

HOMEWORK GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Homework is an important part of learning for Eckington School students.

Homework is set at Eckington School in order to:

- encourage students to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and self discipline needed to study effectively as independent and lifelong learners;
- consolidate, reinforce and extend what students know, understand and can do at school;
- extend school learning: not all learning takes place at school;
- involve parents and carers in students' learning and keep them informed about what students are doing at school.

Homework activities might include the following:

- short or long answer questions or pieces of writing;
- learning key vocabulary;
- spellings;
- exam questions;
- skill checks;
- learning/preparing for the next lesson;
- active revision.

Students may expect to receive two or three pieces of homework per night and on those nights when less is set students should be encouraged to engage in reading, research etc.

Year 7 and 8	:	45 – 90 minutes in total
Year 9	:	60 – 120 minutes in total
Years 10 and 11	:	90 – 150 minutes in total
Years 12 and 13	:	5 hours per subject per week

All homework will be recorded in your child's planner. Homework will generally be peer or self assessed in the next lesson. The teacher will check that the homework has been completed.

The homework timetable below may help you/your child to organise their time more effectively.

Year	Subject	Periods per week	Homework per week/fortnight
7 and 8	English	4	2 per week
	Mathematics	4	2 per week
	Science	4	2 per week
	History and Geography	2	1 each per week
	Ethics (including RE)	1	1 per fortnight
	Modern foreign Language	2	1 per week
	Design Technology	1	1 per fortnight
	ICT	1	1 per fortnight
	Art	1	1 per fortnight
	Dance	1	1 per fortnight
	Music	1	1 per half term
(Each piece of homework in Year 7 and 8 should last a maximum of 90 minutes)			
9	English	5	5 per fortnight
	Mathematics	5	5 per fortnight
	Science	5	5 per fortnight
	Options	2	1 per week
	Ethics	1	1 per fortnight
(Each piece of homework in Year 9 should last a maximum of 120 minutes)			
10 and 11	English	5	5 per fortnight
	Mathematics	5	5 per fortnight
	Science	5	5 per fortnight
	Options	3	3 per fortnight
(Each piece of homework in Year 10 and 11 should last a maximum of 150 minutes)			
12 and 13	Options (A levels)	5	?
	Applied	10	?
	GCSE English/Mathematics	2 each	?

Students are expected to ensure that:

- Homework details (including the names of the subject are copied accurately into their planner and that the date due is recorded (This should normally be the next lesson).
- If students are expecting homework, but none is set, 'NS' will be written in the planner. If the teacher is absent, then 'TA' will be written.
- they try their best with each piece of homework.
- they ask for help if they find the homework too difficult, either from the teacher and/or parent(s)/carer(s).
- establish a routine with regard to homework, aiming to complete the homework if possible on the night that it has been set and checking homework the night before the lesson, particularly focussing on quality and accuracy.

How can parents and carers support homework/home-learning?

Family involvement in children's education has proven to have a positive impact on a student's school life. In Britain, studies have identified that students who are regularly supported by their parents perform significantly better in class exercises, exams and become more confident with their independent learning.

Set up a study space

Studying at home has always been a problem for children. With the overwhelming temptations of playing video games, watching TV and socialising with friends on social media after school hours, it's natural for procrastination to happen. However, providing students with a productive study environment at home will help them with their homework needs. This study space should, if possible, be a quiet place in the home away from distractions and have everything needed to complete the task at hand – papers, notepads and laptops if necessary. Having this space will help to eliminate distractions and increase engagement with homework tasks. By taking away the little distracting things, these study spaces can help the student to complete homework to the highest standard.

Provide support

There is a fine line between helping students with their homework and doing it for them. The goal for parental involvement is to support your child when they need, and build their confidence when answering questions and solving problems. When supporting your child, it is important to regularly communicate with them and ask questions to ensure they understand the exercise and thought process behind answers. Showing a continuous interest will encourage students to work harder and to attempt and independently tackle homework tasks in the future. With the right guidance and support, parental involvement can empower students to reach their full potential in education and future careers.

It is important to consider when it is time for self-directed learning. This mode of study encourages children to challenge themselves, solving homework tasks on their own and working autonomously. With the balance between providing support and independent learning, students will be prepared for life outside of school.

Outside support

With a busy work and home life, it can be difficult to find the time to assist students with their homework needs. Not to mention that in some subject areas parents may not feel equipped to give full support. One-on-one attention from a tutor is a great way to help students complete homework if they feel the need for additional help. Investing in a tutor can help build students' academic progression and confidence.

Other things which will help:

- Sitting down with your child, checking and signing their planner and talking about the homework which has been set.
- Helping your child establish a routine with homework setting aside time for it to be completed and ensuring it is seen as a priority.
- Support and praise the work, not just when it is completed but as it is being done.
- Encourage students to attend Study Clubs at Eckington School and, for Years 10 and 11, the revision classes on offer.

It is important to have regular communication with school to keep up-to-date with progress. Relying on your child's feedback isn't the easiest way to stay in-the-know on how they are performing. Talking with teachers can provide parents with a clear insight into students' work and behaviour and teachers can always suggest ways in which parents can further support at home. It is essential the parents attend consultation evenings to stay in touch.

Providing students with the tools to complete work successfully at home will contribute to their overall school experience and help to ensure they are working to the best of their capabilities. Being actively involved in your child's school life can help to improve academic progress, especially when this is executed consistently.

If students find the homework too difficult, parents/carers are encouraged to let teachers know by writing a short note in the student planner. Parents should also contact school if they feel too much or too little homework is being set.

Students will be rewarded for good homework. eg constructive feedback orally or in writing, achievement points and staff are encouraged to contact home to inform parents/carers eg note in planner, a standard letter, a praise postcard, phone call home etc.

What happens if homework is not completed?

If a student fails to complete 2 pieces of homework on time in a week, or 3 in a half term you will be informed that they must attend Homework Support Detention and placed on Homework Report for one week. You will be informed of the detention by letter. This will take place for one hour after school, between 3-4pm. We hope this will give your child the time to catch up on any incomplete homework in a supportive environment. Should problems continue with homework, you may be contacted by a member of staff to discuss this matter further.