

DHSG HOME LEARNING POLICY

Home Learning is an essential part of a student's education as it:

- encourages students to develop self-discipline, confidence and motivation
- improves resilience, responsibility and independent learning skills
- develops a students' capacity for lifelong learning
- consolidates learning from lesson, reinforcing knowledge and skills developed in class
- encourages closer involvement of parents and carers, which leads to improved co-operation between home and school

General guidance for the amount of Home Learning that should be set is given in the school prospectus and parents/carers are asked for their support in ensuring it is done adequately. We encourage parents/carers to check that learning has been completed before signing the planner.

- It is imperative that students use their planners to record Home Learning assignments fully and in particular, fill in the "date due" column.
- Planners are one of the main means of communication between staff and parents/carers and need to be signed each week by the student, parents/carers and Form Tutor.
- Planners should be treated with respect by students, who should not add pictures, photographs or graffiti to them.
- On some evenings and some weeks, the workload will be heavier than at other times and thus it is important that students plan ahead.
- Guidance about time management will be given through the tutor programme.
- Students need to take responsibility for handing assignments in on time and should never leave for a friend to hand in nor leave on tables for staff to find.
- If students are experiencing difficulties with their workload, it is important that they let their Form Tutor or subject teacher know as soon as possible – they must not let the situation escalate.

Years 7 - 8

Students should expect a 30-minute task to be set per subject each week and this should provide about an hour of Home Learning every weekday evening. Subject teachers where possible should allow students at least two nights to complete a Home Learning task. It is essential that students complete their Home Learning tasks by the due date and ensure that when necessary they seek support with planning and organisation from their Form Tutor.

Student Planners should be used to record Home Learning assignments and tasks in lessons and can be used as a means of communication with parents/carers if the need arises. When marking Home Learning tasks teachers will focus on content rather than the quantity or presentation of the work (occasionally skills such as presentation will be assessed but this will be made clear to the students when the task is set).

Years 9 - 11

- Home Learning will be set regularly throughout the school year as well as controlled assessments and it is important to balance all.

- Due to the nature of GCSEs it may mean that subjects set elongated Home Learning tasks and therefore students have the responsibility of organising their own workload at home.
- During examination season the setting of regular homework is carefully considered to allow students time to complete their own revision.
- With so many differing combinations of subjects, there is no set timetable. However, the following are guidelines for the amount of Home Learning for each subject:

English and Maths	4 hours a fortnight
Science: Combined Science	4 hours a fortnight
Each Separate Science	2 hours a fortnight
All other subjects	2 hours a fortnight

Key Stage 5

Due to the nature of Sixth Form study it is difficult to say exactly what a Year 12/13 student will have each evening, but they certainly should not be completing any less Home Learning than they did in Years 7 - 11. On some evenings and in some weeks the load will be heavier than at other times but please stress the importance of completing assignments on time and thoroughly. On average each student should expect to do about three hours Home Learning per evening.

Staff Implementation of the Home Learning Policy

1. Home Learning should be built into Schemes of Work and should be in accordance with the Home Learning Policy.
2. Home Learning can consist of a variety of tasks. In some instances, no Home Learning can be set as long as this is recorded in student planners.
3. Staff should insist all Home Learning is completed.
4. Failure to complete Home Learning tasks will in the first instance be dealt with by the classroom teacher and referred to the Head of Department if the issue continues.
5. Tasks should be marked promptly in line with the school marking policy.
6. Staff should use professional judgement with regard to late marking.
7. Sanctions for continued failure to engage in Home Learning should be in line with the Behaviour for Learning policy.

All members of a department should follow agreed Departmental Policy.