

Home learning at Stopsley High School: 2019 - 2020

Rationale:

Home learning tasks are regularly set for all our students because it helps students to achieve their potential more fully than if we simply relied on study conducted during the school day.

Home learning provides opportunities for students to become resourceful, independent, self-motivated learners able to cope with the demands of a future study and working life.

Aim:

The aims of home learning are:

- to consolidate and extend work covered in class
- to provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching
- to enhance students' study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- to encourage students to develop a sense of responsibility for, and commitment to, their own learning

Setting and recording of homework:

All homework will be set in advance in accordance with the department calendar on Show My Homework (SMH).

The home learning timetable for every year group will be published on the school website. Staff are encouraged to set home learning in advance of the timetabled day to give students more time to complete and to plan for it.

Show my Homework is used to set a range of different home learning activities including quizzes and tests. Students have log-ins for Show my Homework and may communicate with staff using the message service or via email. Parents also have log-ins to enable them to support their child with their home learning. If students lose their log-ins they should notify their tutor. If parents misplace their individual passwords they can still access SMH by using google to search for Stopsley High School Show My Homework.

Types of home learning:

We recognise that non-written assignments are just as valuable as written tasks. Possible tasks could include:

- wider reading and note-making

- 'flipped learning', where students are introduced to the learning material before class, e.g. watch a video and answer questions etc
- revise notes/vocabulary
- drafting and redrafting work in response to teacher feedback
- projects that are broken down with key success criteria with clear deadlines
- preparation for presentations
- practising skills/concepts learned during the lesson, e.g. exam questions
- revision in preparation for a test or assessment using specific notes or activities
- completing online learning tasks

Homework club:

Supervised homework club is offered to all students Monday to Thursday in B207 daily. The homework poster referenced in the tutor hub, tutor room and homework section of the SHS web page provides all relevant details.

The role of parents / carers:

Parents / carers are encouraged to reinforce the message that home learning is an important activity, as you hold a pivotal role in ensuring that home learning will be completed to the best of your child's ability.

Tips to help your child with their homework:

- use Show my Homework to check on your child's home learning and deadlines
- encourage your child to explain homework tasks to you. Discussing often helps to focus the mind
- try to provide your child with a suitable place and the right equipment to do their homework. *Remember homework club is available daily.*
- Take an interest in the feedback they received for previous homeworks.
- Help your child to find out information from books, Internet, etc. Be careful not to do the work for them.
- Encourage your child to read out loud to you. Reading skills are essential to the learning process
- Encourage your child to proofread their homework
- If your child is preparing for a test or exam, help by testing them on the key facts
- Reward your child for successfully completing homework tasks

Sanctions:

Stage 1: failure to submit once within a curriculum area - text message sent home and opportunity for the student to complete and submit within 48 hours is given

Stage 2: failure to complete a second homework in a curriculum area - letter sent home inviting to compulsory homework club in department

Stage 3: repeated breaches - department contact with home if department specific, or if a more generic problem HL to contact home and invite parents in for a meeting

Rewards:

- Achievement points should be issued for 'good' pieces of homework and not just for submitting
- For exceptional pieces of homework a department letter or postcard may be sent home
- Teachers should nominate students for exceptional pieces of homework for the Headteachers award
- Exceptional homework should also be included in the weekly newsletter for parents

Frequently asked questions

1. Does this mean I have to set all home learning on Show My Homework?

Yes. Show My Homework is the key driver for home learning communication between the school, students and parents.

2. Should all home learning set be written tasks?

No. Learning can take place under different guises which could include watching a documentary, completing a mind map or being able to report back on an action etc.

3. Should home learning only be set on what the students already know?

No. Again this will depend on the context of the lesson/learning. If it is a new learning, then there can be opportunities for students to do some 'pre-learning' tasks to 'flip the learning'.

4. Are quizzes that are self marking ok to set?

Yes. Research tells us that low stake testing is a good tool for student learning. It is also a good method for building retrieval practice and thus developing learning into long term memory.

5. What should I do if students don't complete home learning?

As home learning is an integral part to the learning process, students should be encouraged to complete all home learning tasks. A home learning support club is available for students at lunch times. If students are consistently not completing home learning tasks, then the 3 stage process outlined above should be followed.

6. Should I mark all home learning set?

No. This is not necessary. As said above quizzes are a great tool for home learning and are automatically assessed. Furthermore, other methods of assessment and feedback are sometimes more effective for students understanding. For example, comparative judgements are a good way for students to compare their learning with modelled examples.