

	POLICY TITLE:	Home Learning
Kingsmead Academy T/A Kingsmead School		
Committee/Person Responsible for Policy:		Head Teacher Provision & Progress Sub-Committee
Date Approved by Governing Body:		December 2019
Date of Last Review:		Term 6 2019/2020
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Associated policies:		Teaching and Learning; Marking and Feedback; Literacy across the Curriculum; Departmental Schemes of Work and Handbooks; Intervention ; English as an Additional Language (EAL); Numeracy across the Curriculum: Staff code of conduct

Home Learning Policy

We believe that students need to extend their learning at school by spending periods of time learning at home. The purpose of learning at home is:

- to reinforce, extend and enrich learning at school.
- to help develop students' independent learning without teacher direction.
- for students to manage learning by organising time and meeting deadlines.
- for students to take increasing responsibility for the quality of their own work.
- to practise learning in an environment which is largely in the student's control.
- to have opportunities to involve members of their family as co-educators.

Aims

It is essential that relevant and purposeful home learning is undertaken. Responsibility for this lies with the school, the student and the parents.

The school will ensure that home learning is regularly and appropriately set and that the purpose of the task is clear and meaningful. Home Learning tasks are differentiated by quantity and difficulty to meet all needs and ability levels. Deadlines are realistic to ensure students have sufficient time to complete the task to a high standard.

Expectations

For all years, each subject area should set a minimum of one Home Learning task per fortnight. The amount and duration of tasks will vary depending on the year group. For example, in Year 7 we expect an hour's work a night on average to be reasonable. In Year 8 there may be up to an hour and a half Home Learning each night. This gradually increases in Years 9, 10 and 11 depending on the course and examination requirements. Extended Learning projects may be set in place of fortnightly tasks which require students to plan work over a longer period to meet a deadline.

The overview of expected Home Learning tasks for each curriculum area and each year group are published on our website. There are a few subjects where home learning is not appropriate, especially in Years 7 and 8. These subjects include Drama, Music and Physical Education. Where these subjects are studied at GCSE level home learning will be set.

All Home Learning tasks will be set online using Firefly with a date for completion. Tasks will be shared with students at the beginning of the lesson, where possible, and students will be given the opportunity to ask questions for clarification. Students will be expected to complete all Home Learning and to undertake further study in a subject if Home Learning has not been set.

We expect that our students will always do Home Learning when it is set on Firefly. Developments in ICT and our use of Firefly will enable students to complete some home learning online and to receive immediate feedback. Parents/Carers will also have improved access to the work their child is completing in school and will be in a much stronger position to help and support. With greater access comes greater responsibility for students and parents. It will be essential for both parties to follow the guidance given in the student and parent Acceptable Use Policy for ICT & Online Safety with reference to accessing the school network.

Ideally, students should be given at least a week to complete substantial home learning tasks. Students should indicate completion of tasks on Firefly when they have finished the Home Learning task. Where Home Learning has not been completed, a record will be kept by the teacher. An extension deadline may be given but failure to complete the Home Learning task will result in an appropriate sanction by the subject teacher.

Students' efforts will be celebrated and acknowledged with feedback as appropriate.

SLT and Heads of department are responsible for monitoring the quality and quantity of Home Learning within their subject area.

Learning at home

Learning at home will take a variety of forms. Many learning tasks will be set by the teacher at school. These may be specific exercises or more open-ended research, revision or learning. Home learning tasks are not always the same for every student in a class. During assessment periods, Home Learning will typically be revision.

When home learning tasks are not set, students should take responsibility for selecting an area of further study in that subject to consolidate the learning process by initiating activities which revise, reinforce and apply prior learning. Students will be able to develop, with school support, a range of strategies to do this.

The nature of this personal study could be:

- To revise or review the work covered in the lesson.
- To make further enquiries about a topic or undertake research.
- To discuss the content of a lesson or topic with another person.
- To reflect on the wider issues of the topic.
- To devise simple tests and undertake them.
- To check facts and information.
- To undertake further reading.
- To produce extension work in written or diagrammatic form.
- Learning undertaken with support of family members.

Support with Home Learning

Home Learning should not be a source of stress or anxiety for students, families or staff. Learning undertaken with support of family members could happen both with teacher-set tasks and student-initiated learning. We envisage it will happen most commonly in KS3 at Kingsmead, although many older students will welcome the interest and active involvement of family members. Family members, especially parents/carers, will need information about syllabuses, assessment criteria and methods of learning if they are to be supportive. This can be found on the school website.

The success of home learning largely depends on the triangle partnership between students, parents/carers and school. We would ask our parents to support us with the home learning policy and actively help their children wherever possible.

It would be beneficial if parents could:

- Provide a quiet area for study to take place.
- Regularly check that homework is being done and that it is of a good quality.
- If possible help in the learning process.
- Show interest in the work, encourage your child and praise them.

We recognise that parents want to provide a computer for their child; whilst this is understandable we wish to reassure parents who cannot provide this facility that computers are available for student use during school time.

It is important for parents to remember that if Home Learning appears on Firefly it must be done. Students cannot claim that there is nothing to do.

Students who require extra learning support

Appropriate home learning tasks will be set, balancing the right of students to share fully in the work of the class - which includes home learning tasks - with their individual learning needs. Student Support Plans will give clear guidelines to staff to ensure tasks are manageable.