



HEADLANDS SCHOOL  
SINCE 1965

# Homework Policy

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## Homework Policy

Homework is defined as any work or activity which students are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with parents or carers.

Parents and carers, students and staff are consulted on their views about homework. It is from these views - alongside a synthesis of the best available research - that this policy has been designed.

The main rationale of this policy is to maximise the positive impact that homework can have, while minimising the burden that it can place on students, parents and teachers.

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#### Purpose of homework

- To consolidate and reinforce knowledge and skills that have been taught in classrooms through practice
- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own - an essential skill for adult life and when managing demands such as GCSE and A' Level revision
- To provide a significant opportunity at KS3 for our students to broaden and extend their learning experiences
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands such as Key Stage 3, GCSE or A' level project work
- To allow students to have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners

#### Key Stage Three

At KS3 (year 7, 8 and 9), there are two strands to our homework policy which are laid out in the table below. The homework set by classroom teachers is highly likely to have a positive impact on student progress while minimising the burden it places on all stakeholders. Running alongside this, our enrichment homeworks provide manageable, engaging, and well planned opportunities for our students to extend their learning beyond the classroom without: significantly increased teacher work load; overwhelming amounts of extended homeworks which can place strain on students and parents and carers.

Strand	What homework will be set? How much homework will be set?	Staff responsibilities	How will we encourage students to complete homework?	Why?
Strand 1 - Securing the curriculum	<p>The homework in this strand will be set by classroom teachers and will be designed to secure what has already been taught. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The retrieval of knowledge that has already been taught (for example quizzes)</li> <li>- The practice of skills that have already been reasonably secured (for example practicing paragraph writing or drawing techniques)</li> <li>- Reasonable and accessible extension of learning (for example guided reading on a topic students already have strong understanding of)</li> </ul> <p>Students should expect no more than 30 minutes of homework per subject per week</p>	<p><u>Curriculum leaders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure there is a common and consistent departmental approach to homework</li> <li>- To ensure this is in line with school policy</li> </ul> <p><u>Teaching staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure all classroom homework is retrieval or practice based and is accessible to all students</li> <li>- To ensure the homework set will not exceed 30 minutes a week and that students are given a reasonable period of time to complete homework (usually a week but no less than 3 days)</li> <li>- To ensure homework is uploaded on google classroom (this will link to edulink)</li> <li>- To ensure homework is set with a regular pattern (for example set on a Wednesday and due on a Wednesday)</li> <li>- To provide feedback where it is appropriate</li> <li>- Rewarding homework completion</li> </ul>	<p>At KS3 we encourage our students to complete homework purely through positive reinforcement. All students receive a super stamp for homework completion and positive postcards is also used for excellence in homework completion</p> <p>At KS3, there is no sanction in place for non-completion of homework for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While we want our students to be independent learners, we know that the circumstances of some of our students make this unrealistic at this age and we risk sanctioning our most vulnerable students over something they have limited control over</li> <li>- The impact of homework completion is very unlikely to be worth the staff time spent on both logging sanctions and staffing sanctions such as detentions. This time would be better spent on ensuring quality first teaching and encouraging homework completion. Additionally, repeated sanctions may come at the expense of a positive relationship with the school and teachers.</li> </ul>	<p>The research shows that homework in secondary schools can have significant positive impact but this impact is seen when homework is the retrieval of secure knowledge or practice of secure skills. Setting homework that involves new learning is not efficient and is therefore not a good use of the time and energy of students, parents or teachers</p> <p>We also want our homework to have a positive impact on all of our students regardless of their circumstances outside of school. Therefore, making retrieval and practice based homework as simple and accessible as possible is vital</p>

<p>Strand 2 - Enriching the curriculum</p>	<p>One enrichment homework will be set each half term. Each half term it will be linked to a different subject area (Maths for example)</p> <p>This homework will be an extended task which has been designed by the department to help students to meaningfully extend and enrich their learning in that half term. For example, in one half term, students may be asked to write a poem in a particular style that applies their learning. In a different half term for History, they may be asked to apply their knowledge of castles to building a perfect one</p> <p>Students can commit any amount of time that they wish to this project - it is entirely their project to complete as they wish to</p>	<p><u>Homework lead:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To map homework linked to curriculum areas onto each half term ensuring that all areas are covered</li> <li>- To work with curriculum leaders to ensure that homeworks and their documentation are fit for purpose</li> <li>- To ensure that homeworks are set via whole year group google classroom each half term</li> <li>- To promote student engagement</li> <li>- To co-ordinate the showcasing and rewarding of homework</li> </ul> <p><u>Curriculum leaders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide the homework lead with appropriate homeworks and documentation that is fit for purpose</li> <li>- To participate in judging final projects</li> </ul> <p><u>Classroom teachers:</u></p> <p>To promote student engagement in project homeworks in half terms when it is linked to their subject areas</p>	<p>As above, completion of enrichment projects will be encouraged only through positive reinforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All students who complete a project will be rewarded with a positive postcard from the homework lead</li> <li>- The students who are judged to have completed one of the best three projects in each half term will receive a more significant reward (currently, they get a choice between a 'queue jump' card that they can use for a whole half term or a voucher for 5 free break time snacks</li> </ul>	<p>While we know that homework is most effective when it is based around retrieval, we do not want our policy to place a ceiling on our students' learning and their love of learning. We want them to have an opportunity to extend and enrich their knowledge and skills but also to develop a love of more autonomous learning</p> <p>This strand gives our students varied, clearly planned and well thought through opportunities to extend and enrich their learning while making sure that this style of extended homework is not placing unnecessary burdens on our students, parents, and teachers</p>
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## Key Stage Four

In Years 10 & 11, students are only set classroom based homework which is aimed at securing the taught curriculum. Details of this are shown in the table below.

