



Homework and Home Learning/ independent study policy.

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1 The Vision

Personalised Learning is fundamental to the ethos of Wapping High School. We are committed to supporting and challenging every student throughout their time at Wapping High. Homework and independent study play an integral role in developing students' motivation, depth of knowledge, independence and autonomy. When students join the school, homework will be very clearly designed so that students are supported in developing the study habits that will help them achieve academic success. Homework will also be part of the personalised ethos of the school and will provide an opportunity for individuals to focus on specific targets and skills they need to develop. Every student will have a personal journal to help organise themselves and students will be supported in becoming self-confident, self-directed learners.

2 Rationale

At Wapping High School we believe that in order for students to achieve their full potential it is vital that they undertake learning outside of the timetabled curriculum. Homework or learning at home (Home learning) enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each department.

Homework should develop students' independent study skills and it should not usually be directly supervised by a teacher. Homework that is carefully planned and undertaken will broaden students' horizons and deepen their understanding.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require additional resources more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Wednesday afternoons are an excellent opportunity for students to access onsite facilities and connect with staff for support with their home learning.

This document sets out the school's guidance for the setting of homework and independent study so that all staff and departments can incorporate these features into their work.

3 Policy Aim

- To provide clear guidelines on Wapping High School's approach to the setting of homework and independent study.
- To provide a system which is clear to students, parents and staff.

4 Objectives

- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline
- To encourage students to have self-awareness, self-confidence and initiative.
- To enable students to learn through the practice of skills acquired in the classroom.
- To permit more rapid progress to be made by each individual; to promote quiet reflection on the work covered in the lesson.
- To enable class work to concentrate on those activities requiring the teacher's presence.
- To encourage students to investigate topics of study in depth, particularly through the use of effective follow-up questions.
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources available outside the classroom.
- To encourage students to enjoy the skills, concepts and experiences related to each subject.
- To encourage students to talk, discuss and research using the rich variety of resources which our community can provide.

5 Forms of Homework and Independent Study

To be effective homework needs to be relevant, fit for purpose and accessible to all students. Effective homework encourages students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed for independent learning and overall achievement. It extends class based learning. It should be personalised.

Examples of homework:

- Investigating a topic or key question
- Writing tasks such as exam or essay questions
- Completing a project over a few weeks e.g. Workshop Wednesday follow on work for Key Stage 3.
- Learning e.g.: facts, vocabulary/ subject literacy, spellings
- Reading or research
- Drawing or design work
- Preparing for discussions, presentations, or to deliver a starter
- Online learning such as activities on Google Classroom, My Maths or Century Tech.
- Revising for tests and exams
- Further Learning Opportunities (FLOs) to stretch and challenge

6 The responsibilities of the students

- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework planner.
- To be responsible for asking a peer or the teacher if they need further clarification about the task set.
- To ensure that homework is labelled 'H/W', completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.
- To develop their organisational and time-management skills through the use of their planner and with support from their tutor or teacher.

7 Parents/Carers can assist by:

- Being partners in their child's learning and supporting their child to grow in independence and autonomy.
- To reinforce the value of independent study through positive feedback so their child has the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.
- If possible, providing a quiet place to study at home.
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Signing the homework planner each week. Providing the school with information about any problems through the homework planner or by contacting the school directly.
- Students will have a personal journal to help organise themselves. Use of web technology e.g. Google Classroom will make communicating, managing homework, extended learning, feedback and parental participation easy and effective.

8 The responsibilities of the Class Teacher

- To set meaningful homework that extends and deepens learning as appropriate for the subject and the student.
- To set the homework at the start of or during the lesson and to give time for students to copy down relevant information.
- To check students record their homework and the date for completion in their planners.
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Give feedback in line with the responsive feedback policy on all homework within a reasonable time eg, peer or self-assess, grade or provide written feedback.
- To praise and celebrate excellent effort or achievement.
- Provide help and support.
- The expectation of the length of homework will depend on: the curriculum time for each subject; the nature of the work; the ability of the pupil and the particular Year Group.
- Inform the Head of Department, Tutor and Head of Year when problems arise.
- To reflect on and review their practice and disseminate successful strategies or methods with their colleagues.

9 The role of the Form Tutor

- To regularly include homework as a topic in tutor time discussions and provide individual generic support where appropriate.
- To check the student is writing the homework details in their planner.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded each week.
- To check that the planner is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To note and respond to any comments written in planners by parents/carers/teachers.

10 The Role of the Head of Department

- To ensure schemes of work include homework and home learning.
- To ensure that setting and completion of homework is included in the regular cycle of monitoring of teaching and learning and subject review.
- To ensure that teachers within their department are provided with and have access to suitable homework materials and tasks.
- To regularly share best practice including using Briefing's WWW.
- To keep parents and carers informed of expectations and ways they can help through information evenings, course outlines and information on the school website or via the ebulletin.

11 Role of Leadership and Line Managers

- Support the development and implementation of homework across the School through their link departments.
- Monitor the setting, marking and effectiveness of homework in their link departments.
- To monitor that homework is being set and undertaken through student progress reviews and planner monitoring.
- Staff will constantly be encouraged to reflect on their practice and disseminate successful strategies or methods. Leaders will ensure that training and sharing of best practice takes place regularly so that the development of homework and independent learning is regularly reviewed and keeps up to date with the very best practice available.
- To also evaluate the impact of homework through Student Voice and Parent Voice feedback.
- To review this policy annually.