



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Homework Policy

Approved by the LGB, January 2021

Introduction

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

Homework should not prevent students from participating in activities after school such as sport, music or clubs of any kind.

The purpose of homework

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE coursework, project work or revision.
- To support the home/school relationship.

The amount of homework

The school does not have a fixed homework timetable for each year group. Each subject should set a maximum of one hour per fortnight, with no less than two working days given to complete the work. Students will need to learn to manage their time so that they do some homework each evening.

This will mean, in practice, a student will receive one or two pieces per evening. The reason for doing this was to allow for longer projects to be set, as well as trying to de-clutter the arrangements. At GCSE, some subjects (e.g. DT and Computing) also require ongoing coursework which need to be built into the routine. In some cases, more than one piece may be set per fortnight, but not totalling more than one hour of work.

The importance of reading regularly as part of a student's literacy education should also be emphasised. The benefits of reading widely extend across the entire curriculum and are proven to improve GCSE achievement, so this is in addition to regular homework. Pupils' reading choices will be supported by reading recommendations from their teachers and the Library.

A booklet has been produced for KS3 students to extend their learning and to provide extension activities. This can be found on the school's website, under curriculum: https://qmg.s.walsall.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-21_curriculum_ks3_homework_extension_activities.pdf

Students in Year 10-11 should have between an hour and an hour and a half per subject, per-week. A Key Stage 4 Wider Reading list containing suggestions per subject is also available from the school library and online at: http://qmg.s.walsall.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019_ks4_reading_list.pdf

Students in Years 12 and 13 are expected to devote approximately five hours per week outside lessons to each subject. As per the home-school agreement, students may seek to do part of this commitment during SPS or PS periods. Students are encouraged in addition, to read as widely as possible around their chosen subjects to broaden their knowledge. There are a wide range of online extension materials recommended for this purpose:

<https://www.ted.com/talks>

<https://explore.org/>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iwonder>

<https://www.coursera.org/>

Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take into account individual needs, and the SEND framework (see SEND policy).

Types of homework

Homework might include such things as:

- Writing assignments.
- Learning assignments.
- Preparing an oral presentation.
- Reading in preparation for a lesson.
- Finding out information/researching a project.

It is important that students should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners. Part of this process is to make good use of the growing range of high-quality, free online resources available to all, such as:

<https://www.senecalearning.com/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Organisation of homework

All students have a Homework Diary which they should carry with them at all times to record their homework. Tutors and parents/carers are asked to check and sign these on a weekly basis. This is to ensure parents are aware of the homework being set in each subject, and to verify that these tasks are being completed.

Blended / Remote Learning:

QMGS has adopted Microsoft Teams as the online learning platform for the delivery of remote education. This has allowed for online learning to take place in the event of the closure of schools during national lockdowns due to the coronavirus pandemic, and in case students have to self-isolate. This platform has enabled teachers to set homework via Teams during this time, in the form of student "Assignments". Departments may require students to complete work on Teams; or in another form and upload it to Teams; or through signposting to other online or physical resources. However each department views the mode of homework-setting, the central record of that homework will be held on Teams. Parents are being provided with a weekly digest of assignments set and will therefore be able to check on the timely completion of tasks. All parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with their child's Teams area.

Non-completion of homework

When homework has not been done, appropriate action will be taken by the department. This will be recorded on SIMS as a behaviour point and could include a break-time, lunchtime or an after-school detention, or even a Saturday Detention if time is required to catch up. Parents/carers should where possible, receive twenty-four hours' notice in writing of the school detention so they can make arrangements for their child to get home safely. The after-school detention will last no longer than 50 minutes, with Saturday Morning detentions lasting 3 hours. The Head of Year should be informed of all detentions given by the class teacher by receiving the slip after the detention has been completed.

School's responsibilities

The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate homework and marking it regularly. They should **check that students are recording details of homework set in their planners and are completing assignments on Teams in a timely manner.** In Years 7-9 homework should be set to ensure that there is more than one night in which to do it. This allows students to plan their time, participate in out of school activities if they wish, and still be able to do their homework. Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their department are setting appropriate homework regularly and marking it.

Parents'/Carers' role in homework

- Parents/carers should support students with their homework but accept that their role should become less important as students become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/carers should try and provide a reasonable place where students can work or encourage them to make use of the school's facilities.

- Parents/carers should encourage students to meet homework deadlines.
- If parents/carers feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the Head of Year who will investigate the situation, or comment on the parent questionnaire at parents' evening.
- Parents/carers should make it clear to students that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them to progress.
- Parents/carers should encourage students and praise them when homework is completed.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to download and engage with their child's academic and behaviour data contained within Parent App.

Students' responsibilities

- Students should always carry their Homework diaries with them.
- Students should record all of the homework set including research, revision and reading tasks, even if they have written it in detail in their exercise book.
- Students should regularly check their Teams "Assignments" area, where all homework should be recorded.
- Students need to accept that deadlines must be adhered to.
- If students are absent, they need to find out what work has been missed and catch up on it.

Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.

- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary students should see the member of staff concerned for help.
- Students should take a pride in doing their best.

In pursuit of this Policy, the School aims to provide:

- An after school homework club on Monday – Thursday each week from 3.40pm-4.40pm where pupils can complete homework before leaving school and access help with homework, should it be required. Parents can book places through the Parent Pay website.
- A structure which monitors, encourages and seeks to improve systematic and consistent academic work;
- Recognised mechanisms whereby pupils and their parents can bring difficulties and problems, regarding homework academic and otherwise, to the School's attention, for confidential discussion and advice, including consideration as a specific SEN;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop responsibilities by assisting others by peer mentoring homework

The School will endeavour to implement these Aims as follows:

Form Tutors will

- check on a weekly basis the homework set and parental signatures verifying they have seen and checked the work
- Monitor and record use of Homework diaries on a termly basis for Heads of Year.

Heads of Year will

- arrange for pupils to be placed on Work or Behaviour Watch, as a result of poor performance regarding homework and informs parents
- Monitor SIMS for the accrual of behaviour points by individual pupils
- Bring to the attention of the Relevant Heads of Department and the Assistant Head (Mr Brown) any concerns with pupils who persistently fail to complete homework, or meet deadlines during the weekly meeting.
- Arrange Year meetings with Form Tutors and check diaries are up to date and signed, utilising the skills of the form prefect to assist with the task.
- Support subject teachers who are experiencing difficulties obtaining homework from difficult pupils.
- Ensure all information is placed in pupils' files and recorded in SIMS and/or CPOMS
- Keep parents aware of any issues regarding homework for individuals
- Monitor subject areas failing to set appropriate levels or quantities of Homework.

Sixth form mentors are available to assist pupils by arrangement with Heads of Year

The teachers responsible for the implementation of this policy are: Mr Brown (Assistant Head – Behaviour) Mr M. Lax (Deputy Head – Curriculum).