



22nd July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following on from feedback received from a large number of you in the last school survey about homework, we have reviewed our homework or 'Independent Work' policy for Y7, 8 and 9 and made some alterations that will come into force in September.

The main change is that independent work will now mainly focus on retrieval of knowledge previously taught, although there may be times when students are set other tasks in place of this. Latest research shows that regularly reviewing content already taught improves students' ability to remember information over time. This work may be set in the form of an online quiz to test what the students have remembered.

Students will be set all of their independent work for the week on Monday via google classroom. They are not expected to complete it all in one go; instead, they are encouraged to stick to the timetable suggested below. Students will have one piece of work each week in English, maths, science, MFL and also an opportunity to read for 30 mins too, with one piece per fortnight set for the rest of their subjects. Deadlines for work to be completed will be communicated clearly when work is set, and will take into account the suggested timetable, which is as follows:

Year 7	Week 1	Week 2
Monday	English and geography	English and IT
Tuesday	Maths and history	Maths and music
Wednesday	Science and PE	Science and technology
Thursday	MFL and philosophy and ethics	MFL and art
Friday	Accelerated reader/ 30 minutes of reading	

Year 8	Week 1	Week 2
Monday	English and geography	English and IT
Tuesday	Maths and history	Maths and music
Wednesday	Science and PE	Science and technology
Thursday	MFL and philosophy and ethics*	MFL and drama
Friday	Accelerated reader/ 30 minutes of reading	Accelerated reader/ 30 minutes of reading and art

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Year 9	Week 1	Week 2
Monday	English and geography	English and option A
Tuesday	Maths and history	Maths and option B
Wednesday	Science and PE	Science and option C
Thursday	MFL and philosophy and ethics*	MFL
Friday	30 minutes of reading	

*not every week 1

Our aim is to give more structure, consistency and purpose to independent work. By focusing on retrieval we hope to improve students' ability to remember what they have been taught and make better progress as a result. We also want to help them develop time management skills, by providing all the work at the start of the week for them to complete, and assist families with balancing homework and other important extracurricular activities.

You can help support your son / daughter by encouraging them to stick to the timetable and not try to complete his / her work all at once, by ensuring that he / she completes all of the work set to the best of his / her ability by the deadline given and by praising his / her effort on the work. The idea behind retrieval is that these tasks should be performed without looking back at notes or examples, instead trying to remember what they have been taught. Students will find this difficult at first, but perseverance and resilience will help them improve over time.

We do not expect our students to require sanctions for missing deadlines or not completing independent learning, but if they do there will be appropriate sanctions in place in school to ensure students remain focused on their learning at all times. To the contrary, we will be putting in place rewards specifically for the completion of independent work to motivate and recognise students for the great work they do!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding independent work next year please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance, or if more appropriate their form tutor.

Yours sincerely

Mr M. Alcock
Head of Mathematics

