

Policy Title: Homework Policy



Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College believes that we give a high priority to our students' educational achievement and believe that effective homework is essential in order for all young people to achieve their full potential, supporting the Every Child Matters agenda.

Initiated: May 2008

Groups consulted: Governors
Staff
Parents
Students

Reviewed: January 2012 by Governor's ECM committee

Audience: Parents
Staff
Governors
Students

Policy located: Portal (Parents, Staff, Students)

Policy format: Full

Lead member of staff: Ruth King

1. General introduction

As students' progress through the school, they will increasingly be expected to learn effectively on their own. Independent learning can be an invaluable midway stage between direct learning in the lower part of the school and independent private study in the Sixth Form.

Courses leading to GCSE/KS4 accreditation offer a variety of opportunities to work on projects which rely considerably on work and research undertaken outside normal lesson time. Such projects often play an important part in exam assessment of a student.

No student should ever be heard to say "I have no homework". As part of taking responsibility for their own learning, students will want to expand their knowledge base by researching or reflecting on an issue or problem.

2. Our aim in setting homework & independent learning tasks

- a. To enable students to realise their full potential through greater appreciation and understanding of the subjects which they study.
- b. To provide students with an opportunity to practise skills learned in the classroom and working to deadlines.
- c. To allow more subject matter to be covered and hence more rapid progress to be made.
- d. To open up areas of study to include material and sources of information which are not accessible in the classroom.
- e. To foster independent learning and provide an opportunity for students to show what they can do.
- f. To involve parents and other adults in students' work.

3. Types of homework and independent learning tasks

- a. To consolidate and extend learning initiated in class
- b. To allow students to pursue their own lines of enquiry
- c. To prepare/research work for the following lesson

4. Tasks involved

Students may be involved in the following sample of tasks:

- a. Extension and enrichment.
- b. Consolidation of learning.
- c. Reflection on learning.
- d. Research and investigation.
- e. Imaginative and creative responses
- f. Action research.
- g. Revision.
- h. Practical work.
- i. Preparation for controlled assessment.
- j. Completion of assessments.
- k. Revision, mind maps, spider diagrams etc.
- l. Developing ICT skills

5. How can parents/carers help?

There is much that parents/carers can do to help their child(ren) with homework: encouraging and supporting them:-

- a. checking presentation.
- b. handwriting and spelling.
- c. testing what has been set to be learnt.
- d. listening to them reading.
- e. asking them to explain what they have been studying.

We ask parents to take the opportunities to be briefed regarding homework tasks and procedures and support us in seeing the assignments are undertaken conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. So that all of us are acquainted with what is going on we set all homeworks on the BMS 360 Portal along with completion dates. If parents have any queries please contact the member of staff via the student log or e-mail.

6. Duration of homework/ILTs

The following times are given as basic guidelines to help parents and students:

| Year | Hours per week |
|-------|----------------|
| 7 | 6 |
| 8 | 6½ |
| 9 | 7½ |
| 10 | 8 |
| 11 | 10½ |
| 12/13 | More than 12 |

As a rough guide, the amount of homework set for each subject will reflect the number of lessons per week, e.g. more English set than History. Individuals work at different speeds and so homework may take longer for some children than others. Indeed, we recognise that, for some students with identified learning difficulties, these times may be unrealistic. What is important is that every student's effort should be commensurate with their ability.

Year 7 & 8 students will have Independent Learning Tasks (projects) for most subjects, but Maths, Science and Languages will set weekly homeworks.

All subjects after year 8 will continue to set regular homeworks apart from certain subjects such as PSE & PE.

7. Problems

If there is a repeated problem over homework (for example the time taken to complete tasks) we encourage parents and students to get in touch with the Form Tutor or subject teacher. Similarly we shall contact parents if we feel that there are frequent problems over homework. We do expect all students to hand in homework for marking on the days specified by their teachers.

8. Homework/ILT support

Students who find working at home difficult are encouraged to use:

a. The Student Support Centre

It is open before school, breaktime and after school (except Fridays) to all students. It provides a suitable environment in which students may complete homework and a member of staff is on hand to help with problems.

b. Research & Information Centre

The RIC is also open before school, at break and lunchtime and after school until 4.00 pm each day.

Each Curriculum Area organises regular after-school sessions for those who fall behind with their homework. Such students will be expected to attend as required. Parents are also welcome if they would like to know more about homework requirements and how they might assist their child. Prior notice would be appreciated.

9. Parent/Carer Support

Homeworks are published on-line by subject teachers, on BMS 360 at <https://www.bms360.net>. Any parent with portal access can view their child's homework by accessing the parent site at <https://www.bms360.net> and selecting 'Homework Diary'.

In addition, the parent site also contains guidance for parents in how to support their son/daughter working/revising at home – select 'Supporting at Home'.

CONTACTS IN SCHOOL

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