



HOME LEARNING POLICY

This Policy was originally created in 2009 and this issue was released in:	May 2009
It was ratified by the Board of Directors on :	6 July 2009
This Policy will be reviewed on:	Summer Term 2012
This Policy will be reviewed by:	Curriculum, Student Affairs and Parental Engagement Committee

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Rationale

Home learning is set to encourage students to develop the skills needed for independent learning; to consolidate, reinforce and extend skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom; to enable students to meet the demands of GCSE coursework assignments and to prepare students for school and public exams not just within school but beyond and into adult life.

Principles

These principles govern the setting and marking of home learning:

- Home learning must be relevant to and support classwork
- Home learning will be set each week dependent on the subject and task e.g. half termly project FOR KS3 in humanities (See Home Learning Guidance For Parents).
- Home learning must be planned as an integral part of the lessons and scheme of work.
- Home learning must have a clear purpose.
- The Academy should make adequate provision for home learning to take place on the school site.

Aims

- To ensure that students' work in school is supported adequately by relevant preparation of reinforced learning
- To ensure that staff understand the importance of setting home learning and its role in the extension of students' learning.
- To rationalise the setting of home learning for our student population
- To integrate the marking of home learning with the assessment and marking policy
- To establish a culture of home learning monitoring
- To ensure that regular and appropriate home learning is set for all students and learning groups
- To ensure that staff are aware of the importance of feedback to students on the quality of their work
- To establish the role and importance of parent/carers in home learning completion
- To ensure that home learning is commented upon in reports

Guidelines

- Home learning must be planned for and integrated into lesson plans/lesson proformas
- Home learning should be an extension of learning and not simply an add on task
- Students must understand the importance of home learning as part of their independent learning
- Some lessons should be spent reviewing home learning to reinforce its importance as well as the learning outcomes from it
- Home learning must be set during rather than at the end of the lesson
- Home learning must be written in student planners, with clear deadlines for completion, by all students. All revision and coursework home learning must be written in student planners. Home learning must be completed to meet the deadlines set
- Home learning must be marked as quickly as possible and returned to students with meaningful feedback as stated
- Form Tutors must check that pupils write down into their planners the subjects for which home learning has been set
- Staff ensure that a variety of tasks are set for home learning. Departments should discuss suitable home learning topics and activities. Tasks should be carefully differentiated to meet the learning needs of students. Subject staff and Learning Support/EAL need to work together for specific groups and students

Possible tasks might be:

Investigations	Interviews
Listening Practice or Rehearsal	Research
Public or School Library Visit	Reading
Designing	Essay writing
Drawing	Word Processing
Report writing	Learning
Simple experiment	Model making
Projects or Extended Assignments	Assessments
Preparation for an activity	

- Teachers should, as far as possible, avoid setting home learning which is finishing off tasks of work which should have been completed in the lesson.

Time

Time needed for home learning will vary, however, we follow the Governments recommendations that the time spent on home learning or GCSE coursework should fall within the following ranges:

Years 7 and 8	45 to 90 minutes a day
Year 9	1 to 2 hours per day
Years 10 and 11	1.5.to 2.5 hours a day

In Years 12 and 13 the amount will depend on the students' individual programme.

The Role of Parent/Carers

Most students will complete their home learning at home. Parents are therefore in a position to offer vital support and encouragement in this area. Parents can provide this support and encouragement by:

- providing a suitable quiet space in which their son/daughter can work.
- talking with their son/daughter about their home learning, the standards they are achieving and the importance of carrying out home learning tasks.
- checking deadlines and helping their son/daughter manage their time successfully so that these deadlines are met.
- praising their son/daughter for successful completion of home learning.
- encouraging their son/daughter to attend home learning clubs
- if possible providing the use of a computer at home with internet access if not encouraging their son/daughter to stay and use the computers within the academy
- supporting school imposed sanctions for the failure to produce home learning tasks

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The classroom teacher should monitor the completion of home learning by their teaching groups and take appropriate action for non-completion of home learning set. Subject staff are expected to comment on home learning on reports
- Heads of Faculty are responsible for monitoring the quality, quantity, frequency and variety of home learning set in their subject areas.
- Periodically, or when requested, Form Tutors and subject teachers should check to ensure that students have their student planners with them in lessons and check that home learning tasks are being written down.
- Senior Leaders will be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Home learning Policy across the school. This will involve monitoring selected pupils, monitoring a year group, sampling exercise books and assignments and checking student planners.

