



22 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Curriculum information and Homework

As a school we value the feedback we receive from parents/carers and appreciate the time taken to complete these surveys. Last year we consulted parents/carers on a range of topics at our subject evenings as well as conducting a separate survey specifically around homework with parents/carers and students. Through these two survey mechanisms we had over 1,500 contributions from parents/carers which we have been able to use to shape some changes to our practice.

Curriculum information

As part of continuous improvement to our curriculum we have created and updated a range of resources that will help parents/carers of students in every key stage to understand more about what their child is learning in each subject.

The [curriculum section](#) of our website can be found under the 'Learn' heading. Linked on the left hand side of this page are key stage specific pages detailing the subjects studied and the curriculum time these are given each fortnight. Individual subject pages are also linked on the left which contain:

- A learning journey image showing all of the topic areas covered, and experiences on offer for every year group
- Curriculum overviews for each year group, showing
 - an outline of what will be taught in each topic
 - assessment and feedback opportunities
 - homework that students will be set
 - optional tasks that can be accessed at home for each topic
- Exam board information for KS4 and KS5

We hope that this new information will help parents/carers to feel more informed about what their child is learning in each subject area and what resources they can access to support their learning. The images below are indicative thumbnails of what you can find on the website. Clicking on a learning journey image will open it as a pdf which can be enlarged or printed as you wish.

Example Learning Journey



Example Curriculum Overview

| Year 7 Curriculum Overview | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Rationale: The Year 7 curriculum is designed to give students an introduction to the principles of Computer Science. Students will experience a range of modules which will help them to develop their understanding of computer systems, number systems, programming and how to stay safe when accessing information online | | | |
| Term/Length of Time | Outline | Assessment/Teacher Feedback Opportunities | Homework and Literacy resources |
| Autumn 1 | <p>Using a Computer</p> <p>Students will familiarise themselves with the school network and learn how to use computers and the computer room safely and effectively. Students learn how to use OneNotes for lessons. Students will understand how to be safe and responsible on the internet: fake websites, safe searching, copyright, staying safe online, cyber bullying, predators, sexting, etc. including how to report dangers.</p> | <p>MS Forms based end of unit assessment.</p> <p>Mixture of Open and Closed questions with an additional focus on keywords/literacy</p> | <p>Minimum homework expectation - to be set on G45</p> <p>Completion of revision activity using Seneca Learning</p> <p>Optional homework tasks and Literacy resources</p> <p>Creation of revision resource (e.g. mind map) to be submitted alongside compulsory activity</p> <p>Complete some Bronze Award badges on the IPA Award to showcase your digital literacy and employability skills. Once complete you can move to Silver and then Gold certificates</p> <p>Access BBC Bitesize and research more into this topic</p> <p>Complete an activity on Hour of Code</p> <p>Watch an episode of BBC Click on the BBC iPlayer</p> <p>Additional Reading for Budding Computer Scientists: Choose a book from this recommended reading list some of which can be found in the department or the library</p> |
| Autumn 2 | <p>What is a Computer?</p> <p>Students understand the differences between input and output devices including the IPO model. Students are able to recognise the key components</p> | <p>MS Forms based end of unit assessment.</p> <p>Mixture of Open and Closed questions with an additional focus on keywords/literacy</p> | <p>Minimum homework expectation - to be set on G45</p> <p>Completion of revision activity using Seneca Learning</p> <p>Optional homework tasks and Literacy resources</p> <p>Creation of revision resource (e.g. mind map) to be submitted alongside compulsory activity</p> |

Extra-Curricular

As well as the learning and experiences on offer through our lessons, we offer a range of extra-curricular activities. More information on these can be found on our website [Extra-curricular page](#).

Homework

The feedback we received around homework was exceptionally varied with some parents/carers and students wanting to see more homework in each subject, others feeling that their child did not have time for homework and everything in between. As a school we believe that homework plays a vital part in supporting learning and developing independent study habits for all students and that homework plays an increasingly important part of education as students' progress towards external examinations in key stage 4 and 5.

We recognise that some subjects lend themselves more naturally to homework, particularly at key stage 3 and are committed to not setting homework that has no clear purpose. We also know that the routines of our students are variable depending on commitments outside of school. Some parents/carers requested homework to only be set at a weekend whilst others wanted it to be completed only on week nights. For these reasons, we continue not to have a homework timetable, but to ensure homework is set at an appropriate learning point and that students in Years 7-11 are given more than one night, often several depending on the frequency of lessons, to complete this around their other commitments.

Also in response to the parent/carer voice we have simplified our homework policy so it is easier for you to know how much homework your child should expect to receive. We know that some parents/carers want their child to complete more homework than is outlined below so in response to this, we have ensured that all of our curriculum overviews on the website contain additional optional tasks for any students who wish to engage in further homework to support their learning.

All students are welcome to the library homework drop-in any day from Monday to Thursday until 4:30pm. This is a quiet space to work where students can also access a computer or printer.

Homework from September 2023

The provision of Homework opportunities will differ between subjects and courses, however it:

- Will involve activities for all students set via Go4Schools, as well as optional elements, detailed in the curriculum overviews
- Will be proactively engaged with post completion in some way depending on the nature of the task
- Will be relevant to the learning in the classroom or interleaving (going over concepts covered previously to ensure students can still recall these)

Key Stage 3 (years 7-9)

- Approximately 30 minutes per week in Maths, English, Science and MFL
- Approximately 30 minutes per 5 timetabled lessons in Geography, History, Technology, Art and RE
- Drama, PSHE, Music and PE will not set regular tasks via Go4Schools but students are encouraged to participate in enrichment either in or outside of school

Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11)

Approximately 1 hour per week in Maths, English and Science

- Approximately 1 hour per 5 lessons in RE and GCSE options subjects
- Btec subjects will set 1 hour per 5 lessons only when studying externally assessed units
- Students in key stage 4 are also expected to carry out independent revision which will build over the key stage

Key Stage 5 (years 12 and 13)

Students should complete 6 hours of homework for each of their subjects. This will be a mixture of teacher set work via Go4School and independent study. The proportions of each of these will vary depending on the nature of the subject.

How do we see the homework my child is set?

Go4Schools (G4S) will continue to be our mechanism for communicating any homework set. This is viewable by students as well as parents/carers, so that we can all work together. (A reminder on how to access GO4chools can be found on the [G4S page](#) of our website).

Our curriculum overviews detail the types of homework each subject uses, and the optional homework tasks students may wish to access.

If you click into the homework section of the Go4Schools app or webpage, you will see something similar to the below.

| Due | Subject | Task | Status | Grade / Mark | Set |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Today | Maths 10Y1/Ma | Home Learning - circles Guidance time: 30-60 min. | No Status | n/a | 14 Sep 2023 A Brazil |
| Today | French 10C/Fr1 | Learn family adjectives Guidance time: 20 min. | No Status | n/a | 13 Sep 2023 B Reed |
| 21 Sep 2023 | English Language 10Y1/En | Year 10 - Unseen Poetry Homework WK2 Guidance time: 40-45 min. | No Status | n/a | 14 Sep 2023 D Cope |
| 26 Sep 2023 | Geography 10D/Gg1 | End of Unit assessment on Urban issues Guidance time: 50 min. | No Status | n/a | Yesterday R Williams |

Subject the task is for

Description of task and guidance time

The date the homework was set and by whom

When the homework should be completed by

These columns are not currently in use

If you have any subject specific queries regarding homework, please contact your child’s teacher. All staff contact details can be found on the [Meet the Team section](#) of our website.

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