

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

As students progress through the school, they will increasingly be expected to learn effectively on their own. Homework 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 offer a variety of opportunities to work on projects which rely considerably on work done outside normal lesson time. Such projects often play an important part in 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 reading, watching an informative television programme or video, or reflecting on an issue or problem.

OUR AIMS IN SETTING HOMEWORK

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

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

1. To complete and consolidate work initiated in class
2. To allow students to pursue their own lines of enquiry
3. To prepare/research work for the following lesson

TASKS INVOLVED

Students may be involved in the following tasks:

1. Factual or Imaginative writing
2. Thinking
3. Drawing from direct observation
4. Practical work
5. Reading
6. Illustration
7. Learning
8. Map Work
9. Revising
10. Fact Finding
11. Experimentation
12. Completion of GCSE coursework

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

There is much that parents can do to help their child(ren) with homework: encouraging and supporting them; checking presentation, handwriting and spelling; testing what has been set to be learnt; listening to them reading; 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 give students a Homework Diary in which to record their homework each day, and we ask parents to check and sign it each week before it is countersigned by the student's tutor.

DURATION OF HOMEWORK

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.

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.

HOMEWORK SUPPORT

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

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.

Research & Information Centre - 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.

Portal – Homeworks are published on-line by subject teachers, on the BMS portal at <https://www.bmsportal.net>.

Parent Support – Any parent with portal access can view their child's homework by accessing the parent portal at <https://www.bmsportal.net> and selecting 'My Child's Assignments'.

In addition, the parent portal also contains guidance for parents in how to support their son/daughter working/revising at home – select 'Help with Homework'.

CONTACTS IN SCHOOL

Ms R King

Deputy Headteacher

Mr Nick Wergan

Assistant Headteacher