

Sutton Grammar School - Homework Policy - Jan 2019

Homework is an essential part of learning as it provides an opportunity to consolidate and reflect on learning and to prepare for future learning. Good homework gives students the chance to discover and explore more about their learning and to take ownership of it. Homework should also develop valuable skills such as concentration, independence of thought, time management, research and academic rigour so that all students leave ready for study at university level and future employment.

While recognising the central role of homework the school also intend that SGS pupils should emerge as well-rounded individuals. It is with this in mind that we have calculated maximum allowances for homework but presented them within a structure which allows sufficient flexibility for students to engage in other valuable pursuits.

Show My Homework (SMHW) is the online platform that Sutton Grammar School will use for the setting and monitoring of homework. All staff will use SMHW to set homework, all students will use it as a means of accessing set homework and all parents will have access to see what work has been set. Students are also expected to write homework details in the planner. Similarly staff will ask students to make a note of homeworks in the planner but this does not supplant the need to enter it into SMHW.

The aims of homework are:

- To consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities
- To enrich learning and develop opportunities for independent learning and research not possible within the classroom.
- To enhance study, time management and independent learning skills including personal organisation, the ability to prioritise and self-motivation.
- To develop students' self discipline and encourage them to take ownership of their learning.
- To provide opportunities for students to show and evaluate their own progress and understanding.
- To aid teachers, through assessment, to evaluate the success of the teaching and learning taking place.
- To provide links between home and school and encourage dialogue with pupils, parents and teachers.

Implementation

It is expected that teachers, pupils and parents will aid the implementation of these aims.

All **teachers** are responsible for ensuring that all homework that is set is relevant to what is being studied, appropriate to the needs of the class, manageable within the time allocated and set using SMHW.

All **pupils** are responsible for ensuring that all homework is regularly checked on SMHW, written down in planner and completed to the best of their ability and handed in by the due date.

All **parents** are responsible for supporting both their sons and the school in the completion of homework by providing a conducive homework environment and accessing SMHW and the student planner to monitor what work is set and completed.

All subject teachers will:

- Give clear instructions to students about each homework on SMHW.
- Set clear and manageable deadlines for completion using SMHW.
- Ensure that all homework is written down in the planners
- Ensure that the homework is set at an appropriate point in the lesson
- Provide further guidance if requested before the due date
- Ensure that homework is regularly assessed
- Report to parents via the planner or email any concerns
- Inform departmental and pastoral heads when significant problems arise

All form tutors will:

- Regularly check that student planners are being used effectively
- Keep an overview of work set for students in their form using SMHW.
- Check that student planners have been signed on a weekly basis by parents.

All Department and Faculty Heads will:

- Monitor when homework is set
- Ensure SMHW is being used to set homework.
- Monitor how much homework is set
- Review what types of homework are being set
- Evaluate how each homework task fits into the scheme of work being studied

All Pupils will:

- Ensure that they check SMHW daily to monitor what homework has been set.
- Listen to homework instructions in class carefully
- Write down homework instructions, including due dates, legibly into the student planner.

- Ask advice in advance if the pupil has any questions about how to do the homework
- Ensure that homework is completed on time
- Ensure that homework is handed in on time
- Complete all homework neatly, to the best of their ability and to the highest standard
- Ensure that the student planner is presented to their parent/carer for signing each week

All Parents/Carers will:

- Ensure that their child has access to SMHW in order to check their work.
- Ensure that their child has an appropriate, quiet place to work
- negotiate regular times for homework
- check that their child has completed the work on time and to a high standard
- check and sign the student planner weekly
- inform the school of any difficulties regarding homework

Homework Allowances for Lower School and Upper School

To allow for the different patterns and needs of homework in different subjects we do not have a rigid homework timetable. Instead we offer these recommended allowances as guidance for each subject in each year group below the Sixth Form. These have been made with consideration to the number of timetabled periods in each subject in each year and the recommendations of departmental heads.

These allowances will be regarded as a maximum for the subject in any two week cycle and can be used flexibly. Teachers will take account of a student's overall load in any two-week cycle before setting a due date. There will be occasions when teachers do not feel it appropriate to use their homework allowance for a two week cycle at all or may, by arrangement, choose to carry over this time to a later date to facilitate more sustained in-depth work by students. Similarly there will be students who wish to spend more time on given tasks. We strongly support them in doing so as long as it is not detrimental to their overall wellbeing or at the expense of other work set.

In addition, Upper School students studying for public exams, are expected to spend time revising and consolidating their knowledge and understanding.

All times are in mins/fortnight

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9
English	80	90	105
Maths	80	90	105
Biology	45	60	75
Chemistry	45	60	75
Physics	45	60	75
Language 1	80	60	60
Language 2	xxx	90	90
Drama	25	30	30
DT	45	45	45
Art	45	45	45
Music	45	45	45
Geography	35	60	60
History	25	30	30
IT	45	45	60
RE	25	30	30
Citizenship	xxx	15	15
Total	11hrs30mins	14hrs 45mins	16hrs15mins

Subject	Yr 10	Yr 11
English	160	160
Maths	120	120
Biology	120	120
Chemistry	120	120
Physics	120	120
Language	120	120
RE	40	40
Option 1	120	120
Option 2	120	120
Option 3	120	120
Citizenship	40	40
Total	20 hrs	20 hrs

Homework Allowances for the Sixth Form

The highest grade at A level, the A*, will reward exceptional performance in any subject area. Such performance is recognised by the exceptional depth and breadth of understanding and knowledge shown by an A level candidate.

These qualities are fostered by study which is independent and exploratory. Therefore, while some homeworks will continue to be set with the intention of embedding skills or knowledge arising out of classwork, most homework set in the Sixth Form will require more from the student. It will be more open ended, encouraging independent research and enquiry by the Sixth Form student.

Longer timescales are typically allowed at Sixth Form to foster an exploratory approach to studies so it is not possible to specify how many hours a night should be done. However, effective time management is essential to managing advanced studies. Deadlines for homework will be clearly set and teachers will issue interim deadlines where this is helpful, eg for project work. Students will be closely monitored by teachers and Tutors in the early stages of the Sixth Form to ensure that they are managing their time wisely ie allowing themselves ample opportunity for amassing resource material, absorbing it, reviewing and refining ideas and then executing the task in hand for the due date.

Because of the factors alluded to above, setting a specific number of hours in a week for homework at Sixth Form level is difficult but in the Lower Sixth, as a rule of thumb, aiming for at least the same amount of time outside the classroom as in it per subject will be a useful starting guide. (cf the Sixth Form Handbook for guidelines on study beyond set homework.)

Special Considerations

- Special Needs and Disability

Teachers will be mindful of students with Special Needs whether educational, physical or mental in the setting of homework and make appropriate adjustments in line with advice given by the SENCO and other relevant specialists.

- Gifted and Talented and Differentiation

Teachers will also use homework to challenge and stretch students identified as Gifted and Talented. They may set, for instance, more open ended tasks, more challenging materials or work which goes beyond the specifications.

- In School Provision

The School will provide the opportunity for homework to be completed on the school premises in a conducive environment for those students who require it. For instance in a homework club. Access to SMHW can be gained from school if there are difficulties at home.