



10 Frequently Asked Questions about Homework

We have received questions and queries from parents and carers concerning a variety of aspects regarding homework. We have summarised these below in what we hope will be a helpful guide which will enable you to further support your son/daughter

1. 'What is my role in homework?'

Encouragement is a major role. Ensure that your child manages and copes with the workload. Sit with them. Talk to them about the tasks. If youngsters verbalise their learning they are more likely to retain the knowledge. If they really struggle, tell them not to worry. If your child goes and sees the teacher in advance to tell them they have struggled the teacher will help them. We will never sanction a student for being organised and communicating with their staff if homework was an issue.

2. 'I'm busy and don't have time to help. What can I do?'

It's not essential that you sit with them and work alongside them, but showing an interest is imperative. Ask them what tasks they're undertaking tonight and sound enthusiastic!

3. 'I can't help because education has changed since I was at school. I don't know what my child is taught.'

You can support by appearing interested in what they do at the academy: reading the academy newsletter; attend parents' evenings. Generally showing an interest in academy life. Check the academy website.

4. 'I don't know enough about a specific topic to help my child. How can I help?'

Youngsters thrive on rewards and encouragement. Maybe look at some information together. Help collect information. Supporting is an excellent way of helping. If you really can't do it, don't spend hours stressing and getting frustrated. Simply ask your child to go and see their subject teacher the following day for help.

5. 'It's noisy and there's no space at home'

The academy has a homework clubs which runs Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after the academy day 15:15-16:30. This is supported by staff in a quiet and safe environment (the academy library). This is another ideal place to get help if your child has struggled to complete any homework.

6. 'How much homework should my child be doing?'

The current homework policy including the minimum expectations for homework is on the academy website.

7. *'My child doesn't tell me about homework. What can I do?'*

Look in the planner and check your parental Insight account. Teachers are required to set all homework on the Insight system. This is monitored by Heads of Faculty during regular homework audits for their faculty. Furthermore try asking them open questions about today's learning at the academy.

8. *'My child's homework is set irregularly and then doesn't get marked.'*

The first thing to do would be to talk to your child and make sure of the facts. If there is an issue, tell us via the planner in the first instance, or directly via the Faculty Leader. Homework is often used as a reflective learning activity at the start of the lesson and is marked independently by the student or one of their peers. The main purpose of homework is to allow students time to practise and embed skills already learnt in the class. Teachers will spend the majority of their time planning future learning rather than marking every single piece of work.

9. *'All my child seems to do is finish off work done in class'*

It is important from time to time to finish off classwork and to practise the skills through repetition. However, homework can take many forms. If you aren't sure – ask or send in a query via the student planner.

10. *'My child spends more time than is necessary on her homework.'*

All students work at different speeds. However, if they are spending inordinate amounts of time on tasks make a note in their planner – or simply write: 'x has spent 30 minutes on this task'. The teacher will then take charge of the situation. Attending the academy homework club that is supported by staff may help them to complete tasks quicker and reduce the stress at home!

Finally.....

Homework is used to support classwork. It is designed to help all students become independent learners and more importantly form a base of good work ethic which can be built on in future years. East Leake Academy regards homework as an integral part of the learning process.

We hope you've found this guide useful.

If you would like to make any suggestions for improvement please contact

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