

Homework Policy

Isca Academy



Approved by: Local Governing Body

Date: November 2020

Next review due by: November 2021

Introduction

At Isca Academy we believe that homework should be set on a regular basis for all students and should fulfil the aims of the Academy in:

- Meeting the educational needs of all students as individuals and thus enabling them to acquire knowledge, skills, understanding and qualifications;
- Providing worthwhile learning activities that are planned and are integral parts of the programme of study for each subject;

Purpose

- To reinforce and consolidate skills, knowledge and understanding imparted in class;
- To supplement and extend the work covered in class;
- To prepare students for future lessons and examinations;
- To foster responsibility, self-discipline and good organisational skills in students;
- To encourage students to become independent learners;
- To further the parent-Academy partnership.

Procedure

- A formal homework timetable is devised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is included in the front of each Knowledge Organiser (KO).
- Students are required to spend between 20-30 minutes per subject per night completing their homework. However for Sparx (Mathematics) and English, this should be 1 hour. Students preparing for public examinations may be asked to spend longer, depending on the nature of tasks set.
- Subject teachers will direct students to which sections of their KO they should be working on each week. Each section will clearly identifiable i.e. Week 1.
- We do not expect students to simply copy the content from their KO. We will expect them to use one or some of the strategies listed here (this is not exhaustive) to ensure they are learning (committing to their long-term memory) the content set: Thinking Maps, flashcards, mnemonics.
- Parents / carers are encouraged to test students on the content they should be learning and to take an active interest in their home learning tasks. We also encourage families to sign a student's pink homework book to say that the student has spent the required amount of time on their homework. This is to avoid spending both too long or too little time on task.
- Teachers will set 'low-stakes' quizzes at the start of each lesson to check the extent to which students are learning the content set and are able to apply this knowledge / understanding to new contexts.
- There will be occasions when the teacher will ask students to complete an 'enquiry task' as well as learning the core content. When this happens, the teacher should ensure students have written this instruction down clearly in their pink homework book so parents / carers are aware and check accordingly. For example: *'Week 2, complete enquiry task as well as learning core content'*.
- We expect students to take time and pride over their work. We ask that students aim to complete 1 page of their pink homework book per subject, per night. If for example students are using flashcards or working orally with a parent / carer we

accept it will not be presented as 1 page. In these instances, we ask that parents / carers write a note so the tutor can see the work has been completed, albeit in a different format.

- Students are responsible for keeping their KOs and pink homework books up to date and in good condition, and to meet the homework expectations.
- Each morning in tutor time, tutors will check that students have completed the tasks set.
- Parents / carers are encouraged to check their child's homework schedule and pink homework book and write a note if there are reasons for a student failing to complete their homework.
- When a student fails to complete homework or if the work is of an unacceptable standard the member of staff should investigate why, considering for example:
 - Personal circumstances
 - The student's previous record for completion of homework
- The tutor will use their professional judgement as to whether to apply appropriate Academy sanctions. If problems persist the student should be referred to the tutor and parents should be informed. Copies of any communication regarding homework should be forwarded to the tutor for filing. If a student is experiencing difficulties with completing tasks, the teacher should consult the SENDCo for further advice and guidance.
- All students are expected to try to complete every aspect of the homework set regardless of need, circumstance or ability. Where a parent/carer feels that a student has a learning need significant enough that it limits their ability to carry out the homework set, then they can contact Miss Carter (SENDCo) SENCO@jscaexeter.co.uk who will look at making reasonable adjustments to the homework demands placed upon them.
- If a parent/carer feels that there are other extenuating circumstances impacting their child's ability to complete the homework then they should contact their child's Head of Year who will discuss each situation on an individual basis.

Resources

- At the start of each academic year, students will be provided with a homework pack consisting of: A Knowledge Organiser (KO) book (new one issued every term), a pink homework book and a plastic wallet.
- A homework timetable is included in the front of each KO.
- All KOs are uploaded to our website and thus accessible from home.

The Academy recognises that the personal circumstances of some of our students may mean that they find studying at home more difficult. Therefore, the library opening hours are extended beyond the normal Academy day (3.15-4.15 from Monday to Thursday) providing students with any help and support. Students and parents should be informed and reminded of this opportunity at regular intervals.

Appendix 1 – Homework Concessions

With a new homework policy coming into practice a new homework concessions system has been devised as outlined below.

Parents, tutors and heads of year can refer students for a homework concession. All homework concessions will be agreed and set by the Inclusion team.

Concession expectations need to be clearly explained to the learner by the tutor and the Inclusion team will support this if needed.

The homework concessions list will be reviewed every half term.

Concession Level	Description
No Concession	Learner completes homework as described in 'Homework Policy'.
Level 1	1 piece of homework per evening, consisting of one page of their homework book.
Level 2	3 pieces of homework per week (1 x English, 1 x Maths and 3 x 10-minute Science) This can include evidence of completed Sparx, Tassomai
Level 3	Bespoke (dependent upon individual need)