HOMEWORK POLICY

Policy Lead	Alex Thatcher
Last review date	September 2024
Next review date	July 2025
Approval needed by	Headteacher

Rationale

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. Effective homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement, and develops pupils' study skills. It is an integral part of the curriculum and requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Homework Objectives

- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study and form positive study habits.
- To promote individual progress through the consolidation or extension of subject knowledge.
- To provide parents and carers with the chance to support their child's progress.

Responsibilities

The Role of the Pupil

- To listen to homework instructions provided by the class teacher.
- To access Satchel One to check and complete homework set.
- To attempt all work to their best effort and ability.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in on time.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties before the submission deadline.

The Role of the Class Teacher

- To set regular homework in line with the learning needs of the group.
- To set homework tasks that are meaningful and purposeful.
- To give full and comprehensive instructions.
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- To provide feedback on homework in line with Academy policy.
- To inform the Faculty Head, Form Tutor, and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The Role of Parents/Carers

The role of the parents and carers is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard, and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents and carers can assist by:
- Providing a suitable quiet place in which their child can do their homework, or by encouraging them to attend homework and study support clubs.
- Making it clear to their child that they value homework.
- Encouraging their child and praising them when they have completed homework.
- Expecting deadlines to be met and checking that they are.

Homework at Knutsford Academy: What does it look like?

Homework is set using the Satchel One app. The app provides the instructions for the completion of homework and the deadlines for completion. Each department will set meaningful homework when appropriate for that subject in line with the schemes of learning for that subject.

<u>Homework Minimum Standards</u>

- Homework will be uploaded onto Satchel One by teachers by the end of the day on which the homework was set.
- Students will be given reasonable time (usually the following week) to complete the homework tasks according to the task type and difficulty of the task.
- Teachers will explicitly state how long to spend on a task.
  - At KS3, this will be up to a maximum of 30 minutes per subject per week. For subjects where students only have one lesson a fortnight, this will be a maximum of 30 minutes a fortnight.
  - At KS4, this will be up to a maximum of 60 minutes per subject per week.
  - At KS5, it is recommend that in order to make a successful transition from GCSE to Advanced Level work, students should undertake a minimum of twenty-four hours study per fortnight, outside of timetabled lessons. For example, if students are studying three subjects, they would be expected to complete a minimum of eight additional hours per fortnight, per subject in their own time. This time will be a combination of homework, assigned independent study and individual independent study. Students are responsible for ensuring that they complete sufficient individual independent study to meet the requirements of the course.
- Maximum homework time might consist of several smaller tasks or one larger task, not to exceed the total time allocated. For example, at KS3 two 15-minute tasks may be set or one hour long task may be set over two weeks.

<u>Types of homework tasks</u>

Read it:	• Reading novels • Reading key extracts of texts/literature • Reading articles	*'Language and literacy provide us with the building blocks not just for academic success, but for fulfilling careers and rewarding lives'.* (Education Endowment Foundation) Reading helps to improve vocabulary, communication, grammar and writing skills.
Spell it:	• Spelling and vocabulary tests • Exploration of the etymology of key words	Spelling tasks help students to be able to spell key words within their subjects correctly. The more practice that students have at spellings, the better chance they have at remembering them. Being able to spell words correctly is something that will help students all through their life.
Apply it:	• Extended written responses to a question • Producing a piece of work which will demonstrate understanding of a topic or concept	These tasks might require students to demonstrate how well they have understood and learnt key things from their lessons. They might be extended written responses to a question which require students to apply their knowledge and understanding.
Retrieve it:	• Knowledge Organisers • Quizzes • Self-testing • Flashcards • Graphic Organisers • Learning grids	These are tasks which prompt students to recall/remember key information. The more we encourage students to retrieve information, the more chance we have of it 'sticking' and remaining in the long-term memory for students to retrieve with ease.

