



Dear Parents/ Carers,

As part of our commitment to effective teaching and learning, we are writing to explain our approach to homework and to share the schedule that is now in place for all Year 9 students. We hope that the information is useful and that you will be able to support your child with the completion of their homework.

The importance and purpose of homework

According to John Hattie, a renowned education researcher from New Zealand, homework at secondary level has an effect size of $d=0.64$. An effect size of 0.2 is small, 0.4 is medium and 0.6 is large. Hattie argues that for any educational approach to be effective, it requires an effect size of above 0.4. On this basis, homework for secondary students has an 'excellent' effect.

Beyond its measurable impact, homework plays a crucial role in extending practice, allowing students to develop fluency, confidence, and deeper recall of key concepts. Given the limitations of lesson time, structured guidance for independent practice is essential to solidify understanding. Additionally, homework fosters independent learning by encouraging students to explore subjects creatively, take ownership of their studies, and prepare effectively for lessons, maximising the value of teacher input.

As an integral part of learning, homework reinforces skills, cultivates disciplined study habits, and broadens knowledge beyond the classroom. However, with the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence (AI), it is vital to adapt our approach to ensure both academic integrity and meaningful engagement with learning.

Our homework policy aims to strike a balance, encouraging students to use AI ethically and responsibly while ensuring that their work reflects genuine understanding and effort. This approach will protect the integrity of assessments, foster deep learning, and prepare students to navigate AI's role in education and beyond.

You can find the full Homework Policy on our school website, located in the 'About Us' > 'Policies' section and our Student Generative AI Code of Conduct is included in student planners.

Responsibilities

Responsibility of the School

We will:

- Set homework on a regular basis and in line with the published schedule.
- Set tasks that are suitable and achievable within the given time frame, while minimizing the risk of AI over-reliance.
- Teach students how to engage with AI responsibly, supporting them in understanding its appropriate use, limitations, and the importance of critical assessment.
- Educate students on ethical issues, such as plagiarism and the risks of depending on AI for independent work, and emphasise the importance of following age restrictions.
- Ensure that sufficient time is incorporated into the lesson for homework to be explained clearly and written down by students in their planners.
- Ensure that planners are checked and signed regularly by Form Tutors.
- Check and monitor that homework has been completed on time and to an appropriate standard and take action if not.
- Ensure that homework tasks are not routinely set for completion by the next day.
- Recognise excellent effort and reward accordingly.
- Provide student support opportunities at school including private study periods and individual support where needed.
- Support students who are finding it difficult to fulfil their homework requirements.

- Involve parents/carers when we have concerns.
- Ensure that subject concerns and appropriate sanctions are given (starting at departmental level) where homework is repeatedly late or incomplete.

Responsibility of the student

Students will:

- Record all homework and deadlines in their planner.
- Ensure that they understand the task and, if not, seek guidance and help from their teacher or tutor.
- Ensure that they have the time and resources they need to complete the task and discuss with their teacher, in advance of the deadline, if there is a difficulty.
- Do their homework to the best of their ability.
- Ensure their homework is their own work and not plagiarised.
- Hand homework in on time and in the correct format (e.g., handwritten, digital or printed copy).
- Make every attempt to catch up on homework missed through absence.
- Talk to their teacher or form tutor if homework is taking longer than the published schedule or if they are having difficulty with the task.
- Respond to feedback and advice in order to make further progress.
- Use AI responsibly, ensuring they understand its limitations, comply with age restrictions, and avoid over-reliance on it for independent work.

Responsibility of home

Parents/carers will:

- Engage with their child about their homework, take an interest and offer support, where possible.
- Try, wherever possible to ensure that their child has a suitable and quiet place to complete the homework.
- Check and sign the pupil/student planner on a regular basis.
- Raise concerns with the form tutor or subject teacher if they are worried about their child's homework, including any issues related to the use of AI.

Year 9 Homework Schedule

The allocation of homework, per the 2-week timetable, is as follows:

English, Maths, Latin and RS	40 minutes once per week
Biology, Chemistry and Physics	20-30 minutes once per week
Languages	3 x 30 minutes over the two weeks
All other subjects studied	40 minutes once per fortnight

A copy of the homework schedule for your child can also be found on the website.

If you have any questions, or if issues arise during the year, please do not hesitate to contact the School.

Yours sincerely,



Miss G Pascoe
Head of Year 9



Mrs L Neal
Senior Pastoral Lead



Mrs E Spinks
Induction Manager & Head of Year