing independent learning.

Extended Learning Tasks (ELT's) The department currently engages the use of 'Extended Learning Task's, as a means of, not only reinforcing knowledge and skills learnt within the Department, but also as a means of developing independent learning. These tasks are to gauge a student's deeper understanding and this is achieved through the school website where students have access to the tasks set in all areas of Technology. At times, where ELT's are not used, weekly homework will be set.

Feedback on Homework

Feedback should, wherever possible, be formative, indicating how improvement could be possible.

Homework should be appropriately marked and returned to students within a reasonable time of completing work. Some feedback should occur within the completion of the task set.

Role of ICT

The department expects ICT to play an ever-greater role in homework. A range of homework tasks might involve some use of ICT. In particular, the school's website will contain a great deal of material to support homework tasks.

Most students have access at home to appropriate ICT to allow its use in homework. For those not in this position, pupils can access ICT on the school site in the following areas:

- IT rooms
- School library
- Public library

Homework Support

The following forms of support are available to students in their homework tasks:

- The school library. Books, computers and study areas are available.
- The public library.
- IT rooms.
- Homework clubs/study support in certain year groups.
- School website.