

Homework Policy

Isca Academy



Approved by: Local Governing Body

Date: September 2021

Next review due by: pending ratification 13th October 2021

Introduction

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 integral parts of the programme of study;

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 Homework Book.
- Students are required to follow the printed schedule and spend the specified amount of time on each subject set.
- Subject teachers will direct students to which sections of their Knowledge Organiser they should be working on each week. Each section will be clearly identifiable i.e. Week 1.
- We do not expect students to simply copy the content from their Knowledge Organiser. We will expect them to use the 'Say, Look, Cover, Write, Check' strategy as laid out in their Homework Book. If however, this proves ineffective, in consultation with their tutor, they may attempt an alternative strategy i.e. Thinking Maps, flashcards, mnemonics to learn core content (this list is not exhaustive).
- 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 Homework book to say that the student has spent the requisite amount of time on their homework. This is to avoid spending both too long and too little on tasks set.
- 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 Homework Book so parents / carers are aware and check accordingly. For example: *'Week 2, complete enquiry task as well as learning core content'*.

- If a student has perfectly recalled the content required and no correction is required, they will be expected to complete the 'Enquiry Task' in the area specified in their Homework Book.
- We expect students to take time and pride over their work. We ask that students aim to complete 1 page of their 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 Knowledge Organisers and Homework Books up to date and in good condition, and to meet homework demands.
- Each morning, tutors will check that students have completed the homework tasks set.
- Parents / carers are encouraged to check their child's homework schedule and contact their tutor in the first instance (before 9.00am as we send out the detentions after this check has been completed) if there are reasons for a student failing to complete their homework. An email list is printed in the front of each Homework Book.
- 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:
 - Home circumstances
 - The student's previous record for completion of homework
- The tutor will use his/her 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 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 all homework set, then they can contact Miss Carter (SENDco) SENCO@iscaexeter.co.uk who will look at making a reasonable adjustment to the homework demands placed upon them.
- If a parent/carer feels that there are other extenuating circumstances impacting the student's ability to complete all 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 comprising of: A Knowledge Organiser book (issued every term), a Homework Book (issued every term) and a plastic wallet
- A homework timetable is included in the front of each Homework Book
- All Knowledge Organisers are uploaded to our website and thus accessible from home.

The Academy recognises that the home circumstances of some of our students do not provide a suitable environment for study. The library opening hours are extended beyond the normal Academy day (3.15-4.15 from Monday to Thursday) providing students with the requisite help and support. Students and parents should be informed and reminded of this opportunity at regular intervals.

Appendix 1 – Homework Concessions

We expect every student at Isca Academy to undertake homework. However, we also recognise that we will need to make 'reasonable adjustments' for some students. We operate a concessions system 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, the Inclusion team will support with this if needed.

The homework concessions list will reviewed every half term.

The expectation is that very few learners will qualify for a homework concession, with even fewer students hitting a Level 2 or higher.

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)