

Home Learning Policy – ENGLISH

KS3

During KS3, students can expect 2 homework tasks a week. Tasks set will include reading, writing, revising or preparing and researching. Some speaking and listening assessments will require students to rehearse their speeches at home, and projects like the Year 7 superhero story or the Fairtrade project may involve drawing and design homeworks. Students can expect to spend between one and two hours a week on English homework.

Every half term, students will complete an assessment that will be accompanied with an assessment record. Students will be set the homework task of completing the student and parent comment boxes. For your part, this will involve reading your child's assessment piece and writing a brief comment on the record giving your feedback on the work and the effort that's gone into it. We have found that this is a good way of ensuring that parents are aware of the quality of their child's work, their progress and targets for improvement. It is also a tool to improve the communication between home and the class teacher.

Students are instructed to write every homework task in their planners with a due date. We expect students to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability and by the deadline. Should a student feel unable to complete the work, it is his or her responsibility to find the teacher prior to the deadline and ask for help or explain what is preventing them meeting the deadline so that we may help the student address the issue.

KS4

During KS4, students can expect 2 or 3 homework tasks a week. Tasks are likely to be research activities, reading, writing and past-paper responses. Some speaking and listening assessments will require students to rehearse their speeches or prepare topics at home. Students can expect to spend between two and three hours a week on English homework – obviously this will increase when revising for an exam.

In preparation for their GCSE exams and A-levels beyond, students are encouraged to be independent learners and completing additional activities to aid their understanding and revision. This could include activities such as revision timetables, practice timed responses, revision mindmaps and annotating exam texts. There are practice papers available from class teachers and on the relevant exam syllabus online. Towards the exams, students are expected to be completing as many practice exam responses as possible under timed conditions at home.

In addition to set homework, it is expected that students are completing a certain amount of wider reading each week. For non-fiction, this can be both broadsheet and tabloid newspapers, as well as magazines, leaflets and autobiographies. For some suggested fiction texts, students can speak to their English teachers or refer to the attached KS4 reading list.

In their English books, students will have an assessment sheet which shows their progress throughout the year. They will have spaces to record marks, grades and targets, as well as skills learnt. This should be kept up-to-date and as detailed as possible so you know how best to support your child and what they are currently working towards.

It is essential that students meet their deadlines and sanctions will be given to students who do not meet expectations.

KS5

Students can expect to be spending 4-5 hours on homework tasks a week. Tasks set will include answering past exam papers, reading and annotating tasks, revising or preparing and researching. Students are expected to read widely around the subject and they have a reading list for suggested ideas.

Students should be completing more independent work in KS5 and need to take responsibility for their own learning. There are a number of past exam questions that students should take the initiative to respond to in their own time. Revision is key: revise work done in class throughout the

year, and ensure understanding. Chapter summaries of novels are essential and notes on themes, narrative devices and techniques used in the text should be completed.

When students are close to exams, they should expect to complete many more timed essays and tasks focused on exam techniques.

It is imperative that students meet all deadlines and sanctions will be given to students who don't meet our expectations.