



# ELA Skill and Knowledge Based Homework Policy 2018

## What is skill and knowledge based homework?

Skill and knowledge based homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It is designed to allow students to build the core skills and knowledge required for each subject they are studying. Research shows that students have increased success in complex tasks (E.g. exams, problem solving etc.) when they have a detailed knowledge of a subject's content and the skills required to apply this knowledge. By committing the skills and knowledge required to long term memory it frees up working memory so that processing information is easier when solving problems.

Homework at ELA is therefore designed to practise and learn the content and skills required and gain deep knowledge within every subject. This style of homework also promotes and builds independent study skills needed for study beyond the academy.

Subject teachers will set homework tasks that are designed to embed skills and knowledge. Whilst the majority of homework will be completed through practise, revision style techniques (mind maps, note taking etc.) and done in the student's book/folder, there will still be the need for different styles of homework to be set. Where this is the case, arrangements may also be made with the class teacher for tasks to be completed at the academy. For example, this may be because of a need to access computers or printers that may not be available at home for every student. If the subject teacher has not set a specific task in a given week, knowledge based revision or skill work should always be completed by the student using the information provided on Insight (student and parent web portal). This means that students always have homework for every subject every week, even if a specific task has not been set by the teacher.

Homework club is also available after academy hours in the library for all students on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 15:15-16:30 if they wish to have some supported time to complete their independent study (homework).

## How does skill and knowledge based homework support learning and achievement?

Enables students to

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities
- access resources not available in the classroom
- develop revision technique skills
- have an opportunity for independent work if specific tasks have not been set
- show progress and understanding when tested by subject teachers on core content
- enhance study skills such as planning, time management, and self-discipline
- take responsibility and ownership for their learning
- engage parental co-operation and support
- create channels for home academy communication through the consistent use of Insight

### What should every student do?

- Bring their homework to lessons on time so that work can be monitored and marked
- Check their student 'Insight' account daily for the most up to date homework content set by teachers
- Complete homework every day in line with the homework timetable (*see below*)
- Listen to homework instructions in class
- Copy down instructions for tasks and deadline date in the planner (*support will be given if needed*)
- Ensure that all homework is completed in their subject books or homework folder (*unless told otherwise*)
- Attempt all work to the best of their ability
- Inform the class teacher/tutor of any difficulties (*a note from parents/carers in the planner is advisable*)
- Aim to learn all core subject content that is covered within the homework tasks so that they can re-call this information from memory

### What can parents/carers do to support with homework?

The role of parents/carers is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through positive feedback will give students confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. Parents/carers can help by:

- Checking parental 'Insight' account regularly to see what homework has been set (*homework is set by every subject every week, so if they say they haven't got any this is not true*)
- Signing the homework planner each week checking the time spent on individual tasks
- Providing a quiet place to work
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to the academy
- Negotiating with your child when homework is to be done as free time is important too
- Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure (*In exceptional circumstances, parents/carers would be advised to liaise with their child's tutor*)
- Test your child regularly on the knowledge and skill content (*available on Insight*) for each subject until they know it

### What can be set for homework?

- Consolidation of work in class through learning core content (use of revision techniques)
- Practise – learning by doing and re-using information (Maths for example will use this technique predominantly)
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording
- Independent Learning
- Completion of coursework assignments

### How much homework is set and by whom?

This table shows the **National Average**

Year	Time per day
7 & 8	45-90 min
9	60-100 min
10 & 11	90-150 min

The table below shows how much homework is set at ELA during an average week. Students are generally given at least two days to complete homework, but occasionally it may be for the next lesson on the following day.

**Core subjects: English, Maths & Science**

Years	Minimum time per subject each week
7, 8 & 9 (KS3)	40 min
10 & 11 (KS4)	90 min

**Non-core subjects: e.g. Geography, Art etc.**

Years	Minimum time per subject each week
7, 8 & 9 (KS3)	20 min
10 & 11 (KS4)	60 min

Life Skills (PSHE) will set homework occasionally when necessary.

