



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 have been consulted on their views about homework. It is from these views that this policy has been designed.

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Purpose of homework

- 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 coursework
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- To provide a significant opportunity for our students to broaden and extend their learning experiences, for example through additional reading
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE coursework or project work
- To allow students to have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners

Students will gain access to their homework using the Show My Homework App or website. They can also choose to record it into their diary (the diary is contained within the Student Planner).

When students do not complete homework, teachers will record a Homework Detention on the schools Data Management System and in the Student Planners. Please note this is the only way in which teachers will report to parents a Homework Detention has been set.

Amount of homework

Key Stage Three

In Years 7 & 8 students can usually expect to have homework on a weekly basis in all subjects. On average, students can expect to receive 30 minutes of homework per week, per subject. For some subjects, homework may require more than 30 minutes of work but be set less frequently. For others (for example in Maths or English), shorter pieces of homework may be set but more frequently. Teachers will not normally set homework tasks that need completing for the next day to allow students to manage their time effectively.

Key Stage Four

In Years 9, 10 & 11 students will be set weekly homework for each examined subject. On average, students can expect to receive 60 minutes of homework per week, per subject. As for Key Stage 3, this may be more or less frequent, depending on the demands of the subject and the time of year. For example, students may expect more homework towards periods of coursework / controlled

assessment or before examinations. The same sanctions / procedure will be followed in terms of non-completion of homework.

Sixth Form

Students in Years 12 and 13 are expected to devote approximately five hours per week outside lessons to each subject. 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.

Types of homework

Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take into account individual needs.

Homework might include such things as:

- Written assignments
- Learning aspects of work
- Preparing a presentation
- Reading in preparation for a lesson
- Practical application of skills
- Finding out information and researching a project through use of Libraries, Museums, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Tourist Information, Travel Agencies, shops and other similar sources of information together with the full range of media – magazines, periodicals, newspapers, TV, ICT, Internet.

Responsibilities

Students

- Should set up their account on the Show My Homework app using a Smartphone/Tablet or via the Show My Homework website. They should check the app/website 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.
Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it
- Should see the member of staff concerned and ask for help so that problems with homework can be resolved before the deadline
- Should take a pride in doing their best.

Subject Teachers

- Will identify, with students, when they will usually set homework, and when it will be handed in.
- Will set appropriate homework tasks with a clear purpose within the guidelines of the school policy.
- Will ensure that all homework set is added to the Show My Homework app / website and is therefore visible to students and parents with clear details for completion and deadlines.
- Will ensure that there is more than one night in which to complete homework to allow students to plan their time, participate in out of school activities if they wish, and still be able to do their homework
- Will mark homework with feedback given to students in line with the school's assessment policy
- Will liaise with parents and carers over any concerns that may arise and communicate Homework Detentions via the Student Planner providing 24 hours notice.

Subject Leaders

- Will monitor that all teachers in their department are setting appropriate homework regularly and marking it in line with the school's assessment policy.

- Will support staff where issues around completion or quality of student homework appear by coordinating letters home and liaising with the Head of Year as necessary.

Tutors

- Will make themselves aware of the nature and amount of homework set for students in their tutor group, signing the Student Planner on a weekly basis
- Will contact parents, when issues surrounding homework arise.

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 the app/website to allow them to view when homework has been set.
- Helping their child to meet homework deadlines by having good routines and regularly signing their Student Planner
- 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.

Non-completion of homework

Students will be reminded about Homework deadlines. Deadlines will be clearly detailed from the teacher on the app/website.

When homework has not been done, appropriate action will be taken as summarised below:

- Students will be **reminded** about their homework and will be given a second opportunity to hand it in
- If students miss this additional opportunity, there will be a **Homework Detention** set as consequence. This detention will be communicated to parents and carers via the Student Planner providing 24 hours' notice. Class teachers will take the time to discuss why homework has not been completed and ascertain whether or not a student should be encouraged to attend Homework Club where appropriate in the future
- Homework Detentions will be set for at least 30 minutes and no longer than 1 hour
- Should students fail to attend the Homework Detention, class teachers will record this on the school's Data Management System; this will result in a 1 hour detention led by the Senior Leadership Team. It will be communicated to parents/carers by text message and will also be stamped in the Student Planner. It could also result in the following sanctions:
 1. Subject Area Report x 2 weeks reporting to ELT
 2. Class teacher contact home & discuss support strategies / offer of Homework Club
 3. Class teacher informs Class Tutor via email and ascertains if a pattern is emerging in terms of homework completion
- Should none of the above have the desired impact, the class teacher will inform the student's HOY, ELT & SLT link via email and inform them of the dates homework has been set and the tasks not completed. SLT link will then discuss at Student Progress Meeting and agree appropriate actions.

Reasonable adjustments and allowances may be made where the school feels this is necessary, and in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty Act.