



KINGSDOWN SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy

Approved by:	Full Governors	Date: March 2024
Last reviewed on:	March 2024	
Next review due by:	March 2026	

Vision

Home Learning is an integral part of the curriculum that all students must complete. Home Learning is not an optional bolt-on activity, but explicitly links to the learning taking place in the classroom. Home Learning allows students to recall knowledge from their current work and make links with previous themes. This helps students to remember more. Students are encouraged to think deeply about the strategies they deploy in their Home Learning completion. This enables students to have the metacognitive and self regulation they need to become successful learners now and in the future.

Aims

The skills required to be successful in Home Learning need to be taught explicitly. Successful completion of Home Learning requires more than a student completing a task. Concentrating at home away from the support of the teacher requires students to demonstrate independence and resilience. Students need to self-regulate; understand how to organise their time, how to revise successfully and how to apply the knowledge to new situations. Students also need the skills to reflect on their approach to Home Learning to ensure they achieve success.

Home Learning is set at Kingsdown in a way that teaches our students how to develop the key skills needed to successfully work independently and with resilience.

Why we set Home Learning tasks

Apart from the lifelong skills of organisation, resilience and independence that Home Learning develops, students who commit to Home Learning increase their chances of achieving accelerated progress in their grades. Research has demonstrated that effective Home Learning adds an additional 5 to 6 months of progress to students at secondary level. The GCSE exams require students to remember more; the intentional sequencing of our Home Learning curriculum is designed to support students remembering more.

In addition, teachers are able to quickly assess the progress of students through Home learning assessments and quizzes. The gaps are closed and students, classes and cohorts can have the right interventions to maximise outcomes.

How the Home Learning is set:

1. There is a Home Learning schedule which allows all students one week to complete Home Learning.
2. Teachers will explain, demonstrate and model how Home Learning is to be completed in the lesson.
3. The Home Learning will appear on the Google Classroom and feature on the student's Google Calendar and To-Do List
4. Home Learning will appear as:
 - i. HL Science
 - ii. The due date will be added and the time will show 08:00
5. Parents can receive weekly reports which show what has been completed, missed and what is pending. This will help parents to support the organisational side of Home Learning.
6. Careful consideration will be given to ensure that Home Learning is appropriate to allow all students to succeed

Home Learning frequency

Each year group has a bespoke Home Learning schedule:

Current Timings

Y7	English	Maths	Science	MFL	Humanities	Music, DT, Comp Sci, PD
Terms 1&2	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes (fortnightly)	
Term 3 onwards weekly	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes		
Term 3 onwards fortnightly					20 minutes	20 minutes

Y8	English	Maths	Science	MFL	Humanities, Art, Perf. Arts, DT, Comp Sci, PD
Terms 1&2 (weekly)	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	
Terms 1&2 (fortnightly)	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes
Term 3 onwards (weekly)	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	
Term 3 onwards (fortnightly)					30 minutes

Y9	English	Maths	Science	MFL	Humanities, PE, Art, Perf. Arts, DT, Comp Sci, PD
Weekly	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	30 minutes	
Fortnightly					30 minutes

KS4	English	Maths	Science	Options
Weekly	Up to 60 minutes	Up to 60 minutes	Up to 60 minutes	Up to 60 minutes

*See new proposed timings below

New proposed timings

Y7 (weekly)	Reading	English	Maths	Science	MFL/Humanities	Music, DT, Art, Computing, Perf. Arts	PD (20 minutes twice a term)
Term 1	20 minutes every day	Maximum of 20 minutes	Maximum of 20 minutes	Maximum of 20 minutes	Maximum of 20 minutes		
Term 2 onwards	20 minutes every day	Maximum of 30 minutes	Maximum of 30 minutes	Maximum of 30 minutes	Maximum of 20 minutes	Maximum of 20 minutes (fortnightly)	

Y8	English	Maths	Science	MFL	Humanities, Art, Perf. Arts, DT, Computing	PD (20 minutes twice a term)
Weekly	Maximum of 45 minutes	Maximum of 45 minutes	Maximum of 45 minutes	Maximum of 30 minutes		
Fortnightly					Maximum of 30 minutes	

Y9	English	Maths	Science	MFL	Humanities, Art, Perf. Arts, DT, Computing	Personal Development (20 minutes twice a term)
Weekly	Maximum of 50 minutes	Maximum of 50 minutes	Maximum of 50 minutes	Maximum of 50 minutes		
Fortnightly					Maximum of 30 minutes	

KS4	English	Maths	Science	Options
Weekly	Maximum of 75 minutes	Maximum of 75 minutes	Maximum of 75 minutes	Maximum of 75 minutes

Rewards and Sanctions

We believe that students should be rewarded for their commitment to Home Learning. To positively reinforce the significant role that Home Learning plays and ensure the highest levels of participation, the following rewards and sanctions are adopted within each department.