Purpose	What homework will be set? How much homework will be set?	Staff responsibilities	How will we encourage students to complete homework?	Why?
All homework set at KS4 will be designed to secure the taught curriculum	<p>Homework will be set by classroom teachers and will be designed to secure what has already been taught. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The retrieval of knowledge that has already been taught (for example quizzes)</li> <li>- The practice of skills that have already been reasonably secured (for example practicing exam style questions)</li> <li>- The reasonable and accessible extension of learning (for example guided reading on a topic student already have strong understanding of)</li> </ul> <p>Students should expect no more than 60 minutes of homework per subject per week</p>	<p><u>Curriculum leaders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure there is a common and consistent departmental approach to homework</li> <li>- To ensure this is in line with school policy</li> </ul> <p><u>Teaching staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure all classroom homework is in line with school policy</li> <li>- To ensure the homework set will not exceed 60 minutes a week and that students are given a reasonable period of time to complete homework (usually a week but no less than 3 days)</li> <li>- To ensure homework is uploaded on google classroom (this will link to edulink)</li> <li>- To ensure homework is set with a regular pattern (for example set on a Wednesday and due on a Wednesday)</li> <li>- To provide feedback where it is appropriate</li> </ul>	<p>At KS4 we encourage our students to complete homework mainly through positive reinforcement. All students will receive a super stamp for homework completion and positive postcards will also be used for excellence in homework completion.</p> <p>At KS4, due to the importance of homework completion, there is a sanction in place for non-completion the process for which is laid out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Homework is set with a reasonable deadline</li> <li>- Homework is not handed in</li> <li>- Student is given a reasonable extension (at least 1 day)</li> <li>- Homework is not handed in again</li> <li>- A comment is added on edulink for non-completion of homework</li> </ul>	<p>The research shows that homework in secondary schools can have significant positive impact but this impact is seen when homework is the retrieval of secure knowledge or practice of secure skills. Setting homework that involves new learning is not efficient and is therefore not a good use of the time and energy of students, parents or teachers.</p> <p>We also want our homework to have a positive impact on all of our students regardless of their circumstances outside of school. Therefore, making retrieval and practice based homework as simple and accessible as possible is vital to ensure all of our students can benefit from its positive impacts.</p> <p>At KS4, we do not have an enrichment strand to our</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This comment will stop the student from being able to leave site at lunch time until homework is up to date</li> </ul> <p>This sanction is reasonable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students are given an extension</li> <li>- It avoids higher level sanctions</li> <li>- It is designed to be inconvenient enough to encourage homework completion while not damaging attitudes to learning and the school</li> <li>- Students have been encouraged and taught to have strong independent study habits throughout KS3</li> </ul> <p>This sanction also avoids the high staff time spend of sanctions such as detentions.</p>	<p>homework policy. This is because we know that the time that our students have outside of school is finite. We want our students to engage in a range of extracurricular activities as part of the school community and the broader community. The time that they do spend completing school work outside of school hours we want to be activities that we are certain of having a positive impact on their academic progress and outcomes - retrieval of secure knowledge and practice of secure skills.</p>
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## **Key stage Five**

Students in Years 12 and 13 are expected to devote approximately five hours per week outside lessons to each subject. Some of this will be directed by their teachers but some will also be self-directed - this is to help them develop as independent learners. In addition to this, students are encouraged to read as widely as possible around their chosen subjects to broaden their knowledge and become increasingly independent lifelong learners in preparation for Further or Higher Education and the world of work.

### **Student responsibilities:**

- Should ensure they have access to their school Gmail account and have joined their Google classroom for each of their classes.
- Should check their classroom regularly to find out what homework has been set; they can also write homework into their diary (this is contained within the Student Planner).
- Need to accept that deadlines must be kept.
- Need to find out what work has been missed and catch up on it if they have been absent.
- Should see the member of staff concerned and ask for help so that problems with homework can be resolved before the deadline.
- Should take pride in doing their best.

### **Parents' and Carers' role in homework**

There is strong evidence that homework is most successful where families support the students in their work and this practice develops home-school partnership.

Parents and carers can support students with their homework by:

- Providing a reasonable place for their child to work or encouraging them to make use of the school's facilities.
- Monitoring their child's homework on Google Classroom / Edulink to allow them to view when homework has been set.
- Helping their child to meet homework deadlines by having good routines.
- Making it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them to progress.
- Offering encouragement and praise when homework is completed.

**If parents and carers feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the Tutor who will investigate the situation in the first instance.**