

MHCC Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Many require the support of teachers during the task.

Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Aims

Homework enables students to:

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities
- access resources not available in the classroom
- develop research skills
- have an opportunity for independent work
- show progress and understanding
- provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching
- enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline
- take ownership and responsibility for learning
- engage parental co-operation and support
- create channels for home school dialogue

Purpose

Ideally, homework should provide feedback to teachers about student understanding, enabling teachers to adjust their teaching and learning and, when necessary, reteach concepts *before* moving forward.

Frequency

This is decided by each faculty area in collaboration with other Faculty Leaders and the Assistant Head.

Sanctions

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet the student's needs. If this is so, then sanctions should be used in accordance with college expectations.

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Hoots and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may be sent home. However, students should understand that they own their homework and its aim is to improve their learning.

Responsibilities

The role of the student:

- to listen to homework instructions in class
- to copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary
- to ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline
- to attempt all work and give their best
- to inform the class teacher of any difficulties

The role of the Form Tutor

- to include homework in student mentoring where appropriate
- to see that homework is being set and recorded
- to check that the diary is being signed by the parent/guardian
- to note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents
- to provide opportunities during the week for students to work on homework tasks

The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

- set homework according to their faculty expectations
- provide the stimulus
- give full and comprehensive instructions
- set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met
- mark and return all homework promptly
- provide help and support
- inform the Faculty Leader, Head of Year and Head of House, as appropriate, when problems arise

The role of the College

- to provide after college and lunchtime opportunities for independent study including study groups after college with the subject teacher.

The role of the Faculty Leader :

- to seek to enhance the quality of homework set
- to monitor and evaluate the homework policy within their curriculum area

The role of the Senior Leadership Team:

- to provide staff, students and parents with the necessary homework documentation
- to review annually the school homework policy
- to monitor and evaluate the school homework policy

The role of the Parents:

To check their child's student planner and to reinforce the value of homework through positive feedback, as this will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Homework planners will be checked by:

- Parents (weekly and signed)
- The form tutor (weekly and signed)
- The Head of Year (sampled every few weeks)

Subject Staff

- will keep a record of homework tasks as part of a lesson plan
- make the record available to the Faculty Leader and Subject Leader

Faculty Leader and Subject Leader

- will sample homework as part of the Faculty Quality Assurance programme

SLT

- will sample homework records through Area reviews
- will sample examples of work and talk to students according to monitoring programme
- will review school policy annually

Last Reviewed: March 2015