



Homework Policy & Independent Study Policy

Lead Person:

Deputy Head (Academic)

Governing Body Committee:

Resources, Staff and Pay Committee

1. Rationale

Homework is an essential element in the educational policy of the school. As well as being of inestimable benefit to pupils, it also comprises a key factor in parents' expectations of a grammar school education. Homework allows pupils to make further progress in their subjects and to deepen their levels of knowledge, understanding and interest.

Homework is a key ingredient in the academic progress and attainment of our pupils. Not only does it help them develop as independent learners, but it enables them to cover more of the material – either in depth or breadth - than they can do in class.

2. Role of parents/carers

Although not always an easy task we do ask our parents/carers to help support our pupils with this aspect of their child's school life. Parents/carers can do this by not only by taking an interest in the tasks set and monitoring Bromcom for work, but also by providing an environment in which the pupils can work effectively.

We recommend parents/carers give some thought as to how they can best manage this within the home situation. The suggestions below may help guide you:

- homework needs to be completed free from distractions – away from siblings and with any devices turned off and the mobile phone out of reach.
- If the iPad is being used, then it has to be for work and not for social media purposes.
- Homework should be done at a desk, table or flat surface.
- Although homework routines will differ according to daily and weekly circumstances, it is helpful if a fixed time slot can be established as the "routine time" for homework to be done. Some pupils will want to do their homework as soon as they arrive home, whilst others will appreciate a break first and then get down to it later. Either way, it is important that enough time is put aside for the completion of all work to be done in an evening – the policy will give you guidance here.
- For Year 7-9 pin the homework timetable up on a kitchen notice board or in other prominent place.

If, for whatever reason, it is not possible to provide these conditions at home then there is the opportunity for pupils to work in the school's homework club in the library after school. This facility is available between 3.15pm and 4.15pm each week-day.

3. Guidance for teachers

Members of the teaching staff will wish to plan for the regular setting of homework, in the same way that they plan lesson material. Homework may take a variety of forms:

- traditional written tasks, e.g. descriptive / creative piece, essay, answering of set questions, ongoing research, draft or a final piece of coursework, poem;
- reading in preparation for the next lesson;
- preparation for individual / group presentations;
- Linked to an IT software task;
- practice of a skill, e.g. physical (practical subjects), oral (languages);
- revision for a subject test;
- vocabulary or spelling tests.

In the case of extended coursework or project work, there must obviously be a degree of flexibility which is not altogether appropriate to rules governing conventional homework. However, the expectation should be that a pupil will devote to such work that amount of time regularly available within the homework timetable and they will be helped by staff setting short term coursework deadlines. Pupils will be encouraged to afford equal importance in terms of time to the range of subjects that they are studying.

Teachers must record any homework that has been set on Bromcom. Parents, pupils and teachers have access to view what homework has been set via Bromcom so all can monitor the amount of work set.

4. The amount of homework expected

The school expects pupils to undertake the following amount of homework each fortnight.

Time allocated per subject per fortnight (which may be set as one homework per fortnight, or split into several shorter homeworks).

Subject	Y7 Term 1	Y7 Term 2-6	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10 & 11	Year 12	Year 13
English Maths Science	1 hour 1 hour 1 hour	1 hour 1 hour 1 hour	1 hour 30 1 hour 30 1 hour 30	1 hour per subject	2 hours per subject	6 hours per subject	10 hours per subject
All other subjects	No homework set	45 minutes	45 minutes				
Total per fortnight	3 hours	10.5 hours	12 hours	15 hours	18 hours	18 hours	30 hours
Total per week	~1.5 hours	~ 5 hours	~6 hours	~7.5 hours	9 hours	9 hours	15 hours

Personal development will set at least 1 formal homework per term.

5. Homework timetables

Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils will have a homework timetable which will be published at the beginning of the year, which staff are requested to adhere to. The School wishes to establish a routine for these younger pupils and especially those pupils new to the school. Tutors will talk through this timetable with their groups at the beginning of the year. If any concerns arise over homework, pupils need to mention this to their tutors who will then speak to the relevant teacher or pass to the relevant head of department as necessary.

