

7th October 2019

Dear Parents/Carer

Homework at Kingsdown school

I am sure that you are all now aware of the transformational results that Cohort 2019 achieved this summer. Do take a look at our website for a full breakdown. We were absolutely delighted with these for our students.

Having taken time to reflect upon the strategies behind the success it is clear that the emphasis on our students working harder, spending time revising and revisiting the key knowledge both in and out of lessons was fundamental to our students having the confidence and skill to answer the exam questions successfully. Therefore, homework will continue to be a key feature at Kingsdown school. Thank you in advance of your support here.

Homework Setting and Completion Days - Homework will be set through Show My Homework*. We encourage you to view this regularly with your son/daughter to help them complete their homework on time. The table below shows when homework will be set and taken in.

| | Day set and taken in | School of Learning |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year 7-11 | Monday | Maths, Business & Computing |
| | Tuesday | Communications |
| | Wednesday | Science and Technology |
| | Thursday | PACE |
| | Friday | Humanities and Social Science |

Please note: should your son/daughter not have the subject on the day stated i.e Maths on a Monday, the teacher will allow a minimum of 5 school days to complete the task.

How long should my son/daughter spend time on their homework?

| Year Group | Subject | Set | Duration |
|------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Year 7&8 | English, Maths, Science | weekly | 30-60 minutes |
| | MFL, Computing | weekly | 30 minutes |
| | Art | fortnightly | 60 minutes |
| | History, Geography, PE | every 3 weeks | 30 minutes |
| | Dance, Drama, Music, Art, RS | monthly | 30 minutes |

| Year Group | Subject | Set | Duration | Total per week |
|------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|----------------|
| Year 9-11 | English, Maths, Science | weekly | 90 minutes | 4.5 hours |
| | Option subjects | weekly | 45 minutes | 3 hours |
| | | | | 7 hours |

Type of Homework - Most homework will be retrieval practice through testing knowledge. Research has shown that the most powerful way to learn what you have been taught is to revisit it days, weeks, and months after it has been taught. We are and have been working carefully to make sure that students get to test their memories of essential subject knowledge at the right time.

How it is Assessed - Students will have a homework and assessment book which they will bring to their class once a week for the teacher to check. The teacher will not mark retrieval practice, but will want to see evidence that students have been revising using different methods to learn the requested knowledge.

Many subjects will also set homework in the form of Show My Homework quizzes. These are marked online, so students will get their results straight away. The best way for students to learn from these quizzes is to do them three times, in order to get to 100%.

Support for completing Homework – There are many opportunities for students to complete homework at school. The LRC is open between 8.00am-8.30am and 3.15pm-4.15pm every day and students can use the VLC each lunch time. Both spaces are supervised and offer students a quiet space and access to computers if necessary. Students are encouraged to seek support from their class teacher for subject specific questions and their form tutor if they are having difficulty accessing Show My Homework. Any issues should be resolved in advance of the deadline.

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Headteacher
Mrs E Leigh-Bennett

Non-Completion of Homework - Students who do not hand in homework on the stated day, or do not complete it to an acceptable standard will be required to attend a same-day detention. Students will be informed of this detention in the lesson and parents will be contacted via a group call message. During the detention they will have the opportunity to complete their homework to the required standard. Students who do not attend this detention will spend one day in the Annexe where they will have further opportunity to complete homework and class tasks.

As parents, we thank you in advance for your support in helping your son/daughter to complete their homework on time and to an acceptable standard. Should you have any concerns, in the first instance, please contact your son/daughter's subject teacher. All email addresses can be found on our website.

Thank you again for supporting your son / daughter in their learning at home.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lindley
Deputy Headteacher

*attached is a reminder of how to access Show My Homework so that you can support from home. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your son / daughter's tutor.

