

INDEPENDENT LEARNING AND HOMEWORK POLICY

Updated August 2022

AIM

Our aim as a school is to foster a love of learning in all our students, and to help all students to achieve to their full potential. Therefore, one of the key elements of school life is independent learning and homework.

Homework core principles

Homework at Shrewsbury High School should:

- Spark joy and curiosity beyond learning in the classroom
- Embed and check understanding from the learning in school
- Provide an opportunity to develop independent learning skills and strategies
- Support revision for assessments

All the homework at Shrewsbury High School and Shrewsbury High Prep School should be line with our three core pillars of character, endeavour and achievement, with tasks being careful considered so that they are both appropriate and purposeful.

Homework Timetable

The timetable for homework will be constructed by the Deputy Head Academic at the seniors and shared by Heads of Stage. The Assistant Head at the Junior School will have oversight of the homework timetable..

- Tasks will be **set as appropriate within this timetable**, and should not be set for the sake of conforming to it. There should be a clear sense of the **purpose** of the task, and that it is **attainable** within the timeframe allocated for the student to complete it.
- Homework should not be set without reference to the task in the lesson by the class teacher.
- Homework will be discussed within the academic year as a rolling agenda item for the School Learning Council, facilitated by the Deputy Head Academic and sixth form leaders.
- Homework should be written by the student in the planner provided, or the main headings be written as an aide memoire and will be available on MS Teams Assignment by the class teacher. Instructions for homework therefore should be clear and help students in making progress.

Deadlines

The homework once set should be expected for a reasonable deadline. Colleagues are expected to be mindful of the balance of academic excellence and the roles which our students have as ambassadors for our school.

Where there are students who have not completed the work within the time allocation, students should have this signed by a parent and stop so that the class teacher can accurately



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review and gauge their progress. This should not be extended into a further homework, or any sanctions enforced.

For information relating to rewards and sanctions, please refer to the Behaviour and Good Conduct policy and the Teaching and Learning policy.

For information about the assessment of homework, please refer to the Assessment Policy.



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The main areas of responsibility for independent learning and homework are as follows:

<p>Teachers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set homework tasks which extend and embed student learning• Foster a love of learning through the manner and type of homework given• Encourage students to tackle challenges within their homework• Set an appropriate deadline for the task• Expect homework to be completed on time• Follow the homework timetable set by the School• Ensure that all homework is purposeful and enhances the learning and progress of all students• Set homework on Firefly that is clear and students can understand• Reward students for excellent work and celebrate success• Follow up on any concerns fully with the HoD/HoY/tutor, utilising school sanctions appropriately• Set the homework on Firefly within a reasonable time frame/the working day• Ensure that the homework task is explained in the lesson to students• Hand back marked homework promptly to students as per school policy	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be mindful of the homework timetable and try to plan their time accordingly• Let their form tutor and/or their class teacher know if they are struggling with their homework• Try their best on homework within the allocated time• Expect some homework to be tricky and a challenge• Hand the homework in for the deadline set as per the teacher's instructions• If this is not possible – contact/speak to the teacher in good time before the due date as a courtesy• Ask the teacher if they are unsure of a topic or question – take the initiative!• Use a full range of resources to explore the task fully• Be realistic in terms of the time required to mark and return homework to students
<p>HoFs/HoD/Subject coordinators will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regularly review the homework tasks within schemes of work as part of quality assurance• Seek feedback from their team and the students regarding the homework set• Monitor the frequency of homework and core school principles – is the task <i>appropriate and purposeful?</i>• Check that homework is routinely added to Firefly and that marking is per school policy	<p>Parents/carers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support students with time/space to work and complete homework tasks• Check that students do not exceed the time allocation for tasks and sign off the homework once this point is reached <p>Pastoral team (HoS/KS and group tutors) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check that students are completing tasks and intervene where there is an issue emerging with more than one subject – organisation for example or achievement linked to independent work• Discuss with students and support where there may be a student issue with the homework set• Monitor the rewards and sanctions in order to track progress of all students in their year group• Contact parents/carers as required to discuss homework and independent learning



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Developing Independent Learning as a student

As our students progress through the school, there should be a gradual shift in responsibility between the learner and teacher, so that, by degrees, the learner assumes greater responsibility for directing her learning and negotiating strategies and processes with the teacher.

This is a dynamic continuum, and for movement to take place along it there must be a development of independent learning skills by the pupil. It is the responsibility of all teaching staff to promote effective ways to organise and foster a love of learning, linked to our pupils' development – personal and academic – at SHS.

Firefly, Microsoft Teams and Planet Estream as part of Independent Learning

Our web-based learning platforms Firefly and Planet Estream, as well as the Microsoft Teams assignments tool are aimed at encouraging:

- greater levels of independent learning
- opportunities for further enquiry
- stretch for the most able

Both of these VLEs offer the opportunity for Flipped learning, allowing lessons to be front-loaded and giving pupils greater responsibility for their learning.

All teaching staff should include homework details on MS Teams Assignments in order to support student learning and progress.



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