From Year 10 onwards the School wishes to adopt a more flexible approach to the setting of homework which relates to the different learning styles associated with different subject areas and individual circumstances of each class. Some subjects may therefore set 1 piece of homework for the allocated amount of time; others may set 2 / 3 shorter pieces of homework which will add up to the allocated period of time. The teacher can choose the appropriate time during the week to set the homework related to the learning process.

6. Homework Guidelines

- All homework set will be posted on our electronic system Bromcom so pupils know exactly what is required of them and parents/carers know what has been set and the date that it should be handed in.
- There should be a minimum of 48 hours to complete the homework.
- Any homework undertaken in exercise books needs to be clearly identified by pupils, e.g. titled 'Homework', underlined and dated.
- Teachers may set homework on Google Classroom (GC) and expect pupils to submit homework via GC. Where this occurs, the teacher will still record that homework has been set on Bromcom, but may just make reference to GC for details.
- Teachers can set homework using other online tools (such as Seneca Learning) and expect the students to submit the work via that online tool. This homework will still be recorded on Bromcom so both students and parents are aware.

With the increasing availability of AI (artificial intelligence) on the internet there are increasing opportunities for pupils to use AI instead of completing the homework themselves. We strongly feel it is not in our students' best interest for them to use AI, unless a teacher has specifically asked them to do so as part of an educational learning activity. Therefore all homework needs to be completed by the student and represent their own work and best effort. The use of AI applications, such as ChatGPT, to complete homework assignments is not acceptable and will result in the issuing of a homework detention if so used. Whilst AI applications will have benefits for student research, their usage cannot replace a student's own effort and work in completion of a task set by their teacher.

Failure by pupils to complete homework

Homework detentions can be given for the following reasons:

- a lack of homework or coursework (either because pupils have forgotten to do it, or have failed to bring it to school)
- incomplete homework
- submission of homework which is well below the expected standard.

- KS3 and 4 MFL Vocabulary test failures. In this situation a retest will be offered, if this is not attended or failed then this will result in a homework detention to give students the opportunity to learn the words.
- KS5 MFL Vocabulary test failures. In this situation no retest option, because students have had ample time to learn the words in Supervised Study and additional speaking sessions.
- Overdue KS3 library books (students will be sent reminders, but if still fail to return books a homework detention will be set)

Teachers have the option to extend the deadline by 24 hours should they wish to.

The teacher must tell the pupil they have been placed in homework detention. The teacher is to record the homework detention on Bromcom, giving 48 hours' notice for KS4 and KS5 students (this is the formal notification to both pupil and parent). KS3 homework detentions are set on the day they are set.

Detention length varies depending on the year the pupil is in:

- Year 7 to 9 – 30 minutes (lunchtime)
- Years 10-11 – 45 minutes (afterschool)
- Year 12 and 13 - 1hr (afterschool)

Failure to attend any detention results in an internal suspension.

Frequency of homework detentions are monitored. If a student is repeatedly being given homework detentions then parents may be asked to come into school to discuss the issue with the HOD or HOY or Deputy Head (Academic) so that the student can get back on track quickly.

Students will use the detention time to complete homework or other subject related work. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones or earphones during detentions. Should students be caught doing either of these, they will be issued with a behaviour detention.

Attendance of Homework detentions

Pupils are expected to attend homework detentions on the date of the detention. These dates are not for negotiation. Should there be exceptional circumstances and a pupil not be able to attend on a particular day then the School Office should be contacted in the first instance by the parent/carer to outline the reasons. This should be done in advance of detention.

In the event of parental enquiry about homework for a specific subject this should normally be referred, in the first instance, to the teacher. The enquiry may then be referred to the Head of Department if necessary. In the event of an enquiry about homework in a variety of subjects or in general, this should normally be referred to the HOY in the first instance. The enquiry may then be referred to the Deputy Head (Academic).

Approved by Headmaster: July 2025

Review cycle: 2 years

Date of next review: June 2027