

## 034 Homework

<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>CT</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>October 2017</b>
<b>Next Review:</b>	<b>October 2019</b>

### Homework

**At Holmfirth, we consider homework to be an important part of the learning process: it allows students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study independently. The setting of high quality homework tasks allows students to consolidate their in-class learning and address any knowledge gaps they may have.**

At Holmfirth, we believe in setting homework when it is necessary, relevant and meaningful. Therefore, your child may not be set homework on a strictly weekly basis in all subject areas. Instead, their teachers will set homework when they deem it is necessary and meaningful for the students' development. Students should expect to receive feedback on their homework: this may be verbal or written. This feedback should make clear any targets for further development needed.

As students progress through the school, they can expect the homework and revision demands to increase, in line with external examinations. By the end of KS4, it is expected that students, as well as completing set homework and revision tasks, will be driving their own learning by reading widely and revising key content and skills.

Homework may be set using a variety of media, often including digital formats such as Frog, GCSEpod and Kerboodle. However, all students are still expected to write their homework in their school planner. For students who do not have access to a computer or the internet at home, the school library is open from 8am every day. Here students can access the internet and a range of resources to support them with their homework. The school also runs a homework club 'Twilight' which runs from 3.30pm – 5pm Monday – Thursday and is staffed by a teacher who is on hand to support students with their homework.

### How parents/carers can help

The support that students receive at home can be very beneficial in their progress. It is important to note that 'support' is the key word. Too much help can mean students are not developing independence and teachers will find it difficult to accurately gauge a child's progress if the work is not their own. However, too little can mean work is rushed, incomplete or ill thought through. Below you'll find some suggestions on how to support your child with their homework. Obviously, this is dependent upon various factors including their age and level of independence:

- Check your child's planner on a daily basis, perhaps transferring deadlines to a shared calendar. Every piece of homework your child is set can be monitored via the Frog app which provides a countdown to hand in dates and helps students prioritise their work.
- Remind them to pack their bag the night before school, to ensure homework is not forgotten.
- Encourage your child to look at any homework the same day it is set. If they are confident with the work, they may want to leave completing it until later in the week. Where they are unsure, they will have plenty of time to seek clarification from their class teacher prior to the hand in date.

- Get them to explain their homework to you before they start. Ask them about checklists for success to ensure they do everything required.
- Get them to plan out how they will approach the homework before they start.
- Check in with your child mid-way through to ensure that they are on track.
- Remind them regularly that it is essential they seek out subject teachers for support whenever they are struggling with a homework task. Not understanding something only becomes a problem if they fail to seek help.
- Ask them to show you their completed homework before they hand it in. They should be proud of the work they've produced and as such this should be a positive experience. If they are not proud of what they've done, we may question the value of the work in driving forward their learning.
- Remind them of the importance of using a range of sources for revision, including library research and the internet. It is essential however, that they put the research into their own words.
- Ask them to consider their targets from previous home and class work before they start.
- Ask them to teach you something they have covered in class, a powerful tool when revising content!

### **Work completed at home may take many forms, however you can expect to see:**

- Independent projects completed over a longer period of time. Often, the pace and direction of these projects will be driven by the students, with an end date in mind, or intermediate dates for checking progress.
- Research and knowledge retrieval: this may take the form of students finding certain information prior to beginning a topic, or to consolidate or further class knowledge.
- Completing quizzes and questions to help teacher and student assess their progress.
- Completing paragraphs and essays to demonstrate their learning.
- Acting on feedback from class work.
- Doing exam questions or papers.
- Revision tasks like posters, leaflets, videos and word walls.
- Practical projects.

### **Rewards and sanctions**

It is expected that all homework is completed to a high standard and meets the agreed assessment criteria and deadlines.

Students will be rewarded, in line with school policy, for the submission of high quality pieces of homework.

Where a teacher feels a student has not completed the homework to the best of their ability, they will be asked to do it again and a new deadline set.

Failure to complete homework, without a valid reason, will result in the following:

- A note in your child's planner and a new deadline agreed?
- A note in your child's planner and a detention arranged to complete the task.

Repeated failure to submit homework on time may result in:

- Recommendation to Twilight?
- Subject report
- Head of year report
- Meeting with parents

### **Problems?**

If you or your child encounters any issues regarding their homework, please feel free to contact their teachers for support in the normal way.