**Homework at Post 16 (Sixth Form)**

All students will be set a minimum of 2hrs in each subject per week. Students should also be completing a significant number of additional hours of independent study. As a minimum we would expect at least 5hrs of independent study per subject.

**When will homework be set?**

Homework is set every week in every subject. You can see when this should be completed in each different year group in the time tables below. Knowledge organisers are also uploaded by each subject at the start of each unit of work. These are available on the student and parental Insight system and should be used on weeks or days when specific homework tasks have not been set. Students with no access to the internet will also be given hard copies of these by their teachers on request. The aim of independent study homework is to learn everything that is included in the knowledge organisers.

All faculties will also:

1. Set homework that meets the academy minimum time expectations
2. Log all homework set on Insight
3. Place homework in their schemes of work
4. Monitor the setting of homework through regular homework audits

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and nature of tasks set. The student's teacher will monitor the completion of homework by viewing and acknowledging its completion. Teachers will use a range of marking methods, including whole class feedback and peer and self-assessment. Students who have not completed homework will be sanctioned by their teacher.

The student's tutor will also help to monitor the amount of independent study that is being completed by a student. Students will be expected to bring evidence of practise and revision activities they have been doing towards learning the knowledge and skill content within 'knowledge organisers'. Students will be provided with a folder to keep this work and it must be taken to tutor time daily so that their tutor can support.

**Year 7 & 8  
(70 min per day)**

Minimum Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20 min	English	Maths	Science	English	Science
20 min	Geography	History	Design & Technology	Maths	Computing
20 min	Science	Physical Education	Music	Art	Drama
10 min	French or German	French or German	French or German	French or German	French or German

**Year 9  
(90 min per day)**

Minimum Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25 min	English	Maths	Science	Maths	Science
25 min	Geography	History	Design & Technology	Science	Computing
25 min	Science	Physical Education	Performing Arts (Music/Drama)	Art	English
15 min	French or German	French or German	French or German	French or German	French or German

**Year 10/11  
(120 min per day)**

Minimum Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 min	English	Maths	Science	English	Maths
30 min	Science	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option A
30 min	Option A	Option C	Option D	Science	Science
30 min	Maths	English	Maths	Option B	English

**Year 12/13  
(180 min per day)**

Minimum Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
60 min	Subject 3	Subject 3	Subject 3	Subject 3	Subject 3
60 min	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2	Subject 2
60 min	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1	Subject 1

### **How will homework be marked and acknowledged?**

The main purpose of homework is for students to practise and embed skills already learnt within the lesson and most importantly to **learn the subject core content and skills**. Homework will always be acknowledged and checked for completion by the student's subject teacher. Tutors will also monitor general independent learning and work ethic by viewing the student's homework folder. There will be occasions where the subject teacher will need to collect in some different types of homework and provide detailed feedback. When this is the case it will be returned to the student promptly (within 1 week).

### **How are students rewarded for high quality homework?**

Students will be awarded merits for achievement and effort, and a text home often follows. For exceptional pieces of extended work, a praise card will be sent home.

### **What happens if homework is not completed?**

If homework is not completed, the subject teacher will initially support the student to check they understand the types of techniques and strategies they should be using. If this is the case then a sanction will follow.

- The subject teacher will discuss and negotiate with the student, informing parents via text or phone calls. Demerits may be issued and break and lunchtime detentions may be set when homework is not completed.
- Tutors will also monitor additional independent study completed by students in their homework folder. If regular evidence of independent learning is not provided by the student then the tutor will issue a demerit and a break time or lunchtime detention.

Subject teachers and tutors will be further supported by Heads of Faculty, Heads of House and the Senior Leadership Team if students are regularly not completing homework. Parents of students who are not completing homework will be required to attend a meeting at the academy to discuss how we can improve the student's work ethic outside of academy hours. If homework continues to be incomplete then students may be asked to attend subject compulsory catch up sessions or the academy homework club after hours so that staff can monitor the completion of homework on a daily basis.

Tutors, will also use planners to communicate with parents about homework problems across several curriculum areas and use peer mentoring to support where needed.

Heads of Faculty or Heads of House will refer students to the Senior Leadership Team who persistently fail to complete homework or attend detentions despite parental/carers involvement.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

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