

Key Stage Four Homework Information for Parents

Below is a brief summary of the homework expectation for each subject at KS4. You can find details of specific tasks and deadlines on each subject's VLE page. Pupils should also record homework in their pupil planners.

Art and Design

How often is homework set?

Homework is set every week and the expectation is that pupils produce at least two hours of homework per week to support their studies. Homework can be done in sketchbooks or on paper depending upon the task and the specific needs of the pupil. Work can be completed at home or in art rooms after college if specific materials are required.

What sorts of tasks are set?

Tasks vary, ranging from collecting and photographing the world around them to drawing and painting. Pupils will complete work based on their specific needs and the project they are studying. All homework will support completion of marking objectives and will count towards the final GCSE grade achieved. Work can be completed at home or in art rooms after college if specific materials are required.

How do homework tasks support learning?

Work will encourage independence and will support progress at GCSE level. All pupil work should be of best quality and will enhance the project they are studying. All homework will be targeted at specific marking objects and will be assessed as part of coursework requirements

Business Studies

How often is homework set?

Some tasks are weekly, some are fortnightly, depending on the point reached in the specification.

What sorts of tasks are set?

- Research about various businesses and aspects of how they are run.
- Practice questions using case study background materials.
- Revision.
- Producing a PowerPoint presentation on a topic.
- Writing a report about an aspect of business.
- Producing posters and leaflets.

How do homework tasks support learning?

They allow pupils to find out in more depth about aspects covered in class. They develop research skills which will be invaluable for doing controlled assessment. They reinforce learning that has already happened in the classroom.

They allow pupils to consolidate their knowledge at their own pace in preparation for tests and exams.

They are able to show what they can do independently and allow the teacher to assess their progress and what support may be needed.

Dance

How often is homework set?

Weekly, however a lot of the homework set in Year 11 is practical based coursework. The pupils are to work on their own choreography worth 40% of their final mark. Over the summer holidays they start individual pieces which need to be finished by December of year 11. During this time they will also be set work focused on the professional works studied in class in preparation for the written paper.

What sorts of tasks are set?

Practical: Continuation of choreography pieces. Either creating or teaching to other pupils.

Theory: Short answer questions and revision of professional work booklets. Naming of choreographers, lighting designers, costume designers etc.

How do homework tasks support learning?

Consolidation of learning from lessons.

Opportunity to link the theory with the practical elements.

Revision opportunity prior to exams.

Time allocation for pupils to develop their choreography. Facilities are provided for them to use.

Design and Technology Subjects (including Child Development)

How often is homework set?

Weekly

What sort of tasks are set?

- Tasks are sometimes recapping and extension of work covered within lessons; question & answers set to reinforce knowledge.
- Researching and investigational tasks.
- Questions to develop designing skills.
- Problem solving questions, to develop creative thinking.
- Designing/developing of ideas/work that will enhance controlled assessments.
- Revision and exam technique and preparation.

How do homework tasks support learning?

- Reinforce knowledge learnt during lesson.
- Research tasks develop investigational skills when exploring existing products.
- Develop designing skills to improve problem solving techniques and develop creative thinking.

Drama

How often is homework set?

Due to the practical nature of much of the course homework is set when necessary. Homework may be set once every two weeks during preparatory work for an assessment but then a pupil may be rehearsing every day after school in the week leading up to the assessment.

What sorts of tasks are set?

- After school rehearsals
- Research tasks
- Line learning
- Script writing
- Revision (for written paper)
- Evaluation of practical work
- Practical log books

How do homework tasks support learning?

Homework tasks extend class learning, allow opportunities for individual development and enable pupils the opportunities to further extend and enhance their work.

English and Literature

How often is homework set?

Homework is sometimes set weekly although is more likely to be set thematically; thus linked to an on-going piece of class work.

What sorts of tasks are set?

- Research
- Planning for Controlled Assessments
- Reading
- Timed essays (45 minutes)

How do homework tasks support learning?

All homework tasks are set to support and / or consolidate pupils' learning: in Yr10 homework will be directly linked to preparing for Controlled Assessments; in Yr11 homework will be directly linked to revising for the GCSE exams.

Geography

How often is homework set?

Homework is set at least once a fortnight dependant on the work currently being studied in lessons and the type of homework being set.

What sorts of tasks are set?

Tasks can vary from completion of exam style questions, research on a particular event in the media or a specific aspect of a topic, writing up a neat version of class notes for an important case study, group work for presentations and revision of previous work for an assessment.

How do homework tasks support learning?

The tasks are designed to assess and consolidate pupils' understanding of topics taught in previous lessons and develop their research skills, especially their use of secondary data. This allows pupils to reflect on what they have learnt then apply that knowledge in a new context.

History

How often is homework set?

Once a week. During the run-up period to the mock examinations pupils are issued with a time tabled guide of topics which require revision to be completed every day.

