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Longdendale High School
Homework and Independent Learning Policy

September 2022

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1 Introduction

Learning which students complete outside of school at Longdendale is referred to as homework. We strongly believe that learning independently helps to embed knowledge and skills acquired in class and provides all students with an opportunity to develop a crucial range of learning habits including independent thinking, retention of knowledge into the long-term memory, resilience and initiative.

'Homework' refers to any work or activity which students are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents and carers. At Longdendale we truly value the formation of partnerships between home and school. One of the ways in which this can be best achieved is through homework activities.

At Longdendale we look at homework as an opportunity to enrich the learning of our students and believe it is a valuable learning tool which also prepares our students for the demands that they may face later on in life. Homework is intended to be beneficial for students by broadening, consolidating and mastering and the learning achieved within school time, laying the foundation for future self-supported home study, and promoting the home/school partnership.

Students' knowledge and understanding is promoted through the publication of 'knowledge organisers' for each student in every subject termly. These will inform students and parents exactly what knowledge the students need to acquire and understand as the building blocks of learning for that term. They are published on the school website.

Commitment to homework will be evident in students' mastery of that knowledge and understanding and their response to teacher feedback in lessons. This will be reported on termly, for each student in the form of a grade 1-4 for their attitude to homework.

- 1=excelling
- 2=engaged
- 3=coasting
- 4=disengaged

2 Purpose of Homework.

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

- 1) It can support students to make more rapid progress in learning.
- 2) It promotes independent learning. This way of working is vital at all stages of secondary education and will prepare them for the demands of independent revision for assessments and ultimately GCSE exams.
- 3) It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
- 4) It can allow students to use materials and other sources of information or experiences that are not always available in the classroom.
- 5) It can involve parents, carers and others in the student's work for their mutual benefit.
- 6) It can give students valuable experience of working to deadlines.
- 7) It can support students' self-esteem and allow confidence to build.
- 8) It may have links to knowledge organisers to support the retention of knowledge into the long-term memory.

3 How We Set Homework

Whole school policy dictates that homework tasks set should broaden and master the learning taking place in the classroom. Homework tasks should provide students with the opportunity to practise the various skills in any given subject and to further develop their knowledge and understanding.

Students may also be required to complete independent revision at home in preparation for these assessments and exams. The setting of homework tasks should therefore promote and develop these independent study skills.

Staff will inform students of homework set in lessons and provide the necessary support and resources. This is then supported by the setting of homework through the Class Charts platform. Parents and carers can access the details of the tasks set, how long should be spent on the task and when the task should be completed by. Resources can also be uploaded by staff and accessed by both students and their families. Submission is also tracked and teachers can send reminder notifications to classes, parents and carers.

Students' independent learning habits will be promoted through the homework tasks set on Class Charts and the direct link to the knowledge organisers. This long-term approach to independent study becomes habitual and the same strategies are embedded in all students by the time they do external examinations in Year 11. All parents can access their child's homework record via Class Charts. Teaching staff will record for each student whether the work was;

- Submitted
- Submitted Late
- Not Submitted

When homework culminates in a low-level quiz, teachers may select 'not submitted' to illustrate where there was a lack of commitment in preparation which is reflected in the score/result achieved.

All students should:

- **Log on to Class Charts daily to check homework tasks that have been set and to meet deadlines.** www.classcharts.com/student/login Students will not be issued with planners;
- **Locate and use the termly knowledge organisers in Class Charts;**
- **Log on to their school email account daily to check for shared resources and messages from staff;**
- **Use the independent study skills to improve knowledge and understanding across the curriculum;**
- **Read regularly and widely including their own library reading book and a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.**

All teaching staff will:

- **Set tasks which promote the acquisition of knowledge and understanding (fluency) in subjects;**
- **Relate certain tasks to the knowledge organisers for each subject to embed the knowledge into the long-term memory.**
- **Publish homework tasks on Class Charts in line with the prescribed amount and frequency;**
- **Ensure the submission of independent learning tasks is recorded in the 'submission' facility in Class Charts;**
- **Test retrieval and memory through regular low stakes quizzing in class and regular formal assessments.**

All Parents and Carers should:

- **Ensure they have used their login code to set up their Class Charts account** www.classcharts.com/parent/login ;
- **Log on daily to Class Charts and check the homework that has been set;**
- **Encourage the completion of homework tasks every day and support the development of effective study habits;**
- **Ensure that reading is promoted and valued at home;**
- **Support students in acquiring factual knowledge and sound understanding of subject content by discussing academic progress at home;**
- **Use the subject knowledge organisers to check for understanding in preparation for tests and assessments at school.**

4 Homework Frequency

We support the view that a healthy balance between homework activities and other life enriching activities should be maintained. We do not expect homework to be set with a deadline for the following day as routine.

