

GREAT BADDOW HIGH SCHOOL



HOMework POLICY

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RATIONALE

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education." (1999, White Paper, Excellence in Schools)

Homework is work that is set to be done outside of the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home or for some tasks that may need resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills.

AIMS

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend knowledge and understanding acquired in class.
- Prepare for new learning.
- Access resources that are inaccessible or different from those in the classroom.
- Develop a sense of inquiry.
- Take ownership and responsibility for their learning.
- Engage parents and other adults in their learning.
- Develop their time management and organisation skills.
- Create channels for home-school dialogue.

EXPECTATIONS

The tables below show the amount of homework students should be receiving at each Key Stage.

Subjects do not state how much homework a student should be completing each week, but the approximate amount of time they should be spending on their homework per week (some subjects will highlight the number of tasks per half term.) This allows teachers greater flexibility when they are setting homework, thereby ensuring that all of the tasks they give contribute to the student's learning appropriately.

Students should be given a reasonable amount of time in which to complete homework tasks, for example, a week for one involving extended writing. Except in Maths and Modern Foreign Languages, it is unlikely that homework will be set for the next day.

KS3 HOMEWORK

Subject	
Art	1 homework per fortnight – Years 7 & 8 thirty minutes and Year 9 forty minutes
Drama	2 homework tasks per half-term. Project work equating to at least one hour per week.
Design & Technology	1 homework task per fortnight – 45 minutes
English	2 homework tasks per week – 30/40 minutes for each.
Food Technology	1 homework per fortnight – 60 minutes
Geography	2 homework tasks per half term. Project work equating to at least one hour per week.
History	2 homework tasks per half term. Project work equating to at least one hour per week.
Computing / ICT 7, 8 and 9	1 homework per fortnight – 60 minutes.
Mathematics	3 homework per fortnight – 45 minutes.
Statistics	1 homework per week – 45 minutes.
Music	2 homework tasks per half-term.
PD	1 homework task per half-term.
RE Years 7 & 8	3-4 homework tasks per half-term.
RE Year 9	4 homework tasks per half-term.
GCSE PE (final term Year 9 only)	3-4 homework tasks per half-term, based around fitness – smaller weekly tasks
BTEC PE (final term Year 9 only)	1 assignment per term, marked in detail + smaller weekly tasks
Science Year 7	3 homework tasks per fortnight. 45-60minutes each.
Science Year 8	3 homework tasks per fortnight. 45-60minutes each.
Science Year 9	3 homework tasks per fortnight. 45-60minutes each.

KS4 HOMEWORK

Subject	
Art	1 homework per week – 90 minutes.
Business Studies – BTEC	Weekly homework tasks – all based online – 45/60 minutes.
Business Studies – GCSE	2 homework tasks per half-term and other weekly tasks equating to 60 minutes each week –all based online.
Catering	1 homework per week – 45/60 minutes.
Design & Technology	1 homework per week – 45/60 minutes.
Drama	2 homework tasks per half-term. Project work equating to at least one hour per week.
English	2 homework tasks per week – 40/60 minutes for each.
Geography	1 homework per week – 45/60 minutes.
History	1 homework per week – 60 minutes.
Computer science /ICT	1 homework per week - 60 minutes.
Mathematics	1 homework per week – 60 minutes.
Media Studies	1 homework per fortnight – 60 minutes.
Modern Foreign Languages	1 homework per week – 60 minutes.
Music	1 homework per week – 60 minutes.
PD	1 homework task per half-term
RE	5 tasks per half-term – 60 minutes each.
PE – GCSE	1 homework per week - 60 minutes.
PE – BTEC	1 homework per week - 60 minutes.
Science – Core & Additional	2 homework tasks per week. 45-60minutes each.
Science – Triple	1 homework per week for each discipline (biology, chemistry and physics). 60minutes each.

SIXTH FORM HOMEWORK

As a student within Great Baddow High School Sixth Form, everyone will be expected to study outside of lessons. This additional study is essential if students are to achieve or exceed their target grade. Failure to work outside of lessons is a breach of the students' learner agreement and will disadvantage them in terms of their final grade.

Homework should be varied in terms of tasks and relevant and rewarding for students. In vocational courses homework may constitute on-going work on an assignment or assignments.

Sixth form students receive information on study skills during the induction programme. This is consolidated by the advice from subject staff. The amount of homework for A level/BTEC students is at least 4 to 4.5 hours per subject per week.

It is appreciated that amounts of homework may vary during any course. If a student fails to meet a deadline, the subject teacher will deal with the issue on an individual basis but repeated missed deadlines will be raised with the Head of Department. If the issue persists the Head of Sixth Form will meet with the student in the first instance and then parents.

HOMEWORK TASKS

These may take many forms, only one of which is written work. Examples include:

- Learning/revising classwork for assessment.
- Continuing with investigations, projects, surveys.
- Drawing/designing/sketching.
- Preparing a presentation.
- Making a video or audio recording.
- Collecting relevant resources and/or information.
- Problem solving and practice.
- Reading.

SANCTIONS

Where homework is not completed without good reason, the subject teacher will use the school's Behaviour Policy to sanction the student. This will usually be by setting the student a department detention in the first instance.

INCENTIVES

Students who have made an excellent effort with their homework and/or produce homework of a high quality will be recognised using the school's rewards systems, e.g. by being awarded a credit or having a postcard sent home.

RESPONSIBILITIES

THE ROLE OF THE STUDENT

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down details of the task and the deadline in the Student Planner.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in on time.
4. To attempt every task to the best of his/her ability.
5. To see the class teacher if the task causes him/her difficulty.

THE ROLE OF THE FORM TUTOR

1. To include discussions about homework in pupil mentoring as appropriate.
2. To check that homework is being set and recorded.
3. To check that the Student Planner is being signed by the parent/carer.
4. To note and respond to any comments written in the Student Planner by parents/carers.

THE ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

1. To set homework using 'show my homework' according to expectations.
2. To give clear, full instructions.
3. To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
4. To ensure that homework tasks are differentiated to challenge the learning of all abilities.
5. To mark and return all homework promptly.
6. To provide help and support.
7. To inform the Head of Department and Heads of Year when problems arise with homework.

THE ROLE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT AND KEY STAGE COORDINATORS

1. To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
2. To monitor that staff are setting homework in accordance with the Homework Policy.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

The role of the parent/carer is crucial if the student is to be successful with homework.

Parents/carers can assist by:

1. Provide a quiet place to work.
2. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
3. Ensuring that the student leaves him/herself enough time in which to complete homework tasks.
4. Checking the presentation and content of homework before it is handed in.
5. Signing the Student Planner each week.
6. Providing the school with information about any problems that may affect the completion of homework.

MONITORING

Homework is monitored by:

- The Form Tutor (weekly).
- Senior leadership team staff linked to departments during their weekly meetings / learning walks.
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team during departmental reviews (annually).
- Performance management line managers as part of the performance management termly and annual teacher reviews.
- Heads of Department and Key Stage Coordinators as part of their ongoing book checks.