



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 timetable that is now in place for all Year 8 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 timetable.
- 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 timetable/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 8 Homework Timetable

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English, Maths, Science, RS and Latin 2 x 30 minutes • Language 3 x 20 minutes • Art, Computing, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Technology 1 x 40 minutes |
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A copy of the homework timetable for your child's form is attached.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mrs N Norton
Head of Year 8

Homework Timetables Y8 2026/2027

Allocation per 2 week timetable: English, Maths, Science, RS and Latin 2 X 30mins

Language 3 X 20mins

Art, Computing, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Technology 1 X 40 mins

8C									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
English	Maths	Science	Latin	Art	English	Science	Maths	RS	Music
French	RS	Tech		Drama	French	History	Latin	French	Geography

8J									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Science	Maths	English	Geography	RS	English	German	Maths	RS	Science
Tech	Latin	Music	History	German	Drama	Art	Latin	German	

8N									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Music	Maths	Science	German	English	Latin	Science	Maths	RS	English
RS	Latin	Art	History			German	Geography	Drama	Tech
German									

8P									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Art	Maths	Science	Latin	History	RS	English	Maths	French	Science
RS	French	English	Music	Geography	Latin	French	Drama		Tech

8S									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
English	Maths	RS	Science	Latin	Tech	English	Maths	Science	Art
French	Drama	Music	Geography	French	History	RS	Latin	French	

Computing will be set by the class teacher on the day of the lesson as the classes are mixed.

In addition, Y8 students are expected to read a minimum of 6 books over the course of the year. Teachers of English and the Librarians recommend that students should be reading for a minimum of 10 minutes per day in order to achieve the expectations.