



HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Parent and carer guidance 2026-27

Why homework matters

Homework reinforces learning from lessons and helps students develop organisation, confidence and independence. This guide explains what to expect and how you can support your child at home.

Our principles

- Homework has a clear purpose linked to learning in each subject.
- Students learn to manage their workload and take increasing responsibility for their learning.
- Study skills are taught and practised as students move through the School.
- Parents and carers support routines, discuss learning and encourage independence.

How homework will be set

Homework is set on Satchel:One by 4:30pm on the day it is set, with instructions, resources and a deadline. Parents and carers receive a notification when homework is set.

Homework will not be due the following day. Deadlines allow time for completion alongside other commitments. The recommended timings are on page 3.

Study skills by year group

Term 1 tutor-time sessions teach approaches to independent learning. Students can use these skills in their existing homework, with increasing independence as they move through the School.

Year and focus	What students learn	How you can help
Year 7 PRIORITISE	Plan when and where to work, break tasks into steps and decide what to do first.	Review Satchel:One together and ask your child to plan the order of their tasks.
Year 8 TALK ABOUT LEARNING	Explain ideas using subject vocabulary and identify what needs clarification.	Ask your child to teach you a concept or explain how they solved a problem.
Year 9 RETAIN	Practise recalling information using self-testing, flashcards, mind maps and memory aids.	Use flashcards to quiz your child. Encourage them to recall answers before checking notes.
Year 10 SUMMARISE	Select key information, make concise summaries and apply knowledge through practice questions.	Ask your child to explain the main ideas in a summary and use it to support practice.
Year 11 PRACTISE AND REVISE	Plan revision, mix topics and use practice questions to identify gaps.	Discuss their revision plan and encourage them to revisit topics they find difficult.
Sixth Form INDEPENDENT	Manage study time, undertake wider reading and research, and plan extended tasks.	Encourage your child to plan their own workload and make productive use of study periods.

The types of homework we may set and why

Tasks may combine several of these approaches, depending on the subject and the learning involved.

Homework type	Examples of tasks	How this helps
READ IT	Read texts, articles or wider subject material; identify key ideas.	Builds vocabulary, reading skills and subject knowledge.
SPELL IT	Learn spellings and subject vocabulary; explore word meanings and origins.	Improves accuracy and confidence with specialist vocabulary.
APPLY IT	Write extended responses, solve problems or complete calculations.	Uses knowledge and develops reasoning and understanding.
RETRIEVE IT	Recall information through quizzes, self-testing, flashcards or knowledge organisers.	Strengthens memory so that information is easier to use later.
PRACTISE IT	Rehearse performances, practise subject skills or answer questions, including through online platforms.	Builds fluency, accuracy and confidence through repeated practice.
INDEPENDENT LEARNING	Review lessons, address gaps, read more widely or prepare for future learning.	Develops the ability to manage and improve learning independently.
NEA	Complete non-exam assessment work in relevant subjects.	Develops organisation and independence through assessment tasks.

Shared responsibilities

Clear expectations and consistent support help students develop good homework habits.

Role	How each person can help
Subject teachers	Set purposeful homework with clear instructions, resources and manageable deadlines on Satchel:One, following the recommended timings. Reinforce study skills where appropriate.
Students	Check Satchel:One regularly, plan their work and meet deadlines. Use the study skills taught, complete work independently and ask for help when needed.
Tutors	Teach and reinforce study skills, and support students with organisation and independent learning.
Parents and carers	Use Satchel:One to stay informed. Help your child establish a routine and suitable place to work. Discuss their learning and encourage them to complete their own work.

Time for homework and independent learning

We recommend the following approximate daily amounts of homework or independent learning.

Year group	Approximate time per day
Year 7	60 minutes
Year 8	70 minutes
Year 9	80 minutes
Year 10	90 minutes
Year 11	100 minutes
Sixth Form	120 minutes, excluding study periods

If your child finishes all set homework in less time, encourage independent learning such as self-testing, reviewing lessons, wider reading or practice to address gaps in understanding.

Approximate guidance for subjects

The figures below are minutes of homework set per fortnight in each subject.

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Art	30	30	30	140	140
Biology			70	70	70
Chemistry			70	70	70
Computer Science	20	20	30	100	100
Design Engineering	30	30	30	100	100
Drama	20	20	30	100	100
English	60	60	90	120	120
EPR	30	30	30	100	100
French			45	100	100
Geography	40	40	30	100	100
History	45	60	40	100	100
Mathematics	60	60	90	140	140
Music	20	20	30	100	100
PD					
PE				60	60
Physics			70	70	70
Science	100	100			
Spanish	50	50	105	100	100
Statistics				100	100

These timings are a guide and may vary, particularly in practical subjects or during non-exam assessments (NEAs). Blank cells indicate that no time allocation is listed.