What sorts of tasks are set?

Answer specific source based questions.
Completing examination style questions.
Revision for End of Unit exam (not annual mock examinations).
Time tabled revision guide (pupils asked to devote 20 minutes a day to a specific topic)

How do homework tasks support learning?

The examination questions develop pupils' understanding of how to apply the knowledge they have acquired in lessons to a GCSE question.
Practise of source based questions to improve source analysis skills.
A focused revision time table guide to enable pupils to revise in a coherent manner and ensure all pertinent topics are adequately covered.

ICT

How often is homework set?

Pupils are given deadlines by which to complete each section of their coursework – if pupils are falling behind they must ensure they use time at home to complete the work.

What sorts of tasks are set?

Completing coursework tasks not finished in lessons plus specific tasks to consolidate and extend classroom learning. Often homework is on the computer and submitted online – any pupils without a computer are given time at lunch/break/before/after college where they can use the ICT suites.

How do homework tasks support learning?

By:

1. recapping classwork
2. preparing for next lesson
3. extending work covered in class.

Maths

How often is homework set?

Weekly

What sorts of tasks are set?

All pupils have a homework book. Homework will be set from this to consolidate work they have completed in lesson time. Pupils are also on occasion set online homework from the 'Mymaths' website. This is either work to consolidate classwork or revision using the booster packs.

How do homework tasks support learning?

Homework consolidates pupils learning and develops their understanding of the work being taught in class.

Media Studies

How often is homework set?

Weekly

What sorts of tasks are set?

Pupils are unable to complete work to do with controlled assessments, as these are designed for medium control in lessons. As such, pupils are asked to complete internet research, reading and other written activities, associated with the completion of controlled assessments. Year 11 pupils will also be asked to complete coursework for their English folder, but this has changed for Year 10. Pupils will often be required to plan first drafts; to bring in supplements for their assessments – such as original artwork and images; pupils will also be asked to bring in different forms of media: for example the current Year 11 have been bringing magazines in, to annotate as part of their planning for the final controlled assessment. When pupils annotate this and deconstruct it, it will be submitted as evidence of planning.

How do homework tasks support learning?

By enabling pupils to engage independent thinking, outside of the classroom environment. It also encourages personal organisation skills.

Modern Foreign Languages

How often is homework set?

Weekly

What sorts of tasks are set?

There are two types of homework task in MFL. Pupils will either be required to learn vocabulary and/or structures or they will be asked to do a written or comprehension style task.

How do homework tasks support learning?

Pupils' homework tasks consolidate the class work and pupils are expected to use classroom learning and then modify, manipulate and personalise the language at home. Pupils are encouraged to use dictionaries sparingly as they should have the structures required to produce the task at home. Occasional words may be looked up using an internet translator, but verbs and whole sentences must not be done using translation programs.

Music

How often is homework set?

Weekly

What sorts of tasks are set?

Preparation for compositions and performance coursework.
Revision and research tasks relating to the set works on the listening paper.

How do homework tasks support learning?

Preparation tasks enable pupils to be prepared for the controlled assessment composing and performance elements of the course (60% of the final grade). The revision and research tasks enable the pupils to be prepared for the listening exam (40% of the final grade).

PE

How often is homework set?

At least once a fortnight depending on the complexity of the task.

What sorts of tasks are set?

Tasks will vary from revision and consolidation tasks, to tasks that require research and planning on the pupils' part. These tasks will be dependant on the topic and whether the work is in the practical or theoretical element of the course.

How do homework tasks support learning?

Tasks support learning through consolidation of existing learning and also provide greater time than is available in a class environment for self opinion and reflection.

Religious Education

How often is homework set?

Weekly

What sorts of tasks are set?

1. Exam type questions to consolidate the learning from lessons. These questions will usually take between 15 to 30 minutes depending on the type of question and how much work was done on the topic in class.
2. Revision for end of unit tests.
3. Posting in the discussions on the VLE.
4. Researching the topics to be studied .

How do homework tasks support learning?

Homework is set to allow pupils to become more competent in answering exam questions. Pupils may have been taking notes or involved in discussion during the lesson and the homework is set to ensure they understand how to apply the information to an exam question.

Homework will also support pupils' ability to structure answers and answer questions independently without the support of their teacher or peers.

Science

How often is homework set?

Homework is normally set on a weekly basis, although it may be fortnightly, depending on the task.

What sorts of tasks are set?

Homework may take the form of:

- Specific tasks or worksheets
 - Prepared homework sheets – available in the orange folders
 - Past ISA papers
- Questions or pages from the revision guides supplied
- SAM Learning tasks
- Clearly identified research tasks
- Other related homework tasks

There may be other more general homework set in addition, such as revision for upcoming exams.

How do homework tasks support learning?

Homework reflects and consolidates the learning that is being carried out within the subject or module and may act as a preview of upcoming topics or as revision for content already covered.