



GRAVENEY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK IN KEY STAGE 4

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

HOMEWORK IN KEY STAGE 4

The purpose of homework is to improve your child's learning – this can be done in different forms:

- research for a new topic
- finding out information
- making notes
- preparation for the next lesson
- going over work done in lessons
- learning notes
- putting what has been learnt into practice – written exercises, tests, essays
- doing independent study and learning
- exercises to consolidate or to help them learn a particular idea or concept
- redrafting and improving work
- reflecting on feedback and target setting

Homework set can vary from one-off tasks to longer tasks that are set over several homeworks; when this happens the relevant teacher will have broken down the task into smaller tasks for your child.

Increasingly your child will be asked to do homework using the Google Classroom website. If you don't have access to the Internet, your child will be able to use one of the school's computers in the Library.

In addition to homework set, pupils should be encouraged to:

(1) Read regularly for interest and pleasure. Your child can use the school library and/or join your local library.

(2) Go over class work in the evening and check they understand.

Many pupils need practice in reading and in spelling. Spending time doing this with your child could improve their general progress.

Encourage your child to do some independent research/work, to read articles and books related to topics studied in class (the library, using the internet, magazines and newspapers).

EXPECTATIONS

In KS4 pupils will have two homeworks per subject per week.

For English pupils are also expected to read various books throughout the year.

Your child has a homework timetable in his/her organiser so you can see which subjects should be set on which day. We do allow some flexibility for teachers to set homework at an appropriate point (that fits in with the work). However, each subject teacher should set one homework per week. If the homework is set on a day different to the one on your child's timetable, then extra time should be given for your child to complete the work.

In KS4 larger tasks are sometimes set which go over several homeworks. Often, when this happens, the teacher will have broken the task down into sections and given your child guidelines to help him/her complete the task successfully by the deadline.

In KS4 your child will be expected to work more independently and to do more research and to read around topics.

Your child should write down the homework in his/her organiser, including the date when the work is due in.

One problem is that some pupils try and cut corners and write down minimal instructions, then when they get home they can't remember what exactly they have to do. We will be reinforcing with them the need for details and would be grateful for you to do the same.

You are asked to sign your child's organiser each week to confirm that he/she has completed homework.

Although undoubtedly helpful, homework can be stressful for pupils, parents and families. Here are a few guidelines.

- (1) Try and establish a set time for doing homework.
- (2) Encourage your child to work in a quiet, comfortable place.
- (3) As children get older they prefer some autonomy and responsibility for their homework, but do regularly look at your child's organiser

and at his/her books. Encourage your child to show you/explain what he/she has done.

- (4) Work on the computer. Your child may be given research to do online. Subject teachers will give clear instructions as to websites, etc. and what to research. Your child will be given specific tasks which require him/her to work with the information rather than just print off pages.

Please be aware that children may well tell you that they are on the computer doing homework when this is not necessarily the case, so you may think they are spending hours on homework when in fact they are not.

Another problem can be pupils who do too much work and spend too long doing homework. It is important that your child has a good work/play/leisure balance. Encourage her/him to join clubs either at school or in the local community. There are a wide variety of clubs including sport, crafts, IT, etc. You will receive details of the clubs offered at Graveney both during term time and during the holidays.

Enthusiasm should not be discouraged and sometimes pupils really get into a particular homework and want to spend a long time doing it. This should not be discouraged. However, if you feel that it is becoming detrimental to your child's well-being, then please contact us and we will work with you and your child to resolve the issue.

If you have any concerns re. homework, please contact the school.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE HOMEWORK

If your child does not complete homework, one or several of the following will be applied:

- (1) He/she may be given a new deadline to complete the work.
- (2) He/she may be given a detention by the subject teacher (either at break, lunchtime or after school). 24 hours' notice will be given for a detention of longer than 20 minutes after school.
- (3) He/she may be given a department after school detention, again you will be notified.
- (4) If the problem persists, your child could be referred to the head of year/phase head, who will contact you.

Please read the information below from the different subject areas which will give you an idea as to the kind of homework that your child will be set.

Art & Design

- At KS4, work undertaken outside the classroom, is integral to success at exam level. All coursework tasks set will form part of the pupil's portfolio submission which carries 60% of the final marks for the pupil's GCSE. The same applies for the exam unit which carries 40% of the final marks for the pupil's GCSE.
- Each pupil will be given sketchbooks in which tasks should be completed – if the teacher wants work done somewhere else, the pupil will be clearly instructed.
- Tasks are set to reinforce the pupil's skills, knowledge and to ensure that he/she understands the work covered in class and to develop new skills.
- At KS4 pupils are expected to begin to develop an ability to work more independently and research tasks will help them do this.
- Each pupil is expected to do between 2-3 hours additional homework, outside of lessons each week; although some tasks may take longer and could be spread over two weeks.
- If there is any element of the task which is unclear, the pupil should ask the teacher to explain it.
- Adequate time should be allowed to complete additional work properly before the due date. This may mean spreading the task out over a couple of evenings or possibly a weekend.
- Tasks will be set as a variety of activities. These may involve practical drawing tasks working from observation. This skill is essential to success and each pupil will be asked to do this, to show these skills are developing and improving and that his/her drawing is becoming more accurate and sensitive.
- Each pupil may be asked to work in a range of materials – if the media is unusual we will usually be able to lend your child the equipment.
- Each pupil will be asked to do research based tasks – finding out about other artists and their work and critically analysing what they have discovered.