Below is a table of the frequency of homework being set for your child

Pieces of homework per cycle years 7-9		Pieces of homework per cycle years 10 and 11
Core and EBACC subjects	All non-core subjects	All subjects
1 per week	1 per fortnight	1 per week
1 per week	1 per fortnight	1 per week
1 per week	1 per fortnight	1 per week
1 per week	1 per fortnight	1 per week
1 per week	1 per fortnight	1 per week
1 per week	1 per fortnight	1 per week

Core and EBACC Subjects – English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages.

In Years 7-9, History and Geography will be set as a frequency of once a fortnight due to the timetable, so that they receive one piece of humanities per week. There will be no PSHE or core PE homework.

4.1 Homework Frequency – Years 10 and 11

Homework activities will be set regularly an average should be one hour per week per subject (including revision for key exams). In Years 10-11 students will regularly be set structured activities for examination preparation as homework. They will be set specific tasks around revision and may create revision materials as homework evidence.

It will be recorded and tracked on Class charts.

All students in all years should be completing twenty minutes of reading for pleasure per day. They should also be accessing Spellzone for a minimum of twice per week to develop their spelling skills.

Each homework task should take approximately 30-60 minutes but could take longer if the nature of the task dictates it.

Given the importance of independent learning to your child's education, it is necessary for it to be monitored, supported, rewarded and enforced when necessary. Students receive achievement points and other rewards such as postcards home when they complete tasks. If your child persistently fails to complete independent work they have been set, then they will be sanctioned according to our procedures and you will be made aware via Class Charts.

We provide opportunities for students to work in the library every break and lunch. We also have an Independent working space in the library each evening from 2:50-3.45pm for students to work in if they need a quiet space.

Students should be working proactively to address their learning gaps, go back through their class notes, create resources for revision and build their long-term memory through regular testing and quizzing. The provision of knowledge organisers and strategies students can deploy at home means there are lots of opportunities for students to develop effective independent learning habits.

5 Feedback of Homework

Homework will be given feedback and returned promptly, in accordance with the whole school and departmental marking and assessment policies.

6 Procedures to be followed when homework has not been completed/returned

Not completing homework tasks or producing work to a poor standard will be considered a poor choice. Students will be given one chance if they fail to submit or submit poor work.

In this situation staff will follow the below procedures:

- a. Student will be issued with a C2 detention managed by the class teacher after having the once chance for submission.
- b. If the student fails to resubmit to an acceptable standard for their ability or continues to produce homework to a poor standard, a break time or after school detention will be issued by the classroom teacher ranging from 30-60 minutes depending on the task to be completed. This will provide the student with an opportunity to complete the outstanding piece of homework.
- c. If the student fails to attend the detention for homework they will then be issued with a C3 detention managed by Heads of Year.

7 The Role of Staff

The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that the quality assurance of the whole school policy is embedded firmly in departmental provision and that provision is regularly monitored and reviewed. The SLT will also take responsibility for informing parents of the whole school policy using the school website and a parental guidance page.

It is the **Heads of department's** responsibility to monitor the setting of homework within their departments to ensure that the homework set is:

High quality to facilitate progress, embed, monitor, review and enrich the learning of our students.
Set regularly in line with frequency with realistic timescale for completion.
Regularly marked to provide students with a feedback opportunity.
Celebrated and rewarded.

Class Teachers will issue, monitor and regularly assess homework. All teachers should ensure that homework is set through Class charts as well as informing students in lessons. While class teachers will praise students for the consistent return of high-quality homework, they will also follow the whole school policy on the non-return of homework.

Form Tutors will raise any concerns with parents/carers or Heads of Year surrounding the completion or setting of homework. They can also be an initial point of contact if parents have any queries around the setting of homework.

8 The Role of Parents/Carers

We truly value the relationship that we have with Parents/Carers including the support that they can offer with homework.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to provide practical support for homework by:

- Establishing a routine whereby homework is given a recognised place in home life;
- Discussing homework with the student regularly;
- Checking homework issued through accessing Class charts.
- Providing an appropriate place where study can be undertaken;
- Encouraging students and praising them when they have completed homework.
- Communicating with school about any issues.