Practise it:	• Practice of skills • Rehearsal of lines • Practice of dance moves • Music practice for performance pieces • Use of subject specific platforms such as 'Maths Watch'	Practice makes perfect! Repeatedly practising something eventually helps students to remember and to master something to an excellent standard.
Pod it:	• **GCSEPod**- An extensive study support platform which provides students with access to additional content including film clips, assessment materials linked to specific subjects and topics	GCSEPod is an online resource which contains lots of mini film pods linked to most subjects and key topics. Teachers can use them to test their students, enhance revision and monitor their engagement. Students can self-test, build knowledge and monitor their progress.
Revise it:	• Self-testing • Essay plans • Practice essays • Summarisation • Mind maps • Dual coding of notes	Active revision is an important skill that students need to master. Active revision and practice of exam tasks can reduce stress and anxiety associated with exams while allowing our students to achieve their full potential.
Bespoke it	• Tasks set by subject areas that are specific to the nature of that subject.	Occasionally staff may need to set a homework that does not comply with one of our 'its'. In these instances you may see homework that is set using 'Bespoke it'.
Flip it	• Pre-reading information provided by teachers. • Pre-reading fiction/non-fiction texts. • Researching information/topic areas ahead of the lesson.	Pre-reading information in advance of the lesson to enable the retrieval of this knowledge and deeper thinking in the lesson. This is predominantly used with our KS5 students.

Feedback

We strive to provide timely and purposeful feedback. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback, such as whole class feedback, verbal feedback, written feedback (WWW/Action) and follow-up tasks.

Rewards and sanctions

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be praised in class. Positive praise points will be awarded for good homework.

Students who fail to complete homework:

All students are expected to complete homework on time and to a high standard. The completion of homework is compulsory. Failure to complete or hand in homework will be treated as a serious issue and sanctions will be imposed.

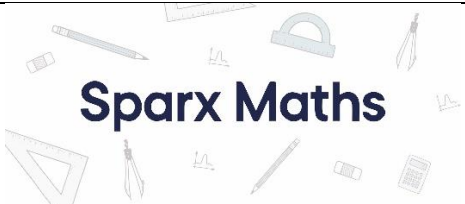**Students with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities**

At Knutsford Academy we recognise that students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may require that specific tasks be set that are consistent with a student's EHCP.

While students with SEND may benefit from adapted tasks, it is important that they also do as much in common with other students as possible.

A balanced amount of the right type of homework will be set for students with SEND, in consultation with the parents and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Subject Specific Applications

Some subject areas use different online platforms to help support the learning of outside of the classroom. These platforms are listed below. Students will be set homework to access these platforms through the Satchel app in addition to other non app-based tasks.

	Subject	Name of application	How does my student access it?
Sparx Reader	**English**	**Sparx Reader** Sparx Reader is a platform which allows students to choose a reading book suited to their ability level. There will be weekly reading tasks and quizzes based on the book students have chosen.	Sparx Reader Login (sparxmaths.uk) Students will be provided with a log in from the English Teacher.
Sparx Maths	**Maths**	**Sparx** This is an online platform that adjusts homework difficulty according to how well students have answered previous questions.	Sparx Maths Student Login Single sign on – students can log in using their Microsoft school account 'Sign in with office 365'.
MathsWatch	**Maths**	**Mathswatch** An online learning platform for students to access maths tutorials and videos. Students will be set videos to watch to support the learning of specific maths topics.	MathsWatch Single sign on – students can log in using their Microsoft school account 'Sign in with office 365'.
TASSOMAI	**Science**	**Tassomai** Tassomai uses low-stakes testing, to provide instant feedback to students and helps to identify areas for improvement. Students are expected to complete a minimum of three daily goals each week.	Tassomai Single sign on – students can log in using their Microsoft school account 'Sign in with office 365'.

	All subjects at KS4	GCSE Pod	GCSEPod
		An extensive study support platform which provides students with access to additional content including film clips, assessment materials linked to specific subjects and topics.	Single sign on – students can log in using their Microsoft school account 'Sign in with office 365'.