

Home Learning Policy

Policy Version Control

Policy prepared by:	Vice Principal
Responsible committee:	Local Governing Body
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Change Control

Date	Changes made	Agreed by	Authorised for use by	Date of review
7/11/16	Policy reviewed by Gemma Theobald.			
7/11/16	2.0 Reference to Teaching and Learning policy removed.			
7/11/16	2.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Tasks' replaced with 'activities' • Additional statement: "A combination of termly project based homework and weekly homework is set for Years 7 and 8. Weekly and fortnightly homework is set for students in Years 9, 10 and 11 (see Appendix 3)." 			
7/11/16	4.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated weekly time on homework amended to a range rather than specified time for each year group. 			
7/11/16	Appendix 1 amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New online system for communicating homework to be introduced November 2016 (Go 4 Schools replacing Show My Homework). 			
7/11/16	Appendix 2 amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Vivos" replaced with "academy rewards system". • "This will follow the pattern of the Behaviour Policy, starting with a warning and escalating up through to break and after school detentions. Where a student is continually disengaged with home learning, communication between the classroom teacher, Curriculum Co-ordinator, Director of Learning and parents/carers will be initiated to overcome the barriers and ensure the student is able to once again, complete Home Learning." replaced with "making reference to the processes described in the academy's Behaviour for Learning policy." 			
7/11/16	Appendix 3 added (Homework microscript)			

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The academy recognises that Home Learning is an essential tool for the success of its students. It is essential to help them achieve their targets, enjoy their learning, make the most of their learning potential and to improve their self-esteem.

The academy aims to encourage parental involvement through open communication with parents/ carers as research shows that Home Learning is more effective when parents show interest, enthusiasm and support for their child's work. At the start of each academic year we aim to supply all parents and carers with access to our Home Learning recording system.

The purpose of Home Learning is to enhance student achievement; to help students become self-directed, independent learners; and to develop good work habits. The setting and assessment of Home Learning activities is a vital part of preparing our students for success in their lives beyond school. Home Learning will enable our students to develop skills that ensure they become independent, self-reflective and well-organised learners with the ability to prioritise their commitments and to meet deadlines.

2.0 OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE

2.1 Priorities

Home Learning has six key priorities:

- To promote a love of learning and discovery for its own sake;
- To enhance individual creativity and independent thinking;
- To develop the skills and habits necessary to become independent and confident lifelong learners;
- To embed, enrich and complement the academy curriculum;
- To enhance and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills beyond those taught in each subject's schemes of learning;
- To enable parents and carers to be actively involved with their child's learning and to promote opportunities for learning in the academy and the wider community.

2.2 Activities

Home Learning can be a variety of activities and may include:

independent learning; consolidation of work in class; practice - learning by doing; completion of course work assignments; research; reading; collection of information for an individual or group project; carrying out interviews; drawing; using ICT/using the internet; carrying out an observation and recording the outcomes; watching a specified TV programme; making a model to exemplify a concept; involving the whole family in a discussion.

Each piece of Home Learning set will involve the student being given structured guidelines or success criteria and the student must be able to demonstrate that they have completed the Home Learning.

A combination of termly project based homework and weekly homework is set for Years 7 and 8. Weekly and fortnightly homework is set for students in Years 9, 10 and 11 (see Appendix 3).

Not all Home Learning has to be done at home. For some students who find it hard to work at home or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software and equipment) that are more readily available at the academy, it may be necessary or desirable to carry out the task at the academy. Resources and related ICT facilities are available for students to use at break times, lunchtimes and at the end of each day.

3.0 ENCOURAGING THE COMPLETION OF HOME LEARNING

The Academy recognises that students will need differentiated support in terms of their Home Learning and staff will need to adopt a range of strategies for setting, supporting and monitoring Home Learning.

The Academy is aware that all students have different learning styles, visual, auditory and kinaesthetic (VAK) and that our Home Learning must address these learning styles.

All students will be encouraged to complete Home Learning by being offered support, guidance, rewards, incentives and praise. These may include the use of positive phone calls home, letters, postcards, certificates, prizes and VIVOs.

When Home Learning is set, the teacher will check that the task meets the students' needs and that they understand what is required of them. Students who require additional clarification or support should request this in advance of the deadline for completion.

4.0 EXPECTATIONS OF HOW MUCH HOME LEARNING IS TO BE SET

The amount of Home Learning set follows national guidelines and is set out below. However, it must be recognised that it is not always possible to estimate the exact time that each piece of Home Learning may take and therefore these times are guidelines only.

