

Cheslyn Hay Academy

HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework makes a valuable contribution to children's learning. Ofsted recognised this fact when it changed its framework for "outstanding teaching" to recommend that homework be set and marking carried out frequently to provide pupils with clear guidance on where they are in their learning and how they can improve.

Various studies from Hattie, PISA and others suggest effective homework raises outcomes. The Education Endowment Foundation states, on average, the impact of homework on learning is consistently positive (leading to on average five months additional progress). However, beneath this average there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how homework is set is likely to be very important.

Homework is work that is set to be done 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. Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' 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.

We believe that homework is important because good quality homework supports learning in school. It also:

- encourages students to realise that learning can, should and does occur outside of school,
- reinforces the partnership between home and school and enables parents to have a stake-holding in their child's learning,
- encourages students to see their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, home and community resources as sources of information, ideas and encouragement and
- significantly extends the learning hours and learning opportunities available to students.
- helps to develop independent study skills

Good Homework

We believe good homework must

- be purposeful
- meet the differing learning needs of different students
- always have a firm deadline
- only on very rare occasions be set for the following day
- always set on Show My Homework
- be intelligible to parents, who are key partners in the educational process, and should be confident that meaningful homework is being set by us and can be meaningfully monitored by them
- planned and focused activities which are linked to class activities or relevant to learning outcomes

Show My Homework

Show My Homework is a simple homework calendar the school will be using to ensure homework is set and communicated with parents across the school. Teachers can use it to set homework quickly and ensure the learners and parents always have the information they need about homework available via the Web, Mobile and Tablet devices.

Homework and Time Frames

It is difficult to be exact on the 'time to be spent' on homework. What student A may achieve in thirty minutes could take student B two hours. As such, homework should not necessarily be a 'closed' task, but should wherever possible allow for different levels of completion and be differentiated according to student ability.

Student Support

As a school, we will support students by:

- making available accommodation such as the school library and ICT rooms on a regular basis, at break and lunchtime,
- opening and staffing the Independent Learning Centre before and after school wherever possible,
- providing a daily homework club in the SEN department with assistance if and when required,
- offering an extended day on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the library is available and late buses are provided, leaving the school campus at 4:30pm from the Leisure Centre entrance.

Parental Support

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. Parents can assist by:

- making it clear to their child that they value homework and believe it important in ensuring best progress at school
- taking an interest in homework tasks and encouraging their child to give their best
- accessing Show My Homework regularly, or using the mobile device app, to track the homework being set
- check their child's journal at least once per week to ensure homework is being recorded and completed
- provide, as far as possible, a suitable working environment in which homework can be undertaken successfully
- negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free play is important too
- checking the time spent on individual tasks
- ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure
- checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school
- signing the Journal each week
- providing the school with information about any problems through the Journal or by contacting the school directly

Setting Homework Tasks

We will take into account that different departments/subjects have different requirements and constraints. Some subjects need to set short tasks on a regular basis, whereas others may need to set extended tasks or projects lasting over several weeks. Below is a guide to how much homework you can expect your child to be set for each key stage and subject.

Key Stage 3:

Subject	Homework Information (All timings are approximate)
Art & Design	One task per half term that is relevant to the current class project.
Design & Technology	One project-based task per term.
Drama	tasks per term that will take the form of research, planning, thinking and/or writing.
English	One task per week either linked to classwork or literacy skills. Occasionally an extended writing task may be set that will take more than one week to complete.
Geography	One task per fortnight. Some tasks will be longer than others.
History	One task per fortnight with occasional extended tasks that will last from two weeks to a half-term.

Computer Science	One task per half-term that is relevant to the current unit of work.
Maths	One task per week which is either linked to work covered in lesson or revision for an assessment. Approximately every eight weeks, a homework progress task will be set and a level will be awarded.
Modern Foreign Languages	One task per week which is either linked to work covered in lesson or revision for an assessment.
Music	One task per fortnight, normally out of the homework booklet.
PE	None set in Key Stage 3.
RE	Half-termly research tasks set from homework booklets. There will also be occasional tasks set as extension work from their learning in lessons.
Science	A mixture of short tasks, booklets and longer tasks. Students should have Science homework to be working on each week.

Key Stage 4:

