



9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Homework Information for Key Stage 3 & Key Stage 4 Students

As we begin the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify and explain the expectations around homework for the year ahead.

Homework is a vital part of a student's learning. It allows students to practice using the knowledge developed in lessons, supports them to take ownership for their learning and develops independence. Educational research shows there is a strong link between completing homework and student progress and this is even greater when digital platforms are used.

This research has led us to change our approach to homework. As a school, we are now setting homework digitally via educational platforms that have been designed to support learning, often focusing on retrieval practice. Retrieval practice has been shown to be 2.5 times more effective as a learning tool than other traditional forms of homework (Rowland, 2014). Digital platforms also provide immediate feedback to both students and teachers, which will allow gaps in knowledge to be identified and support teacher planning in closing these gaps.

Each department has researched the most effective digital platform for their subject and will now be setting homework via these sites. Pupils will be shown how to access these by their class teacher. I will be shortly sending you the links to a series of videos, recorded by our subject leaders, which will detail how to access and complete the homework for each subject. This will enable you to support your son/daughter in this transition to our digital homework approach.

You may still see some written homework being set in subjects such as English and Maths, when the teacher feels this is appropriate.

When will homework be set?

Homework, for each subject, will be set on a Monday, students will then have a week to complete all their homework assignments. This will allow students to become independent in their learning and will enable work to be planned around other commitments, such as sporting activities.

Key Stage 3 students (Years 7,8 and 9) will be set one 30-minute homework each week for each subject. This means students will have no more than 1 hour of homework to complete each evening.

Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 and 11) will be set one 45-minute homework each week for each subject. This means students will have no more than 1 ½ hours of homework to complete each evening.

Initially, students might find it difficult to organise their time and plan when they will complete each of their homework assignments. To support them during this transition, students can follow these suggested homework timetables:

Suggested timetable for Key Stage 3 students (years 7, 8 and 9)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Maths	Science	History	Geography
MFL	Food/Art/DT		Values	

Suggested timetable for Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 and 11)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Maths	Science	History or Geography	English
Option A	Values	Option B	Statistics	

It is important that students have a quiet space in which to complete their homework, however, we know that with our busy lives and homes this is not always possible. To support our students going forward we will be setting up a supervised homework club, after school, to provide a safe, quiet, learning environment for students to work independently. Details of the homework club will be sent out as soon as possible.

Accessing homework

The Holmesdale School is moving to Google Classrooms as the new platform for setting and managing homework. We no longer use *Satchel:One Show My Homework* and unfortunately there will be a short period of time until pupils have access to Google Classrooms.

In the interim, students will be set homework during first lesson of the week for each of their subjects. This will be communicated verbally, and pupils will be given a paper homework log to record this on. As soon as Google Classroom is in place students, and yourselves, will be given instructions on how to use this to access homework assignments.

If you have any questions regarding a specific piece of homework, please contact the class teacher directly. For any general enquiries around homework please contact me at louise.harris@swale.at

Yours faithfully

Mrs Louise Harris
Assistant Headteacher