The following guide provides an indication of how long a student should spend on each of these Home Learning activities.

The amount of Home Learning time set is linked to the age of the student. The following guide gives an idea of how long a student should spend on each of these home learning activities per week (although some tasks might be set as the equivalent of more than one activity).

Year:	Length of home learning activities per week per subject:
7 and 8	20 – 30 minutes
9	30 – 45 minutes
10 and 11	45 minutes – 1 hour

APPENDIX 1: What are the expectations for Home Learning?

Students must:

- Listen to Home Learning instructions in class;
- Know how to use Show My Homework (system changing to Go 4 Schools November 2016) to access the Home Learning activities required of them;
- Make maximum effort in attempting to complete Home Learning activities;
- Seek help in advance of the deadline, should it be needed;
- Prioritise their work effectively in order that they meet all deadlines set;
- Ensure that Home Learning is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.

Parents and carers should support their child/ren in their Home Learning by:

- Reinforcing its value through positive feedback to give their child/ren the confidence to persevere;
- Negotiating with their child/ren when Home Learning is to be done as a child's free time is important;
- Ensuring that outside activities do not hamper the child's quality of work and put him/her under undue pressure;
- Ensuring that a space is provided to allow learning to be continued at home;
- Reviewing and checking that Home Learning tasks have been done;
- Liaising with the Academy where their child/ren cannot participate in Home Learning;
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks;
- Check the presentation of Home Learning being returned to school;
- Providing the Academy with information about any problems by contacting the school directly.

Staff must:

- Plan Home Learning as a structured and continued aspect of classroom learning (see Appendix 3, Homework Microscript);
- Use Show My Homework (system changing to Go 4 Schools November 2016) to record and publish all Home Learning;
- Mark and provide feedback on all Home Learning set in line with the academy marking procedures;
- Liaise with parents and carers where Home Learning is not being completed or completed to the academy expectations;
- Set appropriate sanctions and rewards for Home Learning (Appendix 2: Rewards and Sanctions)

APPENDIX 2: Rewards and sanctions:

All Home Learning tasks should be completed and handed in on time and to a standard acceptable to the classroom teacher (these will reflect the age and ability of the student rather than be a standardised expectation).

Teachers are expected to reward appropriate levels of effort, creativity, individuality and flair using the academy rewards systems.

Where a student misses a deadline or hands in work below the acceptable standard, teachers apply an appropriate sanction, making reference to the processes described in the academy's Behaviour for Learning policy. This will follow the pattern of the Behaviour Policy, starting with a warning and escalating up through to break and after school detentions. Where a student is continually disengaged with home learning, communication between the classroom teacher, Curriculum Co-ordinator, Director of Learning and parents/carers will be initiated to overcome the barriers and ensure the student is able to once again, complete Home Learning.

APPENDIX 2: Homework Microscript



Homework Microscript

Teachers will:

- ✓ Set all homework using Show My Homework
- ✓ Display this in the lesson when homework is set
- ✓ Allow students to record this if they use their planners
- ✓ Ensure homework is collected & students' efforts are recognised

Homework for Years 7 and 8

Subject	Set and monitored by	Frequency
Reading	Form tutor	Weekly journal check
English	English teacher	Fortnightly
Mathematics	Maths teacher	Fortnightly
Science	Science teacher	Fortnightly (including revision learning for unit tests)
French	French teacher	Fortnightly
2 x Department Projects	One project each half term from two of the departments listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create (Art, DT, Music, ICT) • Discovery (Humanities and Languages) • Lifestyle (PE and PSHE) 	Half Termly

Homework for Years 9, 10 & 11

Subject	Description	Set and monitored by	Frequency
English	Exam questions & exam preparation	English teacher	Weekly
Mathematics	Exam questions & My Maths	Maths teacher	Weekly
Science	Year 9: Questions and revision activities Year 10 & 11: Exam question booklet for each unit. Supplementary homework for Triple Science students.	Science teacher	Fortnightly Issued and collected approximately once each half term.
French & Spanish GCSEs	Learning vocabulary ready for lesson checks.	French or Spanish teacher	Weekly
History, Geography & Ethics GCSEs	Examination practice or research for lesson preparation	History, Geography or Ethics teacher	Fortnightly
Art & DT GCSEs	Coursework completion	Art teacher	Ongoing
GCSE or BTEC PE	Coursework and exam preparation	PE teacher	Fortnightly
Music GCSE		Music teacher	Fortnightly
ICT		ICT teacher	Fortnightly
Health and Social Care BTEC		Health and Social Care teacher	Fortnightly