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# **HOMEWORK**



**Academic excellence Shared values Outstanding education**



## HOMEWORK

Homework is an essential and integral part of all courses. Not only is work at home necessary for the development of skills and to reinforce knowledge introduced in class, but students also develop the ability to work independently and show initiative.

Recent research studies, here and abroad, have shown that the regular setting and marking of homework are associated with good education and effective schools. There is little doubt that success is strongly linked with conscientious work done at home, especially where students are targeting achievement at the top grades.

The work required can take many forms - preparation for class work, projects, coursework, the collection of data, personal research, written assignments .... sometimes a relatively short piece of work is set to be done on a particular evening; often a larger piece of work is to be finished over, say, a two-week period or even longer.



GCSE and other examinations at Key Stage 4 demand a high degree of self-discipline and work organisation, both in school and at home. These habits of individual study are then developed further in the Sixth Form.



The school provides each student with a homework diary. This is used not only to record work to be done, but also helps to plan and organise this work, and the time needed for its proper completion. Inside is space where parents and staff may communicate with each other.

Increasingly, subjects may also be using electronic media to set and communicate homework to parents and students – the school e-mail system, the virtual learning gateway, files and applications are now available by remote access from home.

Where a student fails to complete a homework by the specified date they will normally be issued with a further sanction, for example a departmental detention.

The amount of homework set will vary according to age and ability. Teachers will always allow a reasonable amount of time for homework to be completed. Students may have extra-curricular commitments on certain nights and homework will not normally be set for completion the following day.

The amount of homework will gradually increase as students pass through the school. The amount of time spent on homework will vary between individual students.

As a general guide, level 1 (foundation) courses will attract less homework than level 2 (higher) courses.

Homework at Key Stage 4 may take the form of extended projects which may cover several weeks. Students will be expected to take an increasing level of responsibility for planning the completion of such work.

For students on level 3 (advanced) courses in Years 12 and 13 it would be expected that each teacher in each subject would set at least one piece of homework per week.

The School Library is open for the completion of homework in the lunch-hour from 1.20 – 1.55 pm and after school until 4.15 pm (until 3.45 pm on Fridays).



We are always grateful where parents do check that homework is being completed. If possible please provide suitable conditions where there is little disturbance. If you have any concerns about homework please contact your son or daughter's Head of Year.

