

Homework Policy (MTBS)

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Merchant Taylors'
School

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The purpose of homework

Homework is an important feature of an academic education. It allows students the room to develop their own ideas as well as acting as a vehicle to consolidate learning which takes place in the classroom. Homework also plays an integral role in students' preparation for subsequent lessons. Research or other preparatory tasks will support students in their learning and the development of understanding. Homework is thus a vital strand in the School's mission to develop curiosity and independence in our students. The School envisages students gradually taking on more homework as they progress; this mirrors the intent that students should also take on more of the responsibility for their own learning as they become older.

The setting and recording of homework

Teachers will set homework in line with the homework timetables for Year 7 to Year 11. All homework tasks will be set by the class teacher using the tasks function of Firefly. Students will thus automatically have a record of all work to be completed. Tasks on Firefly also detail the due date for work. Students must follow the instructions in the task to complete the set work and submit either electronically through Firefly or Teams, or by hand to the teacher (as instructed).

Most homework on the homework timetables will be set on the same day as a lesson in the respective subject. Sometimes, however, a student will have homework on a non-lesson day. Teachers will explain homework tasks in the lesson and set the homework on Firefly, using the appropriate start date for the task (to reflect the homework timetable). Some homework is set on non-lesson days so ensure a balanced homework timetable, with no more than three homeworks on any single evening.

Students should mark tasks as complete on Firefly once the work has been finished and handed in. It is also the student's responsibility to archive old tasks; this helps keep the Firefly task list clear and manageable. Students are shown how to do this during their ICT induction.



Homework tasks

Homework tasks set must be meaningful; they should support students' learning in a consolidatory, reinforcing, or preparatory manner. Tasks that might reasonably be set could include:

- Completion of questions or problems
- Preparation of a presentation, debate or oracy piece
- An extended piece of research
- Creation of digital media (e.g. screen video) to demonstrate learning
- Curation of a Firefly or OneNote page
- Sections of a coursework task
- Reading of a set text
- Note-taking – where guidance on content and noting technique has been given
- Revision for written assessments / internal examinations
- Revision of key terms or vocabulary

School and home

Parents are able to view their child's homework tasks through their own login to Firefly. Parents are advised to inform the Form Tutor if their child is consistently spending more or less than the allotted time on homework tasks. Similarly, if other concerns pertaining to homework or homework expectations arise, for example the homework timetable not being followed for students in the Lower and Middle School, parents are encouraged to have a conversation with the Form Tutor in the first instance.

Homework timing

It is important for all students to develop and maintain a regular habit of study at home. The amount of time allocated to each subject for homework in Years 7 to 11 is intended to be a guide: the daily figures should be considered a maximum.



In the Lower School, students should be doing between one and one and a half hours of academic work at home each day, including weekends. In Year 7, this is three 20 minute homeworks per evening. In Year 8, this is three 25 minute homeworks per evening. In Year 9, this is three 30 minute homeworks per evening.

In Middle School, during the GCSE years, students should be spending at least fourteen hours a week on academic study at home. This equates to about two hours every evening during the week and another four hours at the weekend. In the holidays, too, some time should be devoted to revision and/or coursework but teachers should recognise that students need a rest too – especially during half term holidays.

In the Sixth Form, students should be devoting at least eighteen hours a week, on top of classroom time, to academic study. This work should be completed during private study periods at school, and during evenings and weekends at home. This means two to three hours each day during the week and another four or five hours at the weekend. Students will also be expected to do some work during the holidays; given the timings of internal mock examinations and external public examinations, this holiday workload will need to be significant in Year 11 and Upper Sixth.

Homework set for younger year groups would typically involve discrete tasks and shorter deadlines (e.g. submission during the next lesson). In the Sixth Form, set homework would likely involve multiple learning tasks to be managed over a longer deadline (e.g. one week with work set and collected on the same day every week).

The homework time allocations for each subject in each year group are detailed in the appendix to this policy.

Homework timetables for Year 7 to 11 are published, in September, at the start of a new school year by the relevant Group Tutor.

J M G Andrews

Deputy Head Academic

September 2022



Year 7 (3 x 20 minutes per evening)	English: 4 x 20 minutes per fortnight Maths: 4 x 20 minutes per fortnight	French, Spanish: 3 x 20 minutes per fortnight Science, Latin, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Computer Science: 2 x 20 minutes per fortnight Music, Art, Design Technology, Drama: 1 x 20 minutes per fortnight
Year 8 (3 x 25 minutes per evening)	English: 3 x 25 minutes per fortnight Maths: 3 x 25 minutes per fortnight	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Modern Foreign Language 1, Modern Foreign Language 2, Latin, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Computer Science: 2 x 25 minutes per fortnight Music, Art, Design Technology, Drama: 1 x 25 minutes per fortnight
Year 9 (3 x 30 minutes per evening)	English: 5 x 30 minutes per fortnight Maths: 5 x 30 minutes per fortnight	Modern Foreign Language 1: 3 x 30 minutes per fortnight Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, option subjects: 2 x 30 minutes per fortnight
Year 10 & 11 (3 x 40 minutes per evening)	English: 5 x 40 minutes per fortnight Maths: 5 x 40 minutes per fortnight	Option subjects: 4 x 40 minutes per fortnight
Lower Sixth & Upper Sixth	12 hours per subject per fortnight (e.g. 3 hours from each of two teachers per week) Any independent work as required for the Extended Project Qualification	