



**Central Lancaster
High School**

HOME LEARNING POLICY

Date: May 2018

Review date: May 2019

SLT Review: KSH

Governors review: Learning and Standards

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the teaching and support staff community at Central Lancaster High School. This policy is a statement of the principles and rationale for homework at CLHS and should be read in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Policy, Marking and Feedback Policy and Monitoring and Feedback Policy.

The term 'home learning' refers to tasks that should be completed outside of usual lessons. The policy is in place to ensure that home learning supports and enhances school-based learning giving students the best opportunity to make progress.

Purpose of home learning

- To strengthen and consolidate learning from the classroom
- To provide an opportunity to practise a certain skill
- To prepare in advance a subject or aspect of learning
- To revise a certain piece or area of work in preparation for a test or exam
- To encourage independent learning skills
- To learn how to manage time effectively and work to set deadlines

Principles

For home learning to support school learning effectively, it should be planned, meaningful and manageable.

For home learning to be planned:

- it should be set at the right point in the learning sequence
- it should be differentiated with appropriate challenge

For home learning to be meaningful:

- it should be relevant to the programme of study
- the purpose should be made clear to the student

For home learning to be manageable:

- it should be achievable for the student in the timeframe allowed
- it should be planned to accommodate the range of student ability within the group
- there should be time to ensure the teacher can assess impact and/or provide feedback

Home learning frequency

The frequency of home learning should be proportionate to allocated curriculum time and as stipulated by departmental policy. The needs of the learners should always be paramount and should be guided by the above principles.

Expectations of students

Students should:

- try their hardest and take pride in their home learning
- accept that deadlines must be met
- resolve problems before the deadline, including seeking help from their teacher
- understand that failure to complete home learning will usually result in detention. Where this occurs frequently, parents will be contacted and other additional sanctions may be imposed
- make use of Show My Homework (Class Charts from September 2018)

Support for home learning

Parents, guardians and carers are key to students' success with home learning: firstly, in helping to provide a routine for the completion of home learning and a suitable environment in which to work; and secondly, in prompting students to do their home learning each evening, taking an interest, giving encouragement and support as needed, including contacting school where there are difficulties.

Show My Homework (SMH)

SMH is a web-based tool which allows students and parents to check home learning set and due dates. Both students and parents will receive a log in and password (Class Charts from September 2018).

Impact of home learning

- Research¹ suggests that on average, the impact of home learning is consistently positive (leading to on average five months' additional progress). However, there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how home learning is set is likely to be very important.
- Benefits are likely to be more modest (up to two to three months' progress on average), if home learning is only set because it is timetabled to be set.
- Evidence suggests that how home learning relates to learning during normal school time is important. In the most effective examples learning at home is an integral part of school-based learning, rather than an add-on.
- To maximise impact, it is important that students are given feedback on their home learning.
- Studies imply that there is an optimum amount of home learning of between one and two hours per day.

¹ The Education Endowment Foundation, 31st January, 2018