Subject	Homework Information (All timings are approximate)
Art & Design	One task set per week which is relevant to work being covered in lessons.
BTEC Sport/Dance	Assessment folder work set as required.
Business Studies	One task set per week. Termly projects/research/revision will also be set.
Design Technology &	Two focused tasks will be set during the first term of year 10 (8 hours approximately). During the controlled GCSE assessment, students will be set work when required that varies between approximately 1-3 hours per week to complete. During the exam preparation period, the quantity of homework will be equivalent to the taught hours.
Drama	One task per fortnight which will take the form of line learning, planning, writing up and researching. All GCSE students will be asked to attend and watch all Drama exams (GCSE, AS and A2) and one professional production over the duration of their GCSE course; this will be considered to be a HL task.
English	One task set per week either linked to classwork or literacy skills. Occasionally an extended writing task may be set that will take more than one week to complete.
Geography	One task set per week. Some tasks will be longer/more difficult than others.
Health & Social Care	One task set per week with a project set once per term.
History	One task per week with occasional extended tasks that will last from two weeks to a half-term.
Computer Science	One task per fortnight linked to the theory work covered in lesson.
Maths	One task per week which is either linked to work covered in lesson or revision for an assessment. Approximately every 8 weeks, a homework progress task will be set and a grade awarded.
Modern Foreign Languages	One task per week (at least) which is either linked to work covered in lesson or revision for an assessment.
Music	One task per week linked to an essay and/or practical work.
PE (GCSE)	One task set per week. There will be a task set once per half-term which will be formally assessed.
RE	One task set per fortnight. A combination of assessment and research tasks.
Science	One task set per week with occasional extended tasks that will last from two to three weeks. Students should also regularly review their work.
Sociology	For the first term in year 10, a formal written task will not be set. Following this, one task will be set per fortnight. The task may be to revise for an assessment.

Students should

- listen to homework instructions in class.
- visit the school homework calendar via the school website.
- download the Apple or Android app if they have a smart phone to see their homework.
- copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into their Journal if this has been requested by the teacher
- ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.

- attempt all work and give their best.
- inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

Tutors should...

- include homework in pupil mentoring where appropriate.
- see that homework is being set and recorded via the Show My Homework reports.
- check the students know where to access the school homework.
- note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

Class Teachers should...

- ensure that homework is set on Show My Homework for all classes.
- set homework according to the timetable.
- give full and comprehensive instructions.
- set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- ensure students are given feedback on their homework in a timely manner
- provide help and support.
- inform the Head of Department, Tutor and/or Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise

Heads of Department / Heads of Year should...

- seek to enhance the quality of homework set
- monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area
- praise accordingly student that consistently do homework and highlight the learners that need support

The SLT member responsible for homework should...

- provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation
- develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the school
- monitor and evaluate the school homework policy on a regular basis

Homework and Assessment

Homework will be regularly marked or reviewed and feedback will be given on a regular basis, which clearly identifies the steps that need to be taken in order to improve. In accordance with our Marking for Improvement Policy, different types of assessment and marking methods (including self and peer assessment) will be employed and students may be asked to complete a "Response Task" as part of their homework.

Homework and Disciplinary Matters

For every homework task that is not handed in by the deadline or completed to a satisfactory standard, a Homework Point will be added to the student's behaviour record on SIMS. A detention may also be set by the class teacher. Form tutors will ensure that students record their Homework Points total in their journals each week and an up-to-date total will be included on reports sent out to parents

How can homework be accessed?

Homework can be accessed by teachers, students and parents in the following ways:

- Please go to cheslynhayhigh.showmyhomework.co.uk - There is no login required to see the school homework calendar. You can see homework that is set across the schools and then use the filters to find what you are looking for.
- A personalised homework calendar is available for all users including students and parents. Once you login, you can only see your own homework schedule.
- There are iPhone and Android apps available for free for students and parents.
- The Show My Homework service is available and works on all devices using a modern browser such as IE 8+, Safari, Chrome and Firefox.

Monitoring of Homework:

Homework is very much a school-wide topic. Therefore it requires a consistent approach across the school. It must be easy for all stakeholders to have an overview of homework as time is very limited. To ensure that everyone meets the homework guidelines set, we have the following options to monitor homework.

Classroom teachers / tutors:

- Using Show My Homework teachers can keep a record of all the homework set daily, weekly, termly and yearly.
- Teachers can keep a record of student submissions to see quickly who has completed or missed homework deadlines.
- Teachers can search for any student they teach or at the school and see the homework the student has been set at anytime.
- All teaching staff have access to the school homework reports which are designed to save time and can be exported to Excel.

Middle leaders / pastoral leaders:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to see how much / little homework has been set in the department quickly and accurately.
- Identify learners that are persistently missing deadlines.
- As a head of department / head of house or pastoral leader, see quickly how your cohort is engaging with homework across subjects.
- Deep dive into the quality of homework set by colleagues in your department at anytime without having to request for homework samples.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Ensure colleagues in your department save time by encouraging collaboration and using homework already created by the department more effectively.

Inclusion staff / support:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to see how much / little homework individual learners have been set.
- See very quickly what homework individual learners have been set and be able to share this information quickly and effectively with parent/carers.
- Use Show My Homework to plan relevant support and preparation work required to support the learners more effectively.

Senior Leaders/Head:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to quickly measure against the expectations outlined for homework.
- Identify learners that are persistently missing deadlines.
- Deep dive into the quality of homework set by colleagues across the school at anytime without having to request for homework samples.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Use Show My Homework to put in relevant interventions to support learners that are consistently missing deadlines.
- Share weekly homework statistics across the school .
- Reduce homework excuses and parental complaints by providing a consistent message regarding homework and expectations.
- Use Show My Homework to reach and communicate with hard to reach parents.

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