



Wreake Valley Academy

Homework Policy

Date of review	Sept 2018
Date Approved by Governing Board	Oct 2018
Date of next review	Autumn term 2020

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body
Chair of Governors/Chair of Committee

Wreake Valley Academy

Updated September 2018



HOMEWORK POLICY

The Academy Aims and Values include:-

- That all learners are challenged by their learning, make good progress and are prepared for future learning
- That all learners become self-motivated, conscientious and capable of working with others.
- That learners enjoy study and acquire the self-discipline to do so fully.

1. Why do we think homework is valuable?

We think that homework is valuable for the following reasons:-

- a) It helps students to make more rapid progress in learning. (It has been calculated that regular homework over the secondary school period can equal one year's schooling). It gives students the opportunity to learn and revise in a way that suits them.
- b) It provides a valuable opportunity to reinforce knowledge, consolidate understanding of ideas and practice skills learned in the classroom.
- c) It allows students to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other students on the one hand and the external discipline of the timetable, bells etc. on the other. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
- d) It allows students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- e) It provides opportunities for long term research and encourage a culture of learning.
- f) It allows the teacher to concentrate on those activities in the classroom requiring his or her presence.
- g) Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
- h) It can involve parents and others in the students' work for their mutual benefit.

2. **How much homework do we expect?**

Years 7, 8 & 9

Homework will be set each week in:
English, Maths, Science and French

Homework will be set once a week or once a fortnight depending on the timetable in:
CATS, Geography, History and RE

This homework should take the students:-

Approximately 30 minutes per subject in Year 7

Approximately 30 minutes per subject in Year 8

Approximately 40 minutes per subject in Year 9

Year 10 and Year 11

In Year 10 and Year 11 students will be expected to spend 1 - 1½ hours per week doing homework. This will include learning and a range of other homework activities. At certain points during the year, there may be a need to extend the amount of time to complete work and prepare for assessment and exams. Students are always given specific dates for the completion of coursework.

Sixth Form

In Year 12 and Year 13 students study 3 A Level subjects and are expected to complete approximately 1 hour of independent study for each hour spent in the classroom; this equates to approximately 5 hours per subject, per week. Independent study time and study facilities are available to sixth form students during the school week.

Time to be spent on the homework task will also be shown on 'Show My Homework'

3. **What do we do to help students organise their homework?**

- a) Individual teachers will inform students in class when homework will be set. We normally give up to a week to complete homework tasks. Some pieces of homework and coursework for GCSE and A Level may extend over several weeks but teachers will set interim guidelines for the completion of different sections of the work.
- b) All homework will be set on 'Show My Homework'. All teachers, students and parents have access to the application and there is also open access to the homework calendar on the school website.

- c) We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all instructions are on the Show My Homework application.
- d) Feedback on homework is given in a variety of ways. These will include marked online, teacher marked, verbal feedback, peer and self-assessment.
- e) Teachers have high expectations of student's work and good presentation is expected inline with school policy

4. **What kind of homework do we give?**

All homework set will be meaningful, manageable and motivational. Homework aids learning and is linked to classwork and making progress.

The kinds of homework we give ranges from the familiar written exercises, reading, learning spellings and key terms, revision, knowledge organisers and preparation for exams to less familiar kinds like problem solving, flipped learning, interviewing, researching in books and on the Internet, long term projects, watching a T.V programme and online quizzes.

GCSE and A level students will be given a range of activities including specific coursework and practice exam questions but should take opportunities to go through and reinforce work from lessons as often weekly. Resources and links to appropriate websites may be attached to the task on the Show My Homework application

5. **What can you do as parents or guardians to support your child?**

- a) Ensure that you are logged into Show My Homework and are receiving homework notifications
- b) Help your child organise his or her time to their best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- c) Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- d) Take a positive interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- e) Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the Form Tutor in the first instance who will be glad to help.

We know that work done at home aids learning and we try our best to carry out our homework policy in the most efficient way possible. But we need your co-operation to make sure that work done at home is of maximum benefit to your child, and we thank you for that co-operation.

6. What do we do if a student fails to complete homework satisfactorily?

All students will follow the School's homework policy and are expected to ask for help if they have not understood what was necessary in the first place. We have a system of monitoring their efforts and for taking action if homework is not completed by the deadline set. Tutors, Heads of Year and Heads of Department and can be involved in this monitoring depending on the seriousness of the situation. If there is no genuine reason for the lack of homework then action taken could range from short detentions, to a discussion with the Form Tutor, to making contact with the parents to longer detentions if necessary.

If problems remain, the Principal or another member of the Senior Leadership Team will be actively involved.

7. Homework facilities in Academy

- a) The Academy Library opens before school at 8.15am, at lunchtime and after school until 4.15 pm.
- b) Computing facilities are available at lunchtime and after school until 4.15 pm.
- c) Homework Club - details will be published early every Autumn Term.