



BRANNEL SCHOOL

**HOMEWORK
POLICY**

Written by: Mr A Edmonds
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Brannel School

Homework Policy

Rationale

Brannel School is committed to furthering the learning of students by creating a programme of work to be completed outside of the normal school day. We believe that well organised Homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement. Homework tasks are intended to support work done in school and provide an integral part of the students' overall academic and intellectual development. Homework should empower and inspire the students to become independent lifelong learners and foster an appreciation that not all learning takes place within an educational establishment.

Definition of Homework

Homework is work that is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not directly supervised by a teacher.

The Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that homework is of beneficial educational value and enhances learning. Homework is a valuable part of schooling as it allows for

- x Practising, extending and consolidating the learning that has taken place during the school day.
- x Students to practise planning and organising their time.
- x The development of a range of skills in identifying and using information sources.
- x The establishment of habits of study, concentration and self-discipline.
- x The promotion and sustained involvement of parents and carers in the management of students' learning
- x The fostering of a consistent home – school approach to homework

Evidence suggests that homework, when appropriately planned for, can be equivalent to an additional year of study over the course of a secondary school career.

Homework Setting and Frequency

Homework will be set using Show My Homework. Staff should ensure that they make available, if requested, a paper based copy of the homework task for students who do not have a computer or Internet access at home.

Each department will set homework activities weekly or fortnightly. It will be usual practice that students are given a minimum of two evenings to complete a homework.

Illustrated overleaf are the approximate hours of homework for each subject:

Subjects	Recommended time per fortnight				
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 60 mins	2x 60 mins
English (Reading)	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins	1x 60 mins	1x 60 mins
Maths	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 60 mins	2x 60 mins
Science	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 60 mins	2x 60 mins
MFL	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins		
Geography	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins		
History	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins		
DT (Year 7 & 8 – 6 week rotation)	2 hour project over 4 weeks	2 hour project over 4 weeks	2x 30 mins		
Computing	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins	1x 30 mins		
Other Foundation Subjects	<i>R.E. and Creative and Performing Arts homework will be set as necessary and will take at least 30 mins per fortnight to complete</i>				
Option Subjects				2x 60 mins	2x 60 mins

On average, a student in Year 7 or Year 8 will receive 60 minutes of homework per night. In Year 10 and Year 11 this will rise to an average of 90 minutes per night. It is expected that, in addition, revision for final exams is also carried out by these students.

Please see Appendix 1 for a guide to using Show My Homework.

Leadership and Management of Homework

a. It is the role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to:

- x Support the development and implementation of homework across the School through their link departments
- x Monitor the setting, marking and effectiveness of homework in their link departments
- x Set the procedure to be followed by all staff for students not completing homework

b. It is the role of the Head of Department to ensure that:

- x Their department is active in discussions on the role of homework across the school
- x Lesson plans and schemes of work include homework and learning outcomes
- x The promotion, setting and completion of homework is included in the regular cycle (half termly basis) of monitoring of teaching and learning and departmental self-review. This should be reported to the member of SLT responsible for Homework
- x Teachers within their department are provided with and have access to suitable homework materials and tasks

c. It is the role of Teaching Staff to ensure that:

- x The purpose of each homework is clearly explained to students
- x All homework is marked and assessed and returned within a reasonable time. This should normally not exceed one cycle of the timetable in the case of short, frequently set tasks. Peer assessment is acceptable, however it should not be the usual means of assessing homework.
- x Longer homework or extended GCSE work are staged to allow interim marking and pointers for improvement
- x The homework, date due and any further details are entered onto Show My Homework prior to the end of the lesson. The homework is also explained fully to students during the lesson so that they understand the nature and purpose of the homework set.
- x No student is put at a disadvantage by not having ICT at home
- x The homework set extends learning and skill development,
- x Homework is differentiated to match the differentiated learning opportunities in class
- x Good homework is acknowledged and rewarded in the same way as good practice in lessons.
- x All non-completion of homework is recorded on SIMS as an H2 (which is equivalent to an S2) and followed up through the school behaviour policy
- x Liaise with parents

d. It is the role of the Tutor to

- x Encourage students to see homework as an extension of their learning
- x Use weekly/fortnightly homework data to identify students for whom homework is an issue feeding back to Head of House as appropriate.
- x Help students plan time effectively so that homework is completed on time and to a high standard
- x Alert Head of House to a persistent lack of submitted homework
- x Liaise with parents/carers

e. The role of the Student

Homework is an integral part of learning, Students are expected to take this on board and to:

- x Regularly log into Show My Homework to view their current homework
- x Where possible use the Show My Homework APP to create personal homework alerts
- x Set up a schedule for completion of homework
- x Complete the homework task to as high a standard as possible by the date given
- x Expect to be praised for a piece of outstanding homework in the same way as they would be for a good piece of class work or coursework
- x Expect homework to challenge their learning skills and understanding
- x Know that their teachers will impose a sanction if they do not complete their homework
- x Keep parents/carers informed about the homework set, involving them whenever possible but not allowing them to do the work
- x Use the dinner time and after school homework clubs in IM1 and E11 at school especially if they need extra support with a piece of work
- x Expect their homework to be marked and returned within a reasonable time period.
- x Any concerns should be discussed with the Head of House.

f. The role of Parents/Carers

Learning is a partnership between home and School. All parents/carers are encouraged to:

- x Take responsibility for their child's homework by ensuring it is completed to as high a standard as possible and handed in on time
- x Show regular interest in their child's work by using their personal login to check Show My Homework as often as possible (at least once a week)
- x Talk to their child about the work set and its relationship to what is being studied in class
- x Provide a quiet, private space for study at home. Students need space for reflective learning and concentration
- x Encourage their child to use homework clubs and the library at school if this is not possible
- x Help their child plan time effectively so that all homework is completed and handed in for marking by the given date
- x Work with their child by encouraging research, opportunities for learning and access to relevant and safe ICT sites
- x Read through books and files to understand the nature and quality of work and to acknowledge where and how their child has made progress
- x Let their child's tutor know of any concerns about the homework being set using the school email system or by telephone.

Improvements in Effectiveness of Homework at Brannel School

Key pointers for success:

- x Decrease in number of students recorded on SIMS for incomplete or poor homework
- x Learning conversations demonstrate progress through students following staff advice on how to improve a piece of work

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this policy shall be conducted by the Senior Leadership Team and reported to Governors to inform review.

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Appendix 1 - A Guide to Using Show My Homework

Within this appendix, a series of user guides can be found on the following areas of Show My Homework.

Parents

Using the Calendar

Using the Show My Homework APP

Staff

Setting homework tasks

Reusing previously set homework

Setting up quizzes for homework

Creating a report on issued homework

Creating a report for Parents' Evening

Students

Using the Calendar

Using the Show My Homework APP

Using the To-do list