Rewards

- Home Learning Achievement points
- Gold Cards
- Department Praise Cards
- Stretch and challenge reward assemblies

Sanctions

- Students will receive a B2 (half hour after school detention) on the next day for non-completion, poor quality or incomplete Home Learning. This will be recorded on Bromcom by the class teacher.
- Students will be informed during the lesson that they have a detention.
- Parents will be informed that their child has a detention via a group call message.
- Students who fail to attend the half hour detention will receive a B4 (a 1 hour SLT after school detention).
- Students who do not complete 3 or more Home Learnings over a fortnight will receive a B4 (a 1 hour SLT after school detention).

Supporting Home Learning

We strongly believe that Home Learning must be accessible to all students. Whilst the emphasis of Home Learning is for the assignments to be completed at home, the school offers the **Learning Lounge** which is held in the library. This is a supportive facility for students to complete Home Learning. Here, students may work in a calm, suitable learning environment and have access to resources and ICT facilities to help them complete their Home Learning successfully.

This facility is open before (from 08:00am) and after school (until 3:30pm) and at break and lunch times.

Students who struggle to understand the Home Learning set must seek advice and support from the relevant teacher prior to the Home Learning deadline. Home Learning is carefully planned and it is therefore not acceptable for students to ask for help on the day that the Home Learning is due as appropriate deadlines and timescales are set for completion. Parents are encouraged to contact the relevant class teacher via email if further support and clarification is required. See school website for staff contact details.

Responsibilities

The role of the student

1. To listen to Home Learning instructions in class.
2. To view the instructions for the task and deadline date on the google classroom and the 'to-do' list.
3. To ensure that Home Learning is completed and handed in/ submitted to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.

5. Problems with Home Learning must be highlighted and resolved before the deadline. If necessary, students must see the member of staff concerned for help.
6. If students are absent, they are expected to find out what work has been missed and by accessing Google Classroom..
7. Being away on the day that Home Learning is set is not an accepted reason for not doing it.

The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher sets the Home Learning in line with the departmental policy: The class teacher will ensure that:

1. Home Learning is set in line with the departmental scheme of learning.
2. Full and comprehensive instructions are provided.
3. All Home Learning is uploaded (including the deadline) onto the google classroom.
4. Home learning is evidenced in line with whole school policy.
5. Feedback is provided on Home Learning
6. Emails linked to concerns from students and/or parents are answered in a timely manner.
7. Guidance and support are provided, where necessary, to enable students to complete Home Learning assignments.
8. Students are supported in developing the self-regulation and metacognitive skills needed to be successful in Home Learning.
9. Home Learning is adapted to suit individual learning needs, where appropriate.

The role of the Parents

The role of a parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from Home Learning. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

1. Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
2. Helping their child to organise their time and converse with them on when their Home Learning is to be done.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
5. Encouraging students to complete Home Learning to the best of their ability.
6. Checking presentation (including that the work is legible) and content of all Home Learning being returned to school.
7. Contacting the school at the earliest possible moment with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.
8. Where possible, checking the Home Learning through the Google Classroom parent update.
9. Where possible, guiding their child to appropriate resources locally or online to enhance their understanding and support their learning.

If you have questions about Home Learning across several subjects, contact your child's tutor. If you have a question about Home Learning in a particular subject, contact the teacher for that subject

Monitoring and review

Monitoring activities will focus on the impact of Home Learning on student achievement as a result of the quality of Home Learning set, the frequency in which it is completed and the impact of the feedback of Home Learning on student progress, as per the requirements outlined in the Assessment Policy and Feedback policy.

Links to other policies

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Feedback Policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy

Whole school responsibility

Senior leader responsible for Home Learning
Senior leadership team

Signed by :
Emma Leigh-Bennett
Headteacher

Signed by :
Vanessa Edwards
Chair of Governors

Date : 26th March 2024

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