

Homework Policy

At Samuel Ward and Haverhill Community Sixth Form, we believe that homework is an essential part of a student's learning journey, effective homework improves learning and helps students to develop lifelong skills around resilience, responsibility, keeping to deadlines and organising their time.

The purpose of homework

To encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own

To allow students to learn key information in advance of their lessons (the Flipped Classroom)

To consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school

To extend students' learning

To sustain the involvement of parents in the support of their son or daughter's learning

How homework will be set

Teachers will set homework via the Go4Schools learning platform. Students and parents will be able to see a description of the work, links to any relevant documents or websites, when it's been set and when it's due in.

How homework will be completed

Students will complete homework through a variety of forms, including their exercise books, worksheets and online platforms such as Microsoft Forms, Dr Frost and Tassomai.

Time to be spent completing homework

This can vary depending on the nature of the work and subject. Whereas most homework will be for that day or the next lesson, some tasks might be more project based and take a number of days or even weeks. We do not want students or families to feel overwhelmed so please always contact us if you are finding things difficult.

Years 7, 8 and 9: around 3-5 hours per week

Years 10 and 11: around 8-10 hours per week

Years 12 and 13: around 1 hour per taught lesson plus an additional 5 hours per week to be completed during study periods

Expectations and support - Is it excellent yet?

Homework will be set in all subjects except for:

- In years 7-8, Music, DT/Food, PSCH EE, Citizenship, Drama, PE and ICT
- In years 9-11, Core PE, Film Studies and Photography (Year 9 only)

We run a homework club twice a week from 2.50pm to 3.40pm, open to students from all year groups where they have access to computers, a quiet space to work and support from LSAs

Departmental Expectations

- Departments are expected to be ambitious and innovative with homework provision
- Students can be set multiple smaller tasks broken up within the time allocation (for example in a week focusing on vocabulary development, a subject teacher might set three 10 minute HWKs) or longer project based work filling several HWK slots.

Key Stage 3

Department	Frequency	Time
English	Weekly	40 minutes
Maths		40 minutes
Science		40 minutes
History		30 minutes
Geography		30 minutes
MFL		30 minutes
Art		Fortnightly (year 9 only)
Design and Technology	30 minutes	
Computer Science	30 minutes	
Religious Studies	30 minutes	
Total	6 to 8 pieces per week	3-5 hours

Key Stage 4

Department	Frequency	Time
English	Weekly	1 hour
Maths		1 hour
Science		1 hour
History		1 hour
Geography		1 hour
MFL		1 hour
Art		45 minutes
Business Studies		45 minutes
Design and Technology		45 minutes
Computer Science		45 minutes
Drama		45 minutes
Film Studies		45 minutes

Music		45 minutes
PE		45 minutes
Photography		45 minutes
Religious Studies		45 minutes
Sociology		45 minutes
Total	8-10 pieces per week	8-10 hours

Teachers are expected to:

- Set homework that is appropriate for the age and stage of students;
- Set time aside during lessons for homework to be fully explained and questions answered;
- Set homework that aligns with the department and whole school homework policy;
- Allow enough time for the homework to be completed to an excellent standard, reminding students to question the standard of their homework 'Is it excellent yet?'
- Provide timely and effective feedback. This may involve providing the opportunity for peer assessment, individual reflection on their progress, or whole class feedback
- Record when students haven't completed homework on Go4Schools and invite student(s) to a 30-minute lunchtime detention. This will result in a negative reward point.
- Liaise with heads of department/year teams about persistent concerns/students who do not attend the classroom teacher set detention.

Students are expected to:

- Listen to homework instructions in class and check 'Go4Schools' daily
- Complete homework to the best of their ability and hand it in on time;
- Communicate appropriately with the class teacher if they are having any difficulties with the work, well before the deadline.
- Catch up on any homework missed either through absence or incompleteness, demonstrate a resilient attitude, and accept any sanctions or support given to help them build better habits of homework completion

Parents can support by:

- Discussing homework with their child in order to help and encourage them;
- Checking their child's homework when it has been completed - insist on high standards of presentation and remind them of our key question: 'Is it excellent yet?'
- Notifying the school of any issues or problems that may prevent the completion of homework. set.
- Support the school in any actions taken to help students build better habits of homework completion, including offers of support and necessary sanctions

Head of subject can support by:

- If a student fails to attend a homework detention (set by their classroom teacher) they will be assigned 60-minute detention with HoS and parents/carers will be alerted.
- If students persistently miss homework - HoS to raise these concerns in LM meeting and discuss the most effective next steps.

Reviewing the policy

The homework policy will be reviewed annually. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the governing body and parents consulted

Types of homework we will set and why

	Homework could include:	How this will help students:
Read it	Reading novels Key extracts of texts / literature Reading articles	'Language and literacy provide us with the building blocks not just for academic success, but for fulfilling careers and rewarding lives'. (Education Endowment Foundation) Reading helps to improve vocabulary, communication, grammar and writing skills
Spell it	Spelling and vocabulary tests Exploration of the etymology of key words Accessing bespoke literacy work through 'Lexia'	Spelling tasks help students to be able to spell key words within their subjects correctly. The more practice that students have at spellings, the better chance they have at remembering them. Being able to spell words correctly is something that will help students all through their life
Apply it	Extended written responses to a question Producing a piece of work which will demonstrate understanding of a topic or concept	These tasks might require students to demonstrate how well they have understood and learnt key things from their lessons. They might be extended written responses which require students to apply knowledge and understanding.
Retrieve it	Knowledge Organisers Quizzes Self-testing Flashcards Graphic Organisers Learning grids Use of platforms such as Tassomai	These are tasks which prompt students to recall/remember key information. The more we encourage students to retrieve information, the more chance we have of it 'sticking' and remaining in the long term memory for students to retrieve with ease.
Practise it	Practice of skills Rehearsal of lines Music practice for	Practice makes perfect! Repeatedly practising something eventually helps

	performance pieces Use of platforms such as Dr Frost	students to remember and to master something to an excellent standard.
Research it	Finding out about particular important figures, events and times Learning more about certain concepts, topics and significant ideas	This is another important life skill - students will be guided on how best to find specific information and to identify where reliable and useful sources can be found
Flip it	The Flipped Classroom - here students have the opportunity to be prepared in advance of a new topic or lesson	This is where students need to learn key information in advance of their lessons
Pod it	GCSE Pod: an extensive study support platform that provides students with access to additional content linked to specific subjects and topics	GCSEPod is an online resource which contains lots of mini film pods linked to most subjects and key topics. Teachers can use them to test their students, enhance revision and monitor their engagement. Students can self-test, build knowledge and monitor their progress

Policy to be reviewed in May 2023