



Icknield Community College



HOMEWORK POLICY



Approval & Review

Author: SVP
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Signed:
(Chair of Standards Sub-Committee)

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

The purpose of homework is:

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life.
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE coursework or project work.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- For pre-learning prior to a particular topic covered in lessons.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.

Types of homework

It is important that students should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners. There will be a variety of homework tasks each helping students to do this in different ways.

Type of homework	Purpose
Writing	To extend and consolidate use of technical vocabulary to demonstrate understanding of a topic or to develop writing skills eg. Describe, Persuade, Argue, Report, Review
Preparation for a Project	To enable students to explore their own concepts and ideas based on classroom topics or to develop work covered in a project on a school trip.
Preparing for a Presentation	To develop presentation skills and the ability to coordinate work with others for example in the Year 9 Media topic in English.
Additional Reading	To prepare for a lesson in English on analysing texts, to inform a planned discussion in a lesson, pre-read material in preparation for an exam or simply to read for enjoyment developing general literacy.
Completing a Quiz	To assess understanding and retention of work covered in a lesson and inform follow up teaching or to gather information about current ideas before starting a new topic.
Experimental Reports	To analyse results and report on findings from classroom experiments in Science or to analyse data from real life maths investigations.
Model Building	To enable creativity whilst developing a further understanding of scale and proportion and/or exploring understanding of an abstract concept.
Exam Practice	To allow students to become familiar with using GCSE exam style questions and to develop their ability to apply their knowledge and use key vocabulary correctly. This also allows students to become more familiar with use of exam papers and mark schemes which are a big part of effective revision for GCSE exams.
	To carry out independent research to feed into a lesson topic or an independent learning task which is then extended or built upon in the



Research or Flipped Learning	following lessons. This could also be set for a student to catch up work from a lesson they have missed.
Learning Vocabulary	To learn key vocabulary including spelling and pronunciation in order to improve the quality of explanations and descriptions.
Revision	To develop effective revision techniques not only for end of topic tests and consolidating classwork but ultimately for GCSE exams
Photography or Drawing	To develop observation and drawing skills, processes and techniques
Materials Collection	To collect personal materials for use in an Art or Design piece or to obtain ingredients for a recipe to use in a Food and Nutrition lesson
Acting on Feedback	To consolidate, extend and develop a piece of work for example - a GCSE coursework portfolio in Art or an essay in English or History in response to feedback given in lessons.

How will homework be set?

Icknield Community College has a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings. This ensures that homework is set evenly across the week and by different subjects. From time to time, for a number of different reasons (eg. School trips, staff absence, exams), staff may deviate from the homework timetable but this would be an exception rather than the norm.

Show My Homework

At Icknield, homework is set using Show My Homework. Show My Homework is a widely used and very successful online platform that can be used from phones, tablets or computers. Show My Homework allows:

- Teachers to easily set homework and attach resources, links etc.
- Students to view and manage their homework from a home computer, phone or tablet.
- Students to set-up reminders for due dates, contact their teachers or submit work online.
- Parents to view the homework set by using their own personal log-in or by searching the site using the school name and year group.
- School Leaders to monitor the setting of homework across the school.

Homework tasks will be published online on 'Show My Homework' which can be reached through the SMHW icon on the school website. SMHW gives details about each homework set per class by each teacher. Specific homework details will be provided by the class teacher on SMHW and in the lesson in which it is set. Resources for the homework may be on SMHW or given out in class as a hard copy if needed. Teachers may ask students to use a resource from SMHW and write answers into their books. If printing is needed then teachers will make a hard copy available if any student needs one. They will also provide alternative resources if ICT is needed to complete the task and a student does not have ICT access. Teachers will not usually set homework to be completed for the next day, but will give students a minimum of two days to complete the homework. The time devoted to homework should increase as the student progresses through the school as the need to become a strong independent learner increases.



How much homework will be set?

Students in Years 7-9	
English	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes
Maths	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes
Science	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes (Year 9 students will be set Science homework twice per week by their 2 different teachers each taking 30 minutes)
French OR Spanish	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes
History	1 homework per fortnight taking 30 to 45 minutes
Geography	1 homework per fortnight taking 30 to 45 minutes.
Creative Arts, Technology, PE, RE and PSHCE	Homework will not regularly be set in these subjects however there may be an occasion where some work is required at home for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting ingredients ready for Food and Nutrition lessons. • An independent project in Art • Learning lines for a school performance • Instrumental practice • Practising PE warm-up techniques at home
Students in Years 10-11	
English	1 homework per week taking 1 hour
Maths	1 homework per week taking 1 hour
Combined Science	2 homeworks per week each taking 45 minutes set by the 2 different science teachers.
Separate Science	3 homeworks per week taking 1 hour from each of their Biology, Chemistry and Physics teachers separately.
RE <i>(Year 10 only and only for students taking the RE GCSE exam)</i>	1 homework per fortnight taking 1 hour
<u>GCSE Option Subjects:</u> French Spanish Media Geography History Art, Craft & Design Drama Music Food & Nutrition 3D Design Resistant Materials Computing GCSE PE	1 homework per week taking 1 hour
PSHCE Core PE	No homework set



Non-completion of homework

When homework has not been completed to a suitable and appropriate action will be taken by the classroom teacher. Non-completion will be recorded in teacher homework records and will be used to inform the Homework Grade reported to parents during the school year.

Supporting students with homework

School

- Subject teachers are responsible for setting appropriate homework and for providing some form of feedback. This feedback may be written, verbal or by self- or peer-assessment.
- Heads of Faculty are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their faculty are setting appropriate homework regularly and providing feedback.
- Homework quality and quantity set across the whole school will be monitored by a member of the Leadership Team.

Parents/Carers

- Parents/carers are encouraged to support students with their homework and with the use of SMHW to meet deadlines, but accept that their role will become less and less hands on as students become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/carers are advised to try to provide a quiet place where students can work or encourage them to make use of the school's facilities.
- If parents/carers have any concerns about the homework being set, they should contact the relevant Head of Faculty or Head of Department.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to support the school in explaining the importance of homework.

Students

- Students should check SMHW for homework that has been set
- Students must inform the ICT Manager (who can be found in Room 24) if they have lost or forgotten their SMHW log-in details.
- Students should ensure deadlines are met.
- If students are absent, they need to find out what work has been missed and catch up on it.
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline.
- Students should take pride in their work.