



BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED

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 A Specialist Technology College **Headteacher: Andrew Shakos**

Parrs Wood High School Homework Policy

Homework is set by the school for pupils and students to complete 'out of lesson'.

The purpose of homework is to either consolidate the skills and knowledge covered in class, or to extend or widen their knowledge of a particular topic/subject.

Homework may take the form of skills practice through answering questions, exam practice, reading and writing for a range of purposes, revision, research (including intranet and internet), coursework, project work and/or presentation preparation.

Homework cycle

The table below shows how much homework pupils and students can expect to receive from their teachers for each subject.

Please note that the regularity of homework is affected by how often the pupil/student has each subject.

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>At least once per week</u> (completion time should be approximately 50 minutes in total)	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Fortnightly</u>	<u>Expected time spent per homework</u>	<u>Total number of homeworks weekly</u>
7	English, Maths, Science	MFL, Tech, ICT	Art, Drama, Music, RE, History, Geography	25 minutes	12 (2.4 per night, approx 1 hour per night)
8	English, Maths, Science	MFL, Tech, ICT, History and Geography	Art, Drama, Music, RE	30 minutes	13 (2.6 per night, approx, 1 hour 18 mins per night)
9	English, Maths, Science	MFL, Tech, ICT	Art, Drama, Music, RE, History, Geography	35 minutes	12 (2.4 per night, approx 1 hour 24 mins per night)
KS4	English, Maths, Science	Options Subjects + Citizenship	n/a	45 minutes-1 hour	10 (2 per night, 90 min-2 hours per night)
Post-16				4-6 hours per week per subject	20 (3 hours per day including weekends)

Homework feedback

Books will be marked in accordance with the school Marking Policy.

Where written homework has been produced, the minimum the pupil/student can expect is an 'effort' grade (E1-E4). 'E1' represents 'Outstanding Effort' and 'E4' represents 'Inadequate Effort'.

A 'Deep Mark' occurs at least every six lessons. A deep mark includes a 'Strength' (S) and 'Target for Development' (T), that is linked to learning. The 'S' and 'T' will generally be linked to 'learning objectives' and 'learning outcomes'.

Encouraging good homework

Faculties will use a range of rewards to encourage pupils to produce their best homework. Platinum and Gold Awards, Praise Postcards, nominations for 'Headteacher's Stars of the Week' are examples of rewards used.

Homework sanctions

If a pupil/student fails to complete homework, or if homework is of an inadequate standard then the teacher will follow the procedure below:-

- Pupils/Students will be given one more chance to hand-in or improve the homework.
- If the homework is still not completed to a satisfactory standard then the teacher will issue a personal detention.
- Standard Faculty detention letters will be given to pupils, or a phone call will be made, to inform parents/carers of the detention.
- If problems persist, teachers will phone parents and guardians to discuss the importance of homework.
- Pupils who repeatedly fail to hand in homework will be placed in Faculty after-school detention.
- Heads of Learning will identify pupils who are failing to complete homework in a range of subjects at each Pupil Progress Review. They will highlight concerns to parents via letter and strategies will be put in place to support the pupil e.g. peer mentoring, tutor report, directed to homework club.

Communicating homework to pupils, students and parents.

The Pupil Planner/Student File is key to the accurate recording of homework.

Pupils/Students are expected to accurately record homework in their planner/file, including the date it is to be completed by.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to regularly check their child's planner/file. They should sign the planner each week to confirm that they have checked it.

Where needed, the learning support assistant or the teacher will write homework into the pupil's planner for them.

If a parent/carer has any concerns to do with homework they should contact their child's form tutor. This contact may be via a note in the student planner or phone/email. If concerns continue, please contact your child's Head of Learning.

Supporting pupils/students with homework.

Homework will be linked to what is being covered in lessons.

The purpose of the homework will be for preparation, consolidation, revision or extension of a topic within the syllabus.

The faculty will provide an after-school facility, at least once a week, where pupils/students can get advice and support for their homework.

The Independent Learning Centre will be available for at least one hour at the end of the school day for pupils and students to access a quiet study and research facility.

Faculties will advise pupils/students of the most appropriate and effective study guides, additional reading lists and online resources. An outline of these is contained within the Curriculum Guide for each Year Group.

All homework given to pupils should provide an appropriate level of challenge. Teachers will ensure that all pupils can access tasks that are set.

Pupils are expected to catch up on all work missed through approved activities or occasional absence. This includes catching up with any missed homework tasks.

Marking codes.

Parrs Wood is committed to helping all our pupils/students to develop literacy as we understand how important it is to access all subjects and to support future learning and employment.

When 'deep marking', teachers will use codes to help our pupils/students to identify areas for development within their literacy. Some are shown below.

Symbol	What it means.	Other information given by the teacher.
Sp	A misspelled word.	A 'circle' is drawn around the misspelled word and the teacher has written the word correctly next to it. The pupil/student should copy the correct spelling of the word twice below where the teacher has written.
//	A new paragraph is needed	The symbol '// ' is written in the margin next to the place where a new paragraph should have been started.
P	A grammatical error or an error to do with punctuation	A circle is drawn around the error and 'p' is written in the margin. The teacher may give more detail e.g 'too many commas' or 'full stop needed'.
C	Incorrect use of capital letters.	A circle is drawn around the error and 'c' is written in the margin.
Ph	A poorly phrased passage of text.	'Ph' is written in the margin next to a poorly phrased passage. The teacher should underline and write a question mark above any parts that are phrased particularly badly.

Standard of presentation.

Pupils/Students should always aim to present their work as neatly and as accurately as possibly.

Only black or blue ink pens should be used for written work.

A pencil should be used for diagrams and graphs.

Rulers should be used to produce straight lines.

Where mistakes have been made that have been written in pen, the mistake should be crossed-out with a single, straight line (ruler used). Correction fluid, such as Tippex, is not allowed.

How Pupils and Students Can Help Themselves (Parents and Carers Can Help With These).

Planning.



- Planning your homework (and revision) is the key to success.
- Create a realistic and achievable revision timetable.
- Include all topics, time allocation for each topic and sensible 'break' time.

Avoid Distractions.



- Find a quiet, airy place. The ILC and Library is available after school.
- Average concentration span is about 20 mins and so take regular short breaks.
- Drink water to stop yourself getting dehydrated

Practise Makes Perfect.



- For revision, get hold of past papers. You can simulate the exam by trying to complete the tests under exam conditions.
- Professional sports people often visualise a forthcoming event in an attempt to foresee, and prepare for, any attacks of nerves that may arise during the actual event.

Summarise.



- When reading texts, summarise the important points on 'revision cards'. This may include 'mind-mapping', 'buzz words' and 'images'.
- Use highlighters and different coloured pens to show important points.

Recording Information.



- Make a video, podcast recording of important facts and replay it back to yourself.

Reminders.



- Place your revision aids strategically around the house e.g by your bed, in the kitchen and in the bathroom.
- Important facts and formulae could be put on 'post-it' notes and stuck on the fridge, mirror or toilet door!