

# Homework Policy

Retford Oaks Academy

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# 1 Practice for key stage 3 and 4

## Years 7-11

Homework is any task which involves learning beyond the classroom. At Retford Oaks Academy, homework serves two distinct purposes:

1. To prepare students for assessments. These could be internal academy assessments, or external assessments such as GCSEs.
2. To develop independent learning skills and intellectual curiosity.

### Preparation for assessments:

- Per subject, students will be made aware of what topics will be assessed during internal assessments.
- All resources required in preparation for these will be made available through the student portal. If any student cannot access this from home, they can use the library after school, or printed material can be provided on request.
- For external assessments, students will be guided and supported in their preparation for these exams.

### Independent learning:

- The aim of this homework is to support the development of independent study skills, foster a love of learning, promote intellectual curiosity and develop the learning skills which accelerate present progress and support future pathways.
- It gives students the opportunity extend knowledge, deepen understanding or explore areas of particular interest.
- Students will be given a range of activities, linked to their year group and topics being studied, per subject. These tasks will be posted on the student portal (arrangements as above as required).
- Students will have the responsibility to select which of these tasks will be most beneficial to their development. This can be discussed with the class teacher if guidance is required.
- Tasks will be set over a given period of time and can be handed in at any point in that time frame.
- Students will be rewarded for task completion.

Homework will be discussed at progress meetings with parents/carers as appropriate.

**Heads of faculty will:**

- Ensure that appropriate revision materials are available to students to support preparation for assessments.
- Ensure these are available on the student portal (and otherwise as required).
- Ensure that independent learning tasks, per year group and topic, are posted on the student portal (and otherwise as required).
- Ensure that all teaching staff are aware of what is set and their responsibilities in promoting and rewarding this aspect of learning.

**Classroom teachers will:**

- Ensure that students know about, and can access, materials which support preparation for assessments.
- Promote engagement with such resources, including referring to these during teaching as appropriate.
- Ensure that students are aware what independent learning tasks are set for the given period of time.
- Provide guidance on task selection as required.
- Promote completion, importance and benefits of independent learning tasks to personal progress.
- Record and reward task completion.
- Discuss engagement with both types of homework task with parents/carers as appropriate.

## 2 Expectations

It is an expectation that **everyone** adheres to the following;

Expectation	Policy into Action
<p><b>Preparation for assessments:</b> Per class, ensure that students are aware what information is going to be addressed in assessments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform students of when assessment will take place, as indicated by the assessment calendar and year Head of Faculty.</li> <li>• Guide students to where revision resources can be found on the student portal.</li> <li>• Ensure that all students can access this and provide alternative methods of accessing this information as needed.</li> <li>• Promote the importance of engagement with this homework.</li> <li>• Mark and give feedback on this assessment as per the Marking, Feedback and Assessment Policy.</li> <li>• Report outcomes to parents/carers as required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Independent Learning:</b> Per class, ensure that students are aware of the range of tasks available, and the timeframe for completion of these.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform student of the tasks set and the timeframe for completion.</li> <li>• Ensure students know how to access the tasks on the student portal.</li> <li>• Ensure that all students can access this information and provide alternative methods of accessing the information if needed.</li> <li>• Provide guidance on task selection as required.</li> <li>• Promote the importance for personal development and progress of participating in this type of homework.</li> <li>• Keep an accurate record of which students have completed independent learning tasks.</li> <li>• Reward completion.</li> <li>• Report to parents/carers regarding completion, benefits and progress achieved by participating in these activities.</li> </ul>

### **3 Practice for key stage 5**

Homework is designed to encourage students to develop the ability to study independently and to take responsibility for learning. They can prepare, practice, consolidate and extend skills. It can engage parental co-operation and create channels for home school dialogue.

- Teachers will set homework as directed by Head of Department
- Tasks set will help students to broaden and/or deepen their knowledge and understanding.
- A piece of “wider reading” homework will be set each week, which will not be marked, to extend students’ knowledge and understanding of the subject.
- When setting an extended piece of work, students will be set milestone targets.
- Homework will be/will allow for appropriate differentiation.
- If a piece of research is set, there will also be some analysis or summarising required to allow students to demonstrate the knowledge and understanding acquired.
- The completion of homework will be monitored by teachers and recorded on MyAcademy. This allows for appropriate monitoring by the Head of Key Stage 5.
- Formally assessed work, e.g. coursework and BTEC assignments, should be handed in by the deadline set by teachers.
- Class teachers will inform parents if students consistently fail to meet homework deadlines. If this continues, Faculty Leaders and/or the Head of Key Stage 5 will intervene.
- Heads of Faculty will ensure that all teachers in their area are consistently setting appropriate homework and rewarding/sanctioning appropriately.