

Homework

Purpose:

SJH believes that students benefit from work done outside of school time. This should help to form positive study habits and should be part of their daily routine.

Outcomes:

Homework should enable students to:

- practise and reinforce skills covered in class
- work independently
- carry out research
- develop creative thinking skills
- develop organisational and time management skills
- improve concentration and self-discipline
- discover, explore and enjoy a subject

Managing Homework Tasks:

Homework tasks need to be available online to ensure that they are simple for teachers to set, and easy for students and parents to access. All homework tasks at SJH can be accessed through our website (www.sirjohnhunt.plymouth.sch.uk), under the 'students' tab.

In order for staff to set homework tasks in a way that is easy and accessible, all Curriculum areas have their own dedicated website. All websites for Curriculum areas are created through Weebly (www.weebly.com/uk). Creating these websites means that not only can students/parents to access homework tasks online without the need for any usernames or passwords, but also that staff can set, add to or amend any tasks at any time, from anywhere using a PC, tablet or smart phone. In addition, any worksheets, documents or web links that are related to the homework task can be uploaded to the website, providing resources for students/parents.

All homework tasks set for all students in all key stages, must be set on the Weebly website created for the corresponding subject or Curriculum area.

Expectations for setting Homework:

- **KS3** – Homework tasks will be set either on a weekly or on a termly basis (6 times per year). This could be a series of tasks relating to the area of study in that subject or a project that could be worked on during the term and handed in towards the end. All Homework to be set on the relevant Weebly website.
- **KS4** – each student must be set a minimum of one Homework task per subject per week. If a student has a subject three times per week then this could mean that three tasks may be set. Each task would be expected to take a minimum of 30 minutes. All Homework to be set on the relevant Weebly website.
- **KS5** – 1 hour lesson = 1 hour of Homework set on the relevant Weebly website. It is expected that students read widely and often and that homework tasks should be designed to develop a wide range of skills.

Curriculum Leaders will ensure that:

- Homework is incorporated into Schemes of Learning at all key stages;
- Homework opportunities have been resourced for all abilities and learning styles;
- subject teachers are setting Homework and providing feedback according to College policy;
- parents are informed if Homework is not completed;
- support is available when students persistently fail to achieve expected standards (Study session/Learning Club/Learning Café).

Teaching staff will:

- set Homework as per the college policy using the relevant Weebly website (Homework should be set on Weebly even if it can/should be completed elsewhere);
- set clear deadlines which are published on Weebly;
- ensure that all students understand the Homework (purpose and task(s));
- ensure that Homework is matched to students' abilities and learning needs;
- provide (written/verbal) feedback.

Students at SJH are expected to:

- record Homework in their planners
- complete Homework to the best of their abilities
- submit Homework on time
- ask for help if necessary

Parents at SJH are asked to:

- encourage and support their child with regard to the completion of Homework
- check assignments set on Weebly with their child daily
- check and sign planners weekly

Homework Balance:

- teachers should avoid setting Homework over a single night
- weekends and holidays should not be viewed as an opportunity to set lengthier Homework tasks
- if a particular Homework task will require additional time, it should be set over a series of lessons. It is essential on these occasions that the final deadline is clearly recorded in the student's planner
- in KS4 and KS5, the varying demands of courses mean that Homework may take the form of continuous assessment/preparation. Students should be made aware of deadlines for this type of Homework and they should be recorded in planners. Where appropriate, teachers should divide extended pieces of work into smaller sections and set regular homework targets to help students to manage their workload

Handing Homework in

- Students are expected to complete Homework tasks set by staff to the best of their ability and in a timely manner.
- If a student does not produce their Homework for a member of staff then a Call-Back should be issued to discuss the reason and to ensure that the Homework task is reiterated to the student.

- If a student persistently fails to complete homework then the member of staff is expected to discuss the issue with the parent/guardian.
- If the issue still persists then a teacher should refer the student to their Curriculum Leader.