



21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### Re: Homework

As part of our adjustments to school systems in response to COVID-19, we have a new homework policy in place. The existing homework policy could have led to mixing of bubbles when detentions took place, for example, so we have taken the opportunity to update it. The details are outlined below.

#### The purposes of homework

Homework is a vital component of secondary education. It shows students that mastery of their subjects requires independent effort, focus on learning even when their teachers are not watching, and deliberate practice. We value students' efforts on homework and expect them to value it too. You can support your child by checking their completion of homework, ensuring it is submitted on time and to a high standard. Doing so has the core benefit of your child learning more, and the secondary benefit of your child learning the importance of working independently and meeting deadlines.

Please support your child by providing a calm, quiet environment for completion of homework. Removing phones, TV, games consoles (or ensuring they are switched off) from the room while homework is completed is strongly advised.

We also value reading for pleasure very highly. Reading is the single best activity a student can do to widen their knowledge and understanding of the world, make sense of the complex emotional lives of humans, and even improve their mental health. So, students should read a lot in their free time, and all teachers and parents/carers have a responsibility to encourage this. It is also very helpful to have your child read to you from time to time.

Students can access the library (Y7/8: Monday & Tuesday; Y9/10: Thursday & Friday; Y11: Wednesday), use the Click and Collect system for borrowing books and speak to their English teachers about borrowing books to read.

#### The expectations of time spent on homework

The following gives an approximate guide to the amount of homework you can expect your child to complete.

In **Key Stage 3**, students should receive and complete the following:

English, mathematics and science	30 minutes per week
Geography, history and languages	30 minutes per fortnight
All other subjects	Two one-hour tasks per half term

In **Key Stage 4**, students should receive and complete the following:

English, mathematics and science (see note for Y9 science below)	1 hour per week
Option subjects	1 hour per fortnight per subject
Religious studies (core for Y10 and Y11)	1 hour per fortnight
All Y9 students study separate sciences (GCSE biology, chemistry and physics)	30 minutes per discipline per week

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- Teachers will set homework on Class Charts AND will explain homework tasks in lessons.
- Teachers will make the expected standard clear to students.
- On the due date, teachers will collect homework or ask students to mark their work during the lesson. Teachers will check that completion is to a high standard.
- Over a school holiday, homework will be set on the usual day and collected on return, maintaining the usual days of setting and collecting homework but across the holiday, such that students have the same amount of homework but more time to do it.

### **Incomplete homework**

Teachers will check homework completion during the lesson on the due date.

If a student has either failed to complete the homework or has produced work of an unacceptable standard, the following will happen:

- After explaining the task again if necessary, teachers will ask the student to complete the homework ready for next lesson.
- Teachers will record a Homework Negative.
- Accrual of **three** Homework Negatives in a week will result in referral to a compulsory homework intervention the following Tuesday. Parents/carers will receive contact about this before the Tuesday.
- Homework interventions take place for **one hour** after school on a Tuesday.
- The bubble locations for compulsory homework intervention are as follows:
  - Years 7 and 8 in IT8 (Arts Block)
  - Years 9 and 10 in IT1 (Quad)
  - Year 11 in IT2

Failure to attend compulsory homework intervention sessions results in referral to RTL the following day. If a student misses less than three homework tasks for three weeks, they will not reach the current threshold for a sanction, but please expect contact from the school as we don't want a trend emerging. Please note, three missed homework tasks as a threshold will be under review regularly; we'll contact you if it changes.

Under current circumstances, during or after any absences from school, students should check homework on Class Charts and attempt to catch up on anything missed.

### **Homework Club**

For students in Y7-10 who require support in completing their homework, homework club commences from week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020. It runs from 3.30 - 4.30 pm, with different bubbles on different days as follows:

Y7&8 in room E3 on Mondays

Y9&10 in room E2 on Wednesdays

***Please note, there will be no late bus service.***

Please get in touch via your child's tutor or year lead if there are specific issues with homework completion.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Wilson  
Deputy Headteacher