



September 2019

Dear Parent

Academic expectations are key to success in every level of education. Whether it is the expectations that you have of your son/daughter, the expectations that they have of their education or the expectations that you have of us – all are crucial in securing the best outcomes for our pupils.

The start of the academic year is a good time to outline the academic expectations that we have of our pupils and should help you in supporting us and your son/daughter in their studies this year.

Homework

Learning outside of the classroom is vital to progress in every stage of the educational experience. Homework is crucial in developing independent study skills required for success in assessments, and later on in their school career, public examinations and Higher Education. It enables pupils to deepen their subject knowledge and identify areas in which they may require more support or clarification from teaching staff.

Homework also forms an important part of our assessment process at Bury Grammar School and allows teachers and form tutors to monitor progress. Assessing independent work provides opportunities for teachers to recognise and reward the outstanding work and effort that our pupils are so committed to producing in the pursuit of excellence.

We would ask for your support in ensuring that you son/daughter has a quiet place to work, free from distraction and is completing their homework to a high standard and to deadlines. Our teaching staff will set regular, meaningful homework in line with school policy and pupils can expect regular feedback identifying areas for improvement and highlighting key achievements.

Homework Guidelines

Year Group	Recommended Timings		
	Weekly	Monday - Friday	Weekend
Reception	1.5 hours per week plus spellings/phonics		
Years 1 and 2	2 hours per week		
Years 3 and 4	3 hours per week		
Years 4 and 5	3 hours per week		
Year 7 and 8		2 Hours per night	4 hours
Year 9,10 and 11		2 hours per night	6 hours
Year 12 and 13		3 hours per day/night	6 hours

Principal: **Mrs Jo Anderson BA PGCE MEd**

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Organisation

Preparation is key to ensuring that learning that takes place in lessons can be revisited, revised and consolidated. Being prepared for every lesson with the correct equipment, files and books as well as catching up with notes and homework following an absence or missed lesson will not only ensure that pupils have access to high quality material for examinations but will also enable them to structure their own knowledge and understanding when studying.

We expect our pupils to plan ahead for the school day, come prepared for every lesson and take the initiative when ensuring that work is up to date.

Attitude to Learning

We know from experience that individuals who want to achieve highly and work hard glean the greatest success. This is entirely in the control of our pupils and forms an important part of our reporting and assessment system. We expect our pupils to adopt a 'can-do' attitude, be enthusiastic in the classroom and act on advice of their subject teachers in order to make progress.

The relationship that we have with parents and pupils is key when securing excellent academic outcomes and a positive journey through school. We have the highest expectations of our pupils because we know how much potential they have for academic success and as we embark on this academic year, we hope that you will support us in reinforcing the same approach at home.

Yours sincerely,

V Leaver

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