



# HOMework POLICY

Approved

Autumn 2014

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Achieving excellence together

## **Old Buckenham High School – Homework Policy**

- Old Buckenham High School believes that a good, well-managed homework programme helps our students to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning.

### **Homework is important to learning because it:**

- allows further study which may not be possible in the classroom;
  - offers opportunities to research or prepare for new learning;
  - offers opportunities to practise skills learnt/acquired in class;
  - enables students to consolidate or reflect on new knowledge;
  - promotes achievement and attainment.
- To support students in organising their learning they are issued with an Old Buckenham High School Planner. It is much more than a homework diary and contains important information about the School. Students should have their planners in school at all times. Parents are encouraged to check their child's planner regularly for homework, to sign weekly and use the planner as a method of communication with the school.

### **The wider benefits of homework are that it:**

- fosters independent learning;
  - establishes a work ethic outside of the classroom;
  - encourages time management and organisational skills;
  - offers students further opportunities to succeed;
  - reinforces the value of studying and lifelong learning;
  - maximises the efficient use of teacher time in lessons.
- Homework that is formally set will be planned by the teacher as an integrated part of the programme of study and will be relevant to the topic/s being studied in class.

### **Homework that is formally set will be:**

- achievable within the time given;
  - of a volume that is realistic and manageable;
  - matched to the age, skills and abilities of the student;
  - valued by the teacher and student (i.e. marked and monitored)
  - overseen and monitored by Curriculum Leaders/Leadership Team.
- The frequency by which homework will be set will vary at Key Stages 3 and 4 and will be based upon the number of lessons students have in a particular subject per fortnight. There will not be a school 'homework timetable' for students that will specify the day or lesson in which homework will be set; instead there is a minimum expectation for the frequency that homework will be set. This approach to the setting of homework ensures that homework is set regularly and can be monitored, whilst allowing

teachers to set worthwhile and relevant homework that is linked to students' learning at a time that they feel is most relevant and purposeful.

**Homework frequency and duration:**

**Key Stage 3:**

- Core Subjects (English, Maths and Science) x1 piece of homework per fortnight.
- Non Core subjects x2 pieces of homework per half-term.
- Each piece of homework should take 20 – 30 minutes to complete.

**Key Stage 4:**

- All GCSE subjects x1 piece of homework per fortnight.
  - Each piece of homework should take 30 – 45 minutes to complete
- Homework has the maximum impact and benefit on a students' learning and academic development when the responsibility for home learning is equally shared between students, teachers and parents/carers.

**Students will:**

- ensure that they have their school planner with them every day at school;
- write their homework tasks into their planner, noting the due date;
- set aside sufficient time to complete their homework;
- complete all homework tasks to the best of their ability;
- actively seek support from their teacher/parent if they do not understand a homework task;
- hand in their homework on the due date, or to the teacher as soon after as possible if they are absent.

**Teachers will:**

- set regular homework in-line with the school homework policy;
- ensure students record all homework tasks in their school planner;
- ensure homework forms an integral part of the curriculum and is well planned, prepared and linked to programmes of study;
- set homework that is appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the students;
- set homework tasks that are wide-ranging, well-structured and seen by students to consolidate and extend their work within lessons;
- Mark and feedback on homework promptly to students following the school assessment policy.

### **Parents will:**

- check their child's planner every week and assist their child with planning and organising the completion of their homework;
  - provide their child with a suitable learning environment in which to complete their homework;
  - look at their child's exercise books and support their child's learning by helping them to act on the comments and targets from teachers;
  - encourage and monitor homework and inform their child's teacher if an issue arises;
  - Sign their child's planner at the end of each week.
- It is an expectation that all students will complete all set homework to the best of their ability at all times and hand in to their subject teacher by the specified deadline.

### **Failure to complete/hand-in homework:**

1. Students will be given a 24 hour extension (at the teacher's discretion).
2. Break/ lunchtime detention with subject teacher.
3. After school detention in the subject area.

Repeated failure (3+ times) by a student to hand in homework and meet the specified deadline will result in the Subject Teacher/Curriculum Leader contacting parents directly.

- In addition to the homework formally set by the child's subject teacher there are many other ways in which a student's learning can be extended and enhanced at home.

### **Learning opportunities beyond school:**

- **Reading** - we would hope that every student reads a book for at least 20 minutes a day. Children who find reading difficult should spend time sharing a book with an adult/older child.
- **Exercise** - it is government aspiration that all children take part in 5 hours of quality physical activity each week. Two of these hours take place in school as part of the curriculum. We would hope that every student engages in at least 1 hour of additional exercise, whether as part of the schools extra-curricular offer or not
- **Instrument practice** – this should be daily for all students with access to musical instruments.
- **Listening to music** – students can broaden their knowledge of music by listening to a range of music genres.
- **Participation** – making a positive contribution is a key aspect of the Every Child Matters agenda. Students should seek to engage in opportunities outside of the formal curriculum in music, sport and drama.
- **Technology** – all students can access the Old Buckenham High School 'Microsoft - OneDrive' area that has subject specific learning materials, tasks and extension activities.
- **Cultural awareness** – this can be fostered by visiting places of historical, scientific or cultural interest, reading newspapers or watching the news.