- Each pupil may be asked to work on location – in a gallery or museum – more time is usually allowed for this.
- Each pupil may be asked to take photographs around London of things that will support the development of ideas in school.
- All homework tasks and support sheets will be available to the pupil in their sketchbooks and posted on Google Classroom.

Computer Science/BTEC Media

- At KS4 homework is integral to your child's success at exam level. All homework set will either form part of your child's coursework submission (which carries 60% of the final mark for BTEC Media) or will be valuable preparation for the examination in Computer Science.
- Homework may be set:
 - To reinforce your child's skills and knowledge and understanding, to ensure that he/she understands the work covered in class and to develop new skills.
 - To allow your child to spend time drafting various sections of his/her coursework to enable them to move further in lessons.
 - At KS4 we expect your child to begin to develop an ability to work more independently and research tasks will help them do this.
- Your child is expected to do between 2-3 hours homework each week – although some tasks may take longer and could be spread over two weeks.
- If there is any element of the task which is unclear, your child should ask his/her teacher to explain it **before** the deadline date arrives.
- The department is aiming for a "paperless classroom". Although this may not always be appropriate, where possible pupils will be asked to submit their homework via the Hand-in tool on the school's MLE (Fronter) website.
- Pupils can access this site at home by visiting www.fronter.com/wandsworth and entering in the username and password provided. Alternatively, your teacher may ask for work to be submitted via Google Classroom.
- Should homework require access to a computer or specialist software not available at home, then the department will always

provide the resources outside of lesson times. It is then the pupil's responsibility to avail themselves of these opportunities.

- All resources will be made available via Fronter and/or Google Classroom, therefore these are accessible at home. If pupils miss lessons for any reason then they will be expected to log into Fronter/Google to keep up-to-date with work that they missed.
- If a pupil is absent for a lesson where work is due, then they will be expected to submit it via Fronter/Google. If the work is paper-based, then they will be expected to submit it the first lesson back.

Economics and BTEC Business

- For BTEC Business- pupils are expected to use homework time for the completion of coursework.
- Homeworks may be used to conduct reading/research into topics.
- For Economics- it is important to keep informed about current affairs. Pupils may be asked to watch a TV show or read a newspaper article.
- The department uses Google Classroom for the completion of some homework. It is important that pupils are able to use Google Classroom.
- Pupils will be expected to complete questions from the text book.
- Pupils will be expected to complete past paper questions.
- Pupils will be expected to revise for tests and exam as part of their homework.

English

- Homework will not necessarily be written work. For example homework could be:
 - Interviewing an adult at home
 - Learning spellings or a grammar tool
 - Preparing oral work
 - Display type work
 - Researching context background/developing library skills
- English homework is closely related to classwork or a future unit of work that requires some preparation.
- **Additionally, all pupils are expected to read independently, regularly – 20 minutes a day is the English Department's**

recommended minimum, this reading need not be related to class work.

Geography

- Homework tasks will be related to course content or exam preparation.
- Some tasks may be set that take longer to complete and may be set over 2 or more homework slots on a pupil's homework timetable.
- It is important to realise that homework tasks are essential to the coverage of the GCSE specification, so all tasks should be completed by the deadline set.
- Tasks set will be varied and may include the write up of a case study, activities from the textbook (all pupils have a copy of the GCSE textbook), a worksheet, a newspaper or magazine article to analyse, the completion of a cost/benefit analysis table, an annotated sketch map, revision for tests, a research task.
- Some homework may be set on Fronter.
- If the homework task includes internet research it will have a clear focus and pupils will be given appropriate guidance on the websites they should use.
- Homework tasks will normally be completed in a pupil's exercise book. If the homework is word processes it should be printed out and stuck into pupils books before the due date.
- If pupils have a problem with any element of homework, they should see their teacher before the due date to seek help.

History

- Pupils must complete two homework sessions per week and it is important that these are completed for pupils to stay on top of the content of the course.
- Any research homework must select useful text. Any copying and pasting from the Internet is not acceptable and will not be useful to them.
- Pupils should aim to spend the full time allotted to homework on completing tasks and/or gluing in spare sheets, etc.
- If pupils find it hard to complete homework or need help in any way they should speak to their teacher before the lesson in which the homework is due.

