



Homework Policy

1. Statement of Policy

- 1.1 Homework can be defined as work that is set which can be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement and promoting lifelong skills.
- 1.2 Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who experience difficulties in working from home, or for some tasks which may require specific resources (books, software, and equipment). The academy can provide suitable resources, time and facilities which are readily available at school.
- 1.3 Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.
- 1.4 The Academy believes that homework is more likely to be approached positively when students feel that the demands on them are realistic, consistent across the curriculum and worthwhile in terms of what they are learning. The Academy is committed to ensuring that both staff and students use homework effectively with clear guidelines about what is appropriate, how much is expected and when it is to be set.
- 1.5 Homework will be set regularly and students will be encouraged to establish good homework habits from the beginning of their school career. Assessment of homework will form an important part of the overall assessment policy procedures.
- 1.6 The aims are to:
 - Encourage parents/carers to become involved in their children's work through understanding and discussing homework tasks
 - To give all students the opportunity to consolidate and extend what they have learned in the Academy and to make best use of an effective way of improving learning
 - To help students to plan their time and develop confidence in learning
 - To help students develop independent learning skills, to use now and in their future life
 - To inform parents/carers about their children's learning and the approaches and techniques used in the Academy
 - To make homework an integral and planned part of every scheme of work

2. Other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy

3. Allocation of homework

- 3.1 Homework helps raise achievement through the consolidation and reinforcement of skills and knowledge gained during lesson time. Research has shown that 5 years of homework is equivalent to an additional year at school.
- 3.2 There will be a minimum of 2 pieces of homework set each day. It is expected that every lesson will give out some sort of extended learning task throughout the week to ensure a broad range of learning opportunities.
- 3.3 In Key Stage 3 each homework activity should take approximately **15-30 minutes**. In Key Stage 4 each subject will set approximately **1 hour** of homework each week.
- 3.4 Students will be asked to record homework in their planners and in some cases will receive homework reminder emails, if using the VLE, MyMaths or I am Learning. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will also monitor the setting and completion of homework tasks.
- 3.5 Homework will be monitored by Curriculum Directors through calendared learning walks and work scrutiny.
- 3.6 Parents/Carers are asked to support their son/daughter and encourage them to complete homework activities on time.

4. Use variety

- 4.1 Staff must set homework which is varied in content, sufficiently differentiated and which is seen by students as being of value. While written tasks are often useful, many tasks are not written, e.g. reading from a textbook, locating a resource in the Library, collecting some materials or equipment for practical work, surveys of opinion, learning vocabulary and specific tasks for group work within the independent learning schemes.
- 4.2 Homework should not penalise students who do not work as quickly as other students for reasons related to individual needs, nor should it result in higher ability students receiving less homework than other students.

5. Set and marked regularly

- 5.1 In order to emphasise the contribution homework makes to learning, homework must be set in every lesson and where appropriate, promptly and constructively marked.

6. Use of the Academic diary

- 6.1 All students have an academic planner in which they note down what homework is set for each lesson. The teacher must ensure that all students do this. The diary is signed by the parent/carer(s) and form tutor each week. Where a homework is not completed, the teacher can mark a red 'H' in the diary to indicate this to parents/carers and form tutor. A comment can also be made on the Academy Marking Template.
- 6.2 The Parent/Carer, Student-Academy contract highlights the need for parents/carers to support their child's education, through assisting in homework and providing homework facilities at home.

7. Homework timetable

- 7.1 Every student has 5 lessons per day. In order to further enhance the quality of learning, it is expected that every subject will set some sort of follow up task to be completed within a timeframe.
- 7.2 Homework timetable will be available to students, teachers, parents and carers via the academy website and Moodle.

8. Help in difficulty

- 8.1 Staff must encourage students to return for help if they seem to be spending excessive amounts of time on homework. The Academy is committed to ensuring that students have access to ICT, VLE and internet at breaks and after school in order to assist the completion of tasks.

9. Ensuring it happens

- 9.1 Curriculum Directors have responsibility for making sure that teachers within their department know, understand and implement this policy.
- 9.2 Students are expected to complete homework to a good level.
- 9.3 Staff will record any non-completion of homework via the behaviour log. Sanctions will be put in place for students who choose not to complete homework.
- 9.4 Staff will also reward students for completion of homework via the behaviour log.

10. The nature of homework

10.1 No one form of homework is prescribed and, as such, homework may take many forms, taking into account the nature of the subject and the ages and abilities of the students. The Academy has subscribed to MyMaths and I am Learning to enable a variety of IT rich tasks to be chosen. Students also have access to learning resources via VLE (moodle) to support the completion of homework. Some of the forms homework may take will include:

- specially prepared homework tasks that extend class work
- learning homework
- research assignments
- practical exercises
- longer term assignments/projects/coursework

11. Marking of homework

11.1 Staff are expected to mark homework regularly in accordance with the school assessment policy.