

29th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The setting of homework has taken on new importance over recent months as that has been the default mode of delivery for lessons. Thank you for your support with overseeing, supporting and monitoring this work; we appreciate how difficult this can be, particularly under the circumstances in which many of us found ourselves.

It is clear, now we find ourselves back in 'face to face' teaching mode, that homework is going to be a key way we will support students in 'catching-up'. This does not mean we will be setting more homework than usual, but it does mean that we are thinking carefully about the sorts of homework we set and it will be even more important that it is completed. We also need to develop what we have learned over the past 6 months about platforms like Microsoft Teams and use these as part of our routine for setting homework assignments, not least because if we need to rely on Teams again, students will need to be more confident in how to use this.

To support you in supporting your child, we would therefore like to outline some key information relating to the setting of homework for this year.

Classcharts:

All students and parents will be given a Classcharts login. This is the platform we use to flag up all homework and it allows parents to see exactly what has been set and when it is due. We are also able to see who is viewing homework and who isn't. It offers you an overview of work, rewards, sanctions and attendance. It is strongly recommended that you regularly check Classcharts to ensure homework is completed, which is especially important this year with so much learning lost. It is also a key way that teachers can flag up enrichment opportunities, messages and subject related notices via the 'CC Announcements'. We rely on parents taking an active role in accessing Classcharts so that we can work together to support your child.

Microsoft Teams:

All students will be given a 'Microsoft 365' Login that gives them access to their school email, school Onedrive, Stream (like a safe YouTube for staff to share narrated powerpoint videos) and Teams.

Teams is a platform that allows us to communicate with whole classes, as well as individual students via a chat function. Teachers can put class resources in the 'Class Team' area, link to narrated powerpoint videos that they may have made for classes and they can set assignments for completion. It is also the platform we use when delivering live lessons, which we may need to rely on at some point in the future. It is therefore important that you child feels confident using this. To this end, Year 11 have already received training on how to use TEAMS during their face to face time in Term 6. All other year groups have been receiving training over the first few weeks of term.

Teachers will always flag up homework using Classcharts in the first instance, but they may then direct students to an assignment in Teams by posting a link to where the resources or instructions

are in the relevant Teams class. This is so that you as a parent still have the overview of what has been set using Classcharts, whilst the student is also encouraged to use TEAMS and become more confident with it.

Homework Timetable:

We use a 'Homework Timetable' to help students organise their time and not feel overloaded. It is also to ensure that teachers are setting routine independent tasks for students to extend and consolidate their learning. KS3 students should expect 1-1 ½ hours of homework per night, whilst KS4 students should expect 2-2 ½ hours of homework per night.

Subjects have an allotted day where teachers will be setting work and, of course, it is expected that an appropriate turnaround time for this work to be completed will be factored in. More homework is expected at KS4 so this is on a weekly timetable, whilst at KS3 we have spread the setting of homework across the teaching fortnight, with only core subjects being set weekly.

It is good practice for students to complete work on the day it is given, as this helps them to manage their workload. However, for longer project type tasks or tasks that work on regularity (for example regular reading or vocabulary work), spacing out the work over more nights might be needed; therefore this timetable should just be seen as a guide. Please use this timetable in conjunction with your Classcharts Parental Login details (which should allow you to see specifically what homework has been set and when it is due).

It is hoped that this timetable is helpful for parents, as this will allow you to monitor what they should be doing and when. Students will be given their own copy of this timetable during tutorial.

The timetable looks like this:



HOMework TIMETABLE

KEY STAGE 3					
WEEK A	English, Music, Drama	Maths	RS	Science	Art, Technology
Monday					Homework
Tuesday		Homework			
Wednesday			Homework		
Thursday				Homework	
Friday	Homework				
WEEK B	English	Maths, Comp Science	Geog, History	Science, PE	MFL
Monday					Homework
Tuesday		Homework			
Wednesday			Homework		
Thursday				Homework	
Friday	Homework				
KEY STAGE 4					
WEEK A & B	English, Music, Fre, Ger	Maths, Media, ICT, Comp Sci	Geog, History, RS	Science, Sport Science	Art, PD, Food, Art Textiles
Monday					Homework
Tuesday		Homework			
Wednesday			Homework		
Thursday				Homework	
Friday	Homework				

Homework Club:

We have also restarted our 'Homework Club' now, which runs from Monday to Thursday and is overseen by Mrs Dore. This is where students can be supported in prioritising work, understanding what they need to

do, accessing computers, and so that issues can be flagged up to relevant members of staff. Those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and those with SEND needs will be prioritised for Homework Club during 2020-21. Unfortunately, places will be more limited this year, due to restrictions regarding the amount of students in one place at one time.

Our updated homework policy can be seen on the website.

We are also planning to put some helpful tutorials on our 'Covid-19' page, to support students with logging into platforms like Teams from home: <http://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/217/covid-19>

Yours faithfully,

Jay Morgan
(Assistant Vice Principal – Teaching and Learning)

