

Q&A: Homework

What is the purpose of homework?

Homework is a vital part of the curriculum. It is set to extend and consolidate the learning in the classroom and it encourages and develops organisational skills (time management and planning) as well as self-discipline, responsibility and motivation. The school's Homework Policy can be viewed on the school website:

<https://foresthill.lewisham.sch.uk/school-policies-statements-and-reports/>

How does it differ from primary school?

At primary school, every piece of homework submitted tends to be thoroughly marked by the class teacher. At secondary school, this is not possible. Secondary school teachers have a large number of different classes (some as many as 18-20 a week) and they teach a large age range. This limits the amount of time that teachers can spend on marking homework but students will still receive meaningful feedback on their homework.

How is feedback on homework given?

There are various ways in which feedback can be given to students:

- Written feedback when teacher feedback is essential for the work to be improved or to identify areas for development, e.g. extended writing
- Student marking with teacher guidance – teachers guide students through the work and how to correct it (using a green pen) when the homework is of a suitable nature
- Self marking for suitable pieces of work, e.g. simple right/wrong answers
- Peer marking – students are taught how to look at each other's work and use success criteria to mark it. This is a powerful learning strategy as the students tend to be far more critical of others' work and learn from the experience of marking.
- Online marking, e.g. quizzes in *Show My Homework* or *MyMaths*

What types of homework may be set?

Homework can take various forms such as:

- Revising and preparing for examinations
- Written tasks
- Numerical tasks
- Online activities or quizzes
- Model making
- Research tasks
- Longer project work
- Visiting a location or finding out about a particular area

How much homework should students be doing?

In Year 7, students will receive homework from five subjects each week – English, Maths, Science, History and Languages plus a reading homework. Once a fortnight, they will receive homework for Geography, Computer Science and RE. Each homework should take a minimum of 30 minutes. Art/DT homework is research and project based and designed to be ongoing.

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How much homework should students be doing? (continued...)

In Years 8 and 9, Geography homework is set weekly, and the overall volume of homework increases to ensure that by Year 10 the students are ready for the homework expectations of the GCSE courses.

PE, Dance, Music and Drama do not routinely set homework at Key Stage 3.

Homework increases significantly in Years 10 and 11 and includes the expectation that students are doing independent exam preparation in addition to specific homework tasks.

How do teachers ensure that homework is completed?

Teachers will always ensure that homework has been completed even if they are not directly marking that particular homework.

How can parents support students with their homework?

Parents and carers have access to *Show My Homework*, the school's system for tracking and monitoring homework, to ensure that their sons are completing homework to the best of their ability. Where possible, parents are asked to provide a quiet space for students to study at home. Parents can also encourage students to join Homework Club which takes place in the school library from Mondays to Thursdays until 4.00pm. Study rooms are available for Year 11 students to use every day – at lunchtime and after school.