Rationale

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

Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Homework enables students to:-

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- access resources not available in the classroom and develop research skills
- provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- to enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- to take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- engage parental co-operation and support.

Our commitment:

- Our shared approach must be consistent and positive; pupils, parents/carers and the school all have responsibilities.
- Homework must be issued to all year groups, in all subjects and to all pupils.
- Homework must be issued in appropriate quantities and completion dates must be both clear and reasonable.
- Homework activities must be meaningful, stimulating and purposeful.
- Feedback on homework must be constructive.
- Pupils must be given recognition for their effort and work well done.
1. When and how much homework will be set?

All colleagues are expected to record all set homework on SIMS, with detail of the task and the expected completion date.

Each curriculum area will set the following amount each week.

Years 7 and 8 (approximately 30 minutes each to complete)
- English/Maths/Science: Once per week
- Humanities/Languages: Once a week
- Art/Technology/Performing Arts/IT: Once per fortnight

Years 9 (approximately 45 minutes each to complete)
- English/Maths/Science: Once per week
- Option Subjects: Once a week

Years 10 (approximately 60 minutes each to complete)
- English/Maths/Science: Once per week
- Option Subjects: Once a week

Years 11 (60 minutes plus revision)
- English/Maths/Science: homework task & revision
- Option Subjects: homework task & revision

Students will be provided with a Homework Planner. The Homework Planner will encourage students to spread their homework tasks across the week to ensure that all deadlines are met. Not all students will be able to follow the Planner exactly each week and are expected to make necessary arrangements to allow all deadlines to be met.

2. Homework tasks

Practice exercises providing pupils with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills including:

- Consolidation exercise to practice a new skill
- Practising for mastery e.g. application of skills and problem solving
- Practising words or phrases learned in a language other than English
- Practising new skills e.g. Physical Education, musical instruments
- Extension assignments Encouraging pupils to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:
  - Writing e.g. a book review
  - Making or designing something e.g. a piece of art work
  - Investigations e.g. science, social science
  - Researching e.g. history, local news
  - Information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the internet

However, Departments must have regard for equality issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Pupils who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged. The school library is well equipped with computers which are linked to the internet and our pupils should be encouraged to utilise this resource.
3. Sanctions and Monitoring

1. All students who complete the homework will receive a positive point on Class Charts, those who fail in this task will not.

2. Failure to complete homework will be logged by the classroom teacher on Class Charts and they will discuss with the student why the homework was missed and agree a new deadline. Parents will be informed of the missed deadline via the Sims Parent App.

3. Failure to meet the extension results in students attending homework club to complete the assignment.

4. The SLT Lead will run a weekly Class Charts report to monitor homework failure across the academy. Students with 3+ negative points in a week will be referred on as follows:
   1. If the problem persists with one subject: Heads of Faculty with be consulted and a suitable action plan agreed.
   2. Across subjects: Heads of School/Deputy Heads of School will be informed and a suitable action plan will be agreed.

5. Failure to comply with the above with be raised with the AP for Behaviour.

6. Parents will be encouraged to play a much greater role in monitoring their child’s completion of homework. The roll-out of the Sims Parent App will continue to enable as many parents as possible to support the homework agenda.

4. Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Positive points on Class Charts for achievement and sustained effort should be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, praise postcards may be sent home and students nominated for homework awards.
5. Responsibilities

The role of the student:

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
3. To attempt all work and give their best.
4. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor:

1. To promote the importance of organisational skills with their tutees.
2. To include homework in student mentoring where appropriate.
3. When communicating with parents of persistent offenders, to help with homework concerns where necessary.

The role of the Class Teacher:

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set homework and provide the stimulus.
2. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
3. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
4. Mark and return all homework promptly (including self and peer assessment).
5. Provide help and support.
6. Inform the Curriculum Leader, Tutor and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role of the Resource Centre Manager:

To provide after school and lunchtime opportunities for independent study.

The role of the Faculty Leader:

1. To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
2. To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area.

The role of the Curriculum/Teaching and Learning Lead:

1. To provide staff, students and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
2. To develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the Academy.
3. To monitor and evaluate the Academy Homework Policy.

The role of the Parents:

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. They have a responsibility to ensure all set homework is completed on time. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.