



**EAST LEAKE**  
— ACADEMY —

# Homework Policy

## March 2021

*Office use*

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At East Leake Academy we place value in homework that impacts positively on the learning and therefore the progress of your child. The evidence shows that the impact of homework, on average, is five months' additional progress. However, beneath this average there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how homework is set is likely to be very important.

## 1. THE BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK

[Researchers](#) have examined the homework habits of nearly 8,000 students. Here are the highlights from their findings:

Students performed significantly better when they were set regular homework by their teacher, compared to those who only had homework set occasionally.

Students who spent 90-110 minutes a day doing homework got the highest school grades on average.

However, the researchers found that 90-110 minutes was not necessarily the most efficient amount of time to spend on homework. Although it was the most effective in terms of grades, the extra time spent after 1 hour per day led to such minimal gains that it did not justify the extra time.

Students who did their homework by themselves ended up doing around 10% better in their exams compared to those who did their homework with their parents helping them.

Evidence also suggests that how homework relates to learning during normal school time is important. In the most effective examples homework was an integral part of learning, rather than an add-on.

## 2. Skill and knowledge based homework?

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 retrieval practice, revision techniques (mind maps, flash cards etc.) and done in the student's subject book, 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 Teams resources file on their class channel or their year channel.

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 15:15-16:15 if they wish to have some supported time to complete their independent study (homework). (These arrangements may alter in light of COVID)

### **3. 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 in addition to those in the classroom
- develop independent study techniques
- 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 through the parental weekly digest email
- create channels for home academy communication through the consistent use of Teams

### **4. What should every student do?**

- Submit their homework to their teacher and “turn it in” on Teams on time so that work can be monitored and fed back on effectively.
- Check their student Teams account daily for the most up to date homework content set by teachers
- Complete homework daily
- Listen to any additional homework instructions in class
- Ensure that all homework is completed in their subject books or on Teams.
- Attempt all work to the best of their ability
- Inform the class teacher/tutor of any difficulties (*students can ask their teacher questions via teams- students should message staff at appropriate hours of the day (8am-8pm). Staff are not expected to respond to any messages outside of (8am-4pm) Monday-Friday*)
- Aim to learn all core subject knowledge that is covered within the homework tasks so that they can re-call this information from memory
- Students are expected to read and in some cases act on feedback from the teacher where appropriate (this feedback may be given verbally in the lesson).

### **5. 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 weekly digest email to see what homework has been set and check their child has “turned it in”.
- Speak to your child about any homework not turned in and any school contact received around non-compliance with homework.
- 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 for each subject until they know it
- Parents and carers please communicate with subject staff through the school email system NOT through your child’s Teams account any concerns you have around homework.

**6. 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

**7. How much homework is set and by whom?**

The table below shows how much homework is set at ELA during an average week. Students are generally given at least three days to complete homework, but occasionally it may be less to support the learning in the classroom.

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

Years	Minimum time per subject each week
7, 8 & 9 (KS3)	40 min
10 & 11 (KS4)	60 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)	45 min

Tutors will set personal development homework occasionally when necessary.

## 8. 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.

## 9. When will homework be set?

Homework is set every week in every subject. Enough time should be allowed for completion to enable students to organise and spread their homework out across the week. Additional resources are also uploaded by each subject at the start of each unit of work. These are available on the student class team channel 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 or revision guides.

All faculties will also:

1. Set homework that meets the academy minimum time expectations
2. Log all homework set on Teams
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 feedback methods, including whole class feedback and peer and self-assessment.

## 10. 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 knowledge and skills**. Homework will always be acknowledged and checked for completion by the student's subject teacher. 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.

## 11. 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.

## 12. 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. The subject teacher will discuss and negotiate with the student. Demerits will be issued where a valid reason is not given and parent will be informed of this via Weduc. Persistent failure to hand in homework will involve a phone-call home.

Subject teachers 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.

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/carer involvement.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

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