



Ark Helenswood Academy

Inspire – Achieve - Excel

Home Learning Policy - 2016-2017

Home Learning is any work or activity which students are asked to do outside of lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers. It is an integral part of the curriculum as it consolidates, extends and complements work carried out in lessons. We believe that, when properly organised, home learning can play a vital part in achieving high standards. It gives students an opportunity to become independent learners as well as allowing parents to be actively involved in their children’s education.

The purpose of home learning is:

- 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 Academy learning, for example through additional reading.
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE coursework or project work.
- To support the home/Academy relationship.

Setting Home Learning Tasks

Though we do not publish a ‘homework’ timetable, students need to manage their time so that they do some work each evening and complete to deadlines. Teachers will not set work to be completed for the next day, but will give students at least two days to complete it.

Research suggests ‘homework’ should not be excessive; each day, on average students should complete home learning as follows (approximately):

- Year 7 1 hour
- Year 8 1 hour 10 minutes
- Year 9 1 hour 20 minutes
- Year 10 1 hour 30 minutes
- Year 11 1 hour 45 minutes

Guidelines for number of home learning tasks and times

	Minutes Per Fortnight							
Year	English (x2)	Maths (x2)	Science (x2)	Geography	History	RE	MFL (x2)	Art/DT (x2)
7	60	60	50	50	50	40	30	30
8	65	65	65	60	60	50	40	30
9	70	70	65	60	60	60	60	45
	English (x2)	Maths (x2)	Science (x2)	P&E	Option1(x2)	Option2(x2)	Option3(x2)	
10	100	100	70		60	60	60	
11	100	100	90	60	60	60	60	

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students are occasionally asked to prepare for projects for PE, Music, Dance and Drama.

Home Learning tasks are set by teachers on “Show My Homework”

(<https://helenswood.showmyhomework.co.uk/>), and teachers remind students to record this in their planners. Students and parents/carers are allocated logins.

Non-completion of home learning

When home learning has not been done, the class teacher completes a 'Homework Default' in the student planner. The third default refers the student to a detention. Tutors will monitor student planners on a weekly basis, and any student who receives a significant number of these defaults in any half term is expected to use the library at lunchtime and after school regularly to catch up and manage their workload.

Accessibility

Teachers will try to make sure the home learning tasks are made challenging yet accessible for students and will modify it appropriately. If students find it too difficult, they should ask the teacher for additional help or attend after-school or lunch-time support sessions. Parents/carers should contact the Form Tutor in the first instance if they have concerns.

Independent Study at Sixth Form

Each sixth form student has some individual learning and study time on their timetable, when they are not in formal lessons. Students are expected to use this time to complete assignments and broaden their knowledge through research and reading, alongside independent work in the evenings and at weekends. Students are encouraged to review their notes from classes regularly to encourage recall. Course tutors will advise on appropriate sources students should use to support their study.

Parents'/Carers' role in home learning

- Parents/carers support students with their home learning but accept that their role will become less and less important as students become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/carers try and provide a reasonable place where students can work or encourage them to make use of the Academy's facilities.
- Parents/carers encourage students to meet home learning deadlines.
- If parents/carers feel that insufficient or too much home learning is being set, they should contact the Form Tutor who will investigate the situation.
- Parents/carers make it clear to students that they value home learning and support the Academy in explaining how it can help them to progress.
- Parents/carers encourage students and praise them when home learning is completed.

Students' responsibilities

- Students always carry their Student Planners with them.
- Students check 'Show My Homework' daily.
- Students record the task set even if they have written it in detail in their exercise book.
- Students need to accept that deadlines must be kept.
- 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 task is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- Problems with home learning tasks should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary students see the member of staff concerned for help before the lesson; they should not just say they could not do the work.
- Students take pride in doing their best.