

The Highcrest Academy Homework Policy

The Highcrest Academy regards homework as an integral part of teaching and learning. Our aim is that homework should be purposeful and part of the learning objective of the lesson or scheme of work. Homework in itself develops the key skill of independent learning. The skills of research, drafting and personal organisation are all valuable aspects of homework.

Homework is important. Pupils who complete homework extend their secondary education by an extra term over 5 years.

Homework can take many forms and may be set as a form of project work or research that could last several weeks. Some departments will give a 'menu' homework which enables students to choose homework they prefer and set themselves challenges. Other departments have a more traditional pattern of set homework

Pupils have a planner to help them organise their work and keep to deadlines – this is a key learning experience for GCSE and other coursework.

Departments will provide additional subject specific guidance to parents.

Where possible the homework will be uploaded to the VLE or the student common area to encourage development of this form of setting work

Parents and carers should check pupils' planners at least once a week, taking an interest in what is being done and offering advice.

Parental information evenings will be held for students across all key stages throughout the year to encourage all stakeholders to be involved.

Homework : A guide to students completion times

The homework timetable for each year group is as follows:

Years 7&8 will have two or three subjects per night, each lasting approximately 25 and 30 minutes respectively. Maths homework will be made up of approximately 50% using Mymaths and 50% written/problem solving tasks and will be set twice a week. English will be set through reading tasks as well as 1 piece of written and 1 piece of research based homework per fortnight. Technology, Science, History, Geography and RE will set one piece of homework per week. IT, Drama, Art and Music homework will be set at the discretion of the teachers concerned but at least 2 times per half term. Modern Foreign Languages will set a small piece of homework (learning vocabulary) after each lesson.

- **Year 9&10** will have two or three subjects per night, each lasting approximately 40 minutes. English, Maths and Science will set up to two pieces of homework per week. Maths homework will be made up of approximately 50% using Mymaths and 50% written/problem solving tasks. GCSE option subjects will set one homework per week,
- **Year 11** will have two or three subjects per night, each lasting approximately 50 minutes. English, Maths and Science will set up to two pieces of homework per week. Maths homework will be made up of approximately 50% using Mymaths and 50% written/problem solving tasks. GCSE option subjects will set one homework per week, the '1 Year Option' will set two pieces of homework per week. Homework for non-GCSE subjects will be set at the discretion of the teachers concerned and will be extra to the timetabled homework.
- **Sixth Form** are expected to spend approximately 10 – 15 hours a week on personal study outside of lessons. Students will receive guidance on independent study skills.

The Highcrest Academy

Homework Guidance for Parents – 2017-18

The Highcrest Academy regards homework as an integral part of teaching and learning. Homework should be purposeful and part of the learning pathway of the lesson or scheme of work. Homework brings together the 'learning team' of student, parent and teacher. Homework in itself develops the key skill of independent learning.

Homework is set in different ways in different subject areas. Some areas provide a homework 'menu' and pupils choose tasks and challenges. Teachers will monitor this but it would be a great advantage if parents oversee the homework chosen. Encourage your child to try the challenging tasks.

Other areas set weekly tasks linked to a pre-set programme for the half term or duration of a subject rotation, for example in Technology.

Some homework tasks can be viewed by parents on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) accessed through the Highcrest website. Students will find details of their homework linked to their courses (subjects). We will also continue to remind students to use their planners to record that homework is set and the date it is due in.

Try to provide a quiet working area for your son or daughter and ask them about the homework they have. If the planner looks blank you can ask your child to see their courses on the MLE. If you think you have little expertise in a subject area ask your child to explain the work to you. Teaching others is a great way to secure your own knowledge.

To help parents understand more about how different subjects approach homework, the major departments will provide additional information

Key Points for Parents and Carers

- Homework is important. Pupils who complete homework extend their secondary education by an extra term over 5 years.
- The skills of research, drafting and personal organization are all valuable aspects of homework.
- Parents and carers should check pupils' planners at least once a week, taking an interest in what is being done and offering advice. If you feel unsure of the content ask your son or daughter to explain the homework to you. Teaching others is a very powerful method of learning!
- If homework appears not to be set please contact the tutor or Head of Learning.
- Try to provide a quiet area for your son or daughter to complete homework and definitely avoid "working" in front of the TV, Playstation or X-box.