

Dear Parents & Carers,

## Homework

I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify and explain the expectations around homework for the academic year ahead.

Homework will continue to be set either online or on paper. All tasks, regardless of type, will be explained on Teams assignments, where copies of work will be available. As we move away from Satchel:One (formerly Show My Homework), there will inevitably be teething issues, and we continue to support and train staff.

Should students be asked to self-isolate, this is where staff will provide individual work.

Each subject will set homework at different frequencies, for example, Maths is set once per week. This will also be different for each Key Stage. This allows us to remain flexible depending on the course (for GCSE/BTEC) and workload. If you are concerned about homework from a specific subject, please contact the appropriate subject leader in the first instance.

As we move away from Satchel:One, we do lose the ability for parents to log in to see set homework. This will be replaced by a weekly automated email. In order for this to be effective, and to address parent's concerns about short homework deadlines, the vast majority of homework will be set for a reasonable amount of time, usually covering a weekend. Exceptions for this will be shorter vocabulary and recall homeworks that are essential between lessons (such as in Languages).

By using Teams assignments, we will maximise the ability for students to communicate with their teachers in a single place. The integration of Teams into Office365 means that students now have access to a number of resources we couldn't set on Satchel:One. For students with specific Special Educational Needs, homework documents can now be opened in Office365's Accessible Reader that can change background colours, translate languages, audio describe images and change text font/size easily.

To continue to support students who find working at home difficult, or do not have access to a device or the internet, we have restarted after-school homework support. Two teachers and a teaching assistant are available to support students from 3pm until 4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, in the IT rooms.

We appreciate there are still a very small minority of students who are unable to access a device or the internet at home, and for whom it is not possible to stay for homework support in school. We are looking at creating a device library where students are able to borrow a device for a specified period of time. This will take some time to set up, but I will write again when it is ready to be launched.

To aid with organisation, and to support students, we are now allowing students to take their exercise books home. We expect all students to look after their books and bring them to each lesson when they do take them home.

With all these provisions in place, we expect homework to be completed to the best of a student's ability. Questions about specific homework can be addressed by contacting your child's teacher, or the subject leader. More general questions or concerns, or indeed suggestions for improvement, can be sent to me via my email address below.

Best wishes,

Mr R Laverick  
Associate Assistant Headteacher (Assessment & Blended Learning)