

# HOMEWORK POLICY

## RATIONALE:

Well-conceived and clearly focussed homework can be very beneficial in aiding students' learning. Where homework is an integral part of each student's curriculum, it adds a wide dimension to their studies and offers them opportunities to develop a broader range of skills.

Homework is set for a variety of reasons, the principal ones being:

- to encourage students in independent study
- to aid students in developing research skills
- to develop self discipline
- to focus on organisational skills
- to consolidate skills learned in the classroom
- to allow students to extend their interest in classwork
- to involve parents and other adults in students' work

## SETTING AND COMPLETING HOMEWORK

- Homework should be a central feature of all Programmes of Study and, where possible, be clearly written into the scheme of work and lesson plan.
- Each homework needs to be well planned, well devised and clearly explained.
- Homework should have a purpose which the students understand and which they are capable of explaining to others
- **Homework must be clearly differentiated.** The different abilities and work rates of students will require **different tasks to be set.**
- Homework should be varied in style. Constant repetition of a single type of homework is demotivating for students.
- Homework which has a clear outcome and which receives written feedback is most valued by students.
- Teachers need to be sure that students will benefit from attempting the homework. Some students with Special Educational Needs may have their difficulties exacerbated by having to complete homework.
- Teachers should note that, if homework is set on Friday for Monday, it largely depends on the student having a study area at home free from distractions and parents who can help out if required. Where possible, students should be given the opportunity to use the facilities for private study within school to provide equality of opportunity.
- Teachers should apply appropriate sanctions where homework is not completed. Consistent non-completion of homework should be referred to the Head of Subject and, where appropriate, the Tutor and Head of Year.
- Students are responsible for recording all homework and ensuring that it is completed by the deadline to the best of their ability.
- Parents have a responsibility to ensure that homework is completed by checking and signing the School Diary, and ensuring where possible that students have an appropriate environment in which to work.

## **RECORDING HOMEWORK**

- All students are issued with a School Diary, and teachers and tutors need to help students to develop the skills to use it effectively. We should not assume that all students can record homework in a meaningful way.
- Homework should be set in accordance with the homework timetable which is issued and recorded in the diary at the beginning of the school year. If for any reason it is not possible to set a homework that should also be recorded in the diary.
- Teachers need to ensure that students record the exact homework task and the date for handing it in. Some students might need this written for them.
- Wherever practicable, homework could be set at the beginning of the lesson. If it is set at the end, teachers need to ensure that adequate time is given to the explanation of the task and for students to record it clearly.
- Effectively used, the diary can be an excellent way of communicating with parents. Teachers need to give it a high profile and make sure that constructive comments are written in and Housepoints are recorded. If teachers want parents to be involved in their children's studies, the diary is the starting point for meaningful dialogue.

## **THE HOMEWORK TIMETABLE**

- A homework timetable is issued at the beginning of September. For Years 7 to 11 homework slots are identified for each class, subject and option so that there is a fair distribution of homework across the evenings of each week.
- Students in Years 7 & 8 might expect approximately 45 minutes of homework per night.
- Students in Year 9 might expect approximately one hour's homework per night.
- Students in Years 10 & 11 might expect approximately one and a half-hour's homework per night.
- Students in Years 12 & 13 might expect approximately three hours' work per day outside their taught lesson time.
- The allocation of homework slots to subjects is made in negotiation with the Heads of Subjects and will usually be in proportion to their share of curriculum time.
- Teachers should indicate how long students should spend on a task. This would be particularly helpful for students at either end of the ability range.

Chris Hildrew  
March 2011

Policy agreed: April 2011