



September 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Homework in Year 9

At Prince Henry's we believe that quality teaching matters and homework is regarded as an important piece of the teaching and learning picture. Over the recent months during the pandemic it has never been more important for our students to have good independent study habits. Consequently, homework is highly valued as it provides an opportunity for students to practise, develop and extend their learning, independently of their teacher, so that they can develop an appetite for learning that exists long after their time at school. For us, homework is never punitive but rather an opportunity to think deeply, prepare and consolidate understanding. The effort students put into homework is highly valued and recognised by their teachers but we hope that our students develop intrinsic motivation to learn, coming to regard homework as an important part of their educational development.

As a result, we expect students to do homework thoroughly and purposefully on a regular basis throughout their school career. We believe that the purpose of homework is to reinforce and extend classroom teaching, bringing about progress and fostering a spirit of initiative, self-motivation and independent study skills.

Because Year 9 is a large year group split into three "Abbey" groups, and also partly because we have a fortnightly timetable, the arrangements for homework are complicated and it can be confusing for parents if we attempt to produce a standard homework timetable for Year 9 students.

Your son or daughter's subject teachers will set homework on a certain night(s) in the first week/fortnight of the school year. Thereafter they will always set homework on the same night(s). Therefore a homework timetable will emerge for each individual student by the end of next week and students should record this in their homework diary. In addition to set homework, we also recommend that children read around their subject, revise regularly and spend time reading appropriate literature.

Parents have told us that they find it helpful to have an idea of how much homework to expect. The following list provides a guide to the amount of homework per week or fortnight Year 9 pupils might expect throughout the course of this school year. It is important to be mindful that maximum learning is much more about the quality of the task rather than the amount of time spent on it.

English	1 x 1 hour per week
Mathematics	1 x 1 hour per week
Foreign Languages	1 x 30 minutes per week per language
History	1 x 30 minutes per week
Geography	1 x 30 minutes per week
RE	1 x 30 minutes per week
Science	Either 1 or 2 tasks totalling up to 2 hours per fortnight
Citizenship	1 x 30-45 minutes per fortnight
Art	1 hour per fortnight
Textiles	1 hour every 4 weeks
Graphics/RM	30 minutes per fortnight (occasionally longer homework tasks will be set to be completed over a 6-week period)
Food	30 minutes per fortnight (occasionally longer homework tasks will be set to be completed over a 6-week period)

The Role of the Subject Teacher

As a school we are very clear that homework should provide opportunities for maximum student success and minimum student frustration, with an emphasis on progress. Our subject teachers will set authentic and relevant tasks, differentiated and well matched to learners' needs.

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Working in collaboration with Bredon Hill and St Ewain's Middle Schools

Our teachers will:-

- Set quality homework that directly contributes to student progress
- Ensure that homework is set on showmyhomework for all classes
- Set homework according to the whole school timetable (for Years 9-11)
- Give full and comprehensive instructions
- Set reasonable deadlines for the completion of work and to ensure that they are met
- Make clear to the students how the homework will be assessed (eg by the teacher/peer-assessment/self-assessment)
- Provide help and support for students
- Follow specific department procedures to deal with non-completion of homework eg contacting parents or asking students to attend Study Habits sessions

The Role of the Student

Homework is often more effective for older than younger children (Vatterott, 2009) and as such our students have an important responsibility to engage fully with their learning outside lessons.

Specifically we expect students to:-

- Listen to homework instructions in lessons and record specific details about the requirements of the task (including the deadline) in their planner
- Regularly log in to showmyhomework
- Follow teacher guidelines about how to approach the work (eg not spending less time than is required to complete the work to a good standard)
- Ensure all homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline
- Attempt all work to the very best of their ability
- Inform the class teacher of any genuine difficulties

The Role of Parents

Evidence indicates that parental involvement continues to have a significant effect on achievement into adolescence and even adulthood (DfE, *The Impact of Parental Involvement on Children's Education*, 2008). Specifically, research using data from the National Child Development Study (NCDS) found that very high parental interest is associated with better exam results compared to children whose parents show no interest.

We encourage our parents to:

- Provide a quiet place to work, away from distractions
- Talk to students about their homework and generally take an interest in their learning
- Ensure that time spent on homework is regular and balanced
- Remind students about deadlines (this can be done by logging into showmyhomework)
- Sign the school planner each week
- Provide the school with information about any problems through the school planner or by contacting the school directly

For specific information about homework expectations in each subject please look at the Home School Agreement/Homework page on our website, which provides a link to each department area and offers you suggestions about how you can best support your son/daughter in each subject.

As we record all homework on Showmyhomework you will receive a separate letter from Miss H Berry (Head of ICT) with information about your log in details. If you have any concerns about homework please contact Mr M Thompson, Head of Year 9, or if the problem is confined to one subject only please contact your child's subject teacher.

We hope that this information is helpful and we look forward to working in partnership with you to support your son/daughter in developing strong independent study habits.

Yours sincerely



Dr A Evans
Headteacher