Languages

- It doesn't matter if you don't speak the language your child is learning, there is still plenty to do to help! Firstly, make sure your child has access to a good bilingual dictionary, for example the Collins or Oxford French-English school dictionary.
- Learning homework:
 - Test your child.
 - Encourage them to say the words.
 - Ask your child to teach you!
 - Do spelling tests with your child.
 - Rewrite the vocabulary in order of preference/easiest to most difficult, etc.
 - Read – cover – say – write – check.
- For reading and writing homework:
 - Use the textbook to check examples of similar texts/sample answers.
 - Use the glossary at the end of each chapter to look up unknown words.
 - Use the websites given in class as extra practice.
 - Use a bilingual dictionary to check spelling, look up new words and increase your vocabulary.
 - Check through written work for spelling, accents and word order.

Maths

- You will receive two pieces of homework each week
- One of these will be your SPARX homework. At the start of term, you will be given an A5 book which you will use for your book work for this
- The other will be a mixed topic written homework which will be done in your normal Maths book

Media Studies

- Pupils will be working on both theory and project based work in GCSE Media Studies. Homework will be directly linked to exam topics or coursework. For coursework based homework the marks go towards the final mark awarded for research and planning.

- They could have up to two hours per week, depending on the nature of the work.
- All work must be their own and will provide significant content that is relevant to the two exams and their coursework portfolio. Any research homework must select useful text and demonstrate reading and selection. Any copying and pasting from the Internet is not acceptable and will not be useful to them.
- Pupils should spend the full time allotted to homework on completing tasks to the highest possible standard.
- If pupils find it hard to complete homework or need help in any way, they should speak to their teacher before the lesson in which the homework is due.
- Detentions will be the statutory sanction for incomplete, poor quality or missing homework.

PE

- At KS4 core pupils will not receive homework. Some might be asked to assist with sporting events, act as referee's or coach younger pupils during lunch times after school.
- At KS4 GCSE PE, pupils will be expected to complete a minimum of one homework per week. They will also have to dedicate some of their time to practice their performance in one of their three chosen sports.
- KS4 GCSE pupils will have two assessments per year. In addition they will have three end of unit tests.

PSHE and Citizenship

- Suitable homework tasks, set at the discretion of the teacher, could include:
 - Research into jobs, career areas, using the school's careers library, Connexions website.
 - Using known adults as sources of information about skills and qualifications needed for certain jobs.
 - Consolidation of information, e.g. drugs, sexual health areas.
 - Preparation and planning for a specific PSHE session, led by pupils themselves.
 - Exploring in greater detail a given current topical event.

- Three current news items of events happening in the wider world reported back to Citizenship session to develop awareness of wider community issues.

Religious Studies & Philosophy

- At GCSE, pupils only have one lesson a week in year 10 and two lessons a week in year 11. This means that homework plays a vital part in covering the requirements of the syllabus and giving pupils crucial examination practice.
- We set exam style questions for pupils regularly, in class and for homework. These may be teacher, self or peer assessed.
- As part of their homework, pupils may be expected to work through some sections of the syllabus independently with support from the materials that we provide.
- Pupils are required to make revision notes in preparation for end of unit assessments and for year 10 and 11 exams. They should also undertake regular revision at home which covers GCSE syllabus content studied in year 9, 10 and 11.
- We encourage pupils to make full use of the lesson and revision resources and materials available on Google Drive and Google Classroom.

Science

- All pupils whether entered for Combined or Separate Sciences will have three homeworks per week (one per Science subject).
- Homework could include writing up experiments, research, revision notes, past exam papers, etc.
- Some homework tasks will be set via Kerboodle (www.kerboodle.com) for which pupils are issued individual login details at the start of the year.
- Kerboodle also provides electronic access to the course text book which will help pupils when completing the homework tasks set.

Sociology

- Pupils must complete 1-2 pieces of homework.
- It is important that homework tasks are completed for pupils to stay on top of the content of the course.
- Homework will focus on consolidation of key themes and concepts and/or the development of exam skills.
- Pupils should aim to spend the full time allotted to homework on completing tasks.

- If pupils find it hard to complete homework or need help in any way, they should speak to their teacher before the lesson in which the homework is due or in the Wednesday drop-in ahead of their deadline.

Technology

- Pupils will be working on both theory and project based work Design and Technology GCSE.
- They could have up to two hours per week.
- Guidance is generally available for pupils on Google Classroom.
- All work must be their own and state references from websites and books when they have been used.

DIRT

D	directed
I	improvement
R	reflection
T	time

This is something that all teachers will use in lessons. Basically it is giving your child time to ensure that their work is really presented, that all work is finished and corrected, that he/she replies to the teachers' comments and suggestions. It could also involve your child in re-doing a piece of work or a section of work in order to improve it.

Presentation of work and pride in one's work is very important.

We also want to encourage pupils to take some responsibility for their own progress and learning.

DIRT

DIRECTED IMPROVEMENT & REFLECTION TIME

This is when your teacher asks you to look at your work, for a particular purpose:

- To proofread it.
- To read your teacher's comments on your work / in your book.
- To read your targets.
- To think about what went well and about how you could have made your work better.
- To set yourself some targets for the next piece of work.
- To redraft your work or sections of it to improve it.
- You may do this as part of the lesson or you may be given it for homework.

Presentation of Work

Always put:

- Date
- Classwork or homework
- A title underlined (with a ruler)
- Rule off