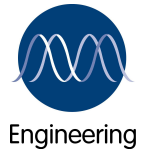




CHELMER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY



The purpose of homework

- to develop perseverance and self-discipline;
- to allow practise, where it is needed, of skills learned in the classroom;
- to permit more ground to be covered and more rapid progress to be made;
- to enable classwork to concentrate on those activities requiring a teacher's presence;
- to open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom;
- to involve parents (and other adults) in pupils' work.
- It may be a requirement of a particular syllabus (e.g. GCSE coursework)

When is homework set?

In some curricular subjects homework is deemed not to be always appropriate. However, homework will be set in most National Curriculum subjects, according to the new homework timetable published by the Head of Year at the beginning of the academic year, and this is recorded in the Student Planner. The timetable is a guide and although subject teachers will follow it as far as possible, some degree of flexibility is needed.

The amount and type of homework appropriate at different stages

The approximate amount of time that each subject homework should take is currently (in minutes):

Year	7	8	9	10	11
Approx time per subject	25-30	25-30	30-35	40-45	40-45

On average, three pieces of homework (i.e. three subjects) should be expected each school night.

These are approximate times and will vary for several reasons e.g. there are many different types of homework task, different students work at different speeds, etc. Allowance will be made for this.

Sixth Form: The amount varies depending on the nature of the pupils' programme. In general we would expect pupils to work in private study time during the school day and for 2/3 hours in the evening and at weekends. In general we would expect our sixth form students to spend around 15 hrs weekly extending their learning at home through tasks set or pupil led research/reading.

The need for differentiation

Homework set for a particular student/group of students must be appropriate in terms of level of challenge and amount of time required to complete the task to a high standard. This applies to students of all ages and abilities, including G & T and students with SEN.

Recording and monitoring of homework

Each student in years 7 – 13 is given a Student Planner, containing a homework diary, which must be kept accurately. Various people have responsibilities with the Student Planner and homework in general:

STUDENTS are required to keep the Planner up to date with homework set, due date and completion. It is the student's responsibility to fill in their homework planner as appropriate when their teacher sets homework during the lesson.

SUBJECT STAFF will set appropriate homework on a regular basis. They will write on the classroom board the task that is being set and when it is due to be handed in, giving students sufficient time to write this in their planners. Subject staff will record and monitor students' homework records, giving rewards / sanctions as appropriate.

HEADS OF AREA satisfy themselves that the members of their departments are carrying out the school policy on homework. This will involve looking at Student Planners and sampling books on a regular basis.

The Assistant Headteacher in charge of monitoring and evaluation will monitor each area as per the Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

The importance of feedback to pupils on the quality of their work

- All homework completed by students should be acknowledged.
- The school and department assessment and marking policies indicate the nature of feedback that it is appropriate for staff to give on pupils' homework. Feedback should, wherever possible, be formative, indicating how improvement could be possible and the next steps that pupils need to take to improve.

Parents should be aware that homework may be marked by pupils themselves as part of self and peer marking programmes that form part of our Assessment for Learning strategy. This will be part of a carefully planned assessment strategy, designed to help pupils to gain deeper understanding of what good answers look like and how marks are allocated. It has a significant impact on progress and attainment.

Homework should be appropriately marked and returned to pupils within a reasonable time of completing work. Some feedback should occur within the completion of the two-week timetable cycle.

Failure to complete homework/meet deadlines.

Pupils are expected to complete homework and to meet deadlines. If they fail to do so, subject teachers will normally set a break time or lunchtime detention as a sanction. After school detentions may be set, particularly if a major piece of homework or coursework has been missed, in order that the student can catch up with work that is particularly important to their progress. After school detentions will only take place after a minimum of 24 hours notice.

Students who fail to attend homework detentions and/or who regularly miss deadlines will face further sanctions as appropriate, including after school department detentions or senior detention. They will also have their parent/carer contacted by the department concerned.

It is the student's responsibility to complete the homework, even if a homework detention has been completed by that student.

Rewards and praise.

Effort with homework and high standard of homework will be valued and recognised through the use of the school rewards system of credits. These can be seen by parents when they look at planners. Teachers can also send home departmental letters or postcards as a reward for excellent homework.

Homework and Study Support

If a student has difficulty in completing a homework it is the student's responsibility to seek help from the teacher concerned before the deadline is up, so that they can then complete the homework by the deadline. In order to facilitate this, teachers will give a reasonable amount of time for completion of homework; i.e. a deadline will not be set for the day after homework is set.

The school resources centre is open every day until 4.00pm so that students may use it for completion of homework. ICT resources including internet access are available in the resources centre at this time, and also at break time and lunchtime, meaning that ICT / internet resources are not required at home in order for students to complete their homework. Other ICT resources are available around the school by appointment with area members of staff.

Role of Parents/Carers

The school seeks to work positively in partnership with all parents to help to support the learning of all pupils.

Parents can help to ensure that homework is as effective as possible in various ways, such as:

- providing a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which pupils can do their homework;
- making it clear to their children that they value homework and believe that it can help their children to make good progress;
- encouraging their children in their homework tasks;
- helping children with organisational skills required for independent study;
- expecting deadlines to be met and checking that they are;
- checking planners weekly and signing to say that homework has been completed.

Parents can get feedback on the homework that their child has completed by looking at the marked work. Contact with the school regarding a particular homework should be made to the teacher or head of area concerned via phone call, email or letter. Contact regarding homework in general should be made to the form tutor via the student planner in the first instance, or by phone call, email or letter.