Outcomes

Our policy should be judged against the following:

- All students will receive home learning on a regular basis which will be relevant and purposeful.
- Home learning will be marked in accordance to the School Marking Policy
- Home learning will be monitored and evaluated
- Students become better independent learners

HOME LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

CREATIVE ARTS This includes: **Drama, Dance, Art and Music.**

KS3 – one piece written/art home learning each half term plus 1-2 pieces of non written home learning each half term, (observation or research).

KS4 – one piece of home learning per week, could be: completion of coursework from lesson activities, research into lesson material, observational exercises, preparation/rehearsal with other group members.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

KS3 Half termly project, each project lasts six weeks.

KS4 Design Analysis, Research, Design Skills, Production, and Evaluation Skills on-going.

ENGINEERING

Years 9 and 10 Half termly projects linked with class project.

Year 11 Home learning to complete teacher feedback.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Fortnightly home learning (often to bring ingredients and research) or written projects

EMPLOYABILITY & LIFE SKILLS

All subjects within the faculty have homework as a relevant and essential element of learning. We will only set homework that is appropriate and meaningful to the learning that is taking place in the classroom. Homework contributions will be marked either independently or as part of a broader piece of work. Students will receive written teacher feedback on major pieces of homework. Teachers will expect students to allocate sufficient time to produce a quality outcome that is submitted by the due deadline.

LOGISTICS

All students will be set a half termly project.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Years 9 and 10 students will be set one half termly project, as well as fortnightly research tasks.

Year 11 students completion of coursework and feedback work.

HAIR AND BEAUTY

All students will be set half termly research projects and fortnightly spelling tasks.

Additional specific targeted home learning to support classwork will be set as required.

EMPLOYABILITY Specific targeted home learning to support classwork will be set as required. Home learning may consist of online computer work. Students will need access and internet linked home computer **or** use the Academy ICT facilities outside lesson times.

Academy ICT facilities are available at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school.

ENGLISH **Years 7 and 8** – forty minutes per week. Activities may include: spellings; private reading; research; grammar sheets; short writing tasks.

Year 9 – one hour per week. Activities may include any of the above and/or SATs preparation tasks.

Year 10 - one hour per week. Home learning related to English coursework and/or literacy skills, if necessary.

Year 11 – one hour per week. Home learning related to English examination preparation and/or literacy skills, if necessary.

HUMANITIES

KS3

All pupils will receive a half termly project for each subject (Geography, History and Citizenship) this will be issued at the start of the half term and assessed as part of their ongoing level. This is designed to aid pupils in developing coursework skills, meeting deadlines and independent learning.

KS4

Geography/ History – All pupils will have one piece of homework set each lesson. This will be either work to continue class learning, exam skills and practice, coursework, Essays or research for a following lesson.

BTEC Retail and Travel and Tourism – work is set on a unit basis with pupils expected to complete tasks set in class. There may also be times where pupils are expected to research different material and collect information from different local areas.

Citizenship – pupils are working on the ASDAN COPE course which is based on coursework. Each unit will have research or coursework to be completed in their own time.

ICT

Years 7 and 8 – will be given a booklet which focuses on the technical issues no longer covered in the practical course followed, this is supportive to the course and also provides extension to the normal curriculum. We plan to have one home learning a fortnight.

KS4 – an extended project policy for home learning will be implemented. Students will be given challenges to complete on a termly basis. We will try to match these to the curriculum where we also want to extend the knowledge base of the students outside the practical course that we follow and support independent study.

MATHEMATICS

All students will receive **at least** one home learning each week that will be marked in class by peer-peer evaluation.

Homework days are different for each class and teacher however, **all** students are required to write down when their maths homework is set and due in, in their planner.

Students will be given half termly standardised home learning/revision booklets, different pieces of work will be set from this booklet. Students would be required to take the booklets home on the days the specific pieces of home learning is set and return it on or before the due date.

There will be a minimum of 2 pieces of online home learning set per half term, one from Mymaths and the other from SAM learning. The marking and levelling of the work will be done online.

All students who require further assistance regarding the maths home learning would need to negotiate time with their respective teacher when they could be helped further.

All home learning will be set with a week's notice being given for completion of the task.

Each teacher will maintain a record of the home learning being given to their respective classes.

All students defaulting with regard to home learning will face a one hour department detention, these will follow the department policy.

P.E.

All students studying a GCSE or a Btec First in Sport will have home learning set once every other week. This is due to the two week timetable and that some classes have three lessons in one week and one in the other.

SCIENCE

Once per week.

Years 7, 8 and 9 – have home learning booklets.

Years 10 and 11 is some booklet, some case study (extended home learning over a half term) plus coursework writing up.

All students are advised to use SAM Learning and Bitesize.