



High School

## HOME LEARNING POLICY

### Introduction

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

- helps to develop independent study skills,
- 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.

### Good Home Learning

We believe good home learning must:

- be varied, interesting and challenging,
- 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 be recorded in the students' personal journals,
- be intelligible to parents, who are key partners in the educational process, and should be confident that purposeful home learning is being set by us and can be meaningfully monitored by them.

### Home Learning and Time Frames

It is difficult to be exact on the 'time to be spent' on home learning. What student A may achieve in thirty minutes could take student B two hours. As such, home learning 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 home learning 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

Parents can support home learning by:

- making it clear to their child that they value home learning and believe it important in ensuring best progress at school,
- taking an interest in home learning tasks and encouraging their child to give their best,
- check their child's journal at least once per week to ensure home learning is being recorded and completed,
- provide, as far as possible, a suitable working environment in which home learning can be undertaken successfully.

### Setting Home Learning 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 home learning you can expect your child to be set for each key stage and subject.

### **Key Stage 3:**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Home Learning Information (All timings are approximate)</b>
Art & Design	One task per half term that is relevant to the current class project.
Design & Technology	One project-based task per term.
Drama	Three 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 several weeks 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.
ICT	One task per half-term that is relevant to the current unit of work.
Independent Studies (Year 7 only)	During the first half term a 'Getting to know your school' task will be set. Following this, the students will be set one numeracy and one literacy task per fortnight.
Maths	One task per week which is either linked to work covered in lesson or revision for an assessment. Approximately every eight weeks, a home learning 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 home learning booklet.
PE	None set in Key Stage 3.
RE	Half-termly research tasks set from home learning 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 home learning to be working on each week.

### **Key Stage 4:**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Home Learning Information (All timings are approximate)</b>
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 home learning 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 several weeks to complete.
Geography	One task set per week on consolidation day. 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.
ICT (GCSE)	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 home learning 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 on consolidation day. 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.

## Home Learning and Assessment

Home learning 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 peer assessment) will be employed and students may be asked to complete a "Response Task" as part of their home learning.

## Home Learning and Disciplinary Matters

For every home learning task that is not handed in by the deadline or completed to a satisfactory standard, a Home Learning 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 Home Learning Points total in their journals each week and an up-to-date total will be included on the Behaviour Summary Sheet which is sent out to parents every report cycle.

**Lead SLT member:** KAD  
**Date of next review:** Summer 2017  
**Reference:** Home Learning 07 16