

The value of home learning in creating independent learners

Y8 Partnership Evening
3rd November 2022

Homework

Homework, love it or hate it, has been around for hundreds of years.

When mentioned in class, it often receives a groan or two!

However, homework serves a purpose that goes far deeper than improving a student's general understanding of a subject.



The importance of homework

- **Teaching students how to work independently**
- Teaching students about time management
- Teaching them how to set important priorities
- Helping teachers estimate how well their students understand lessons and apply their learning
- Providing students with a great opportunity to review their learning
- Giving parents a good chance to see what their children learn in classes
- Teaching them how to take responsibility in their educational development
- Helping them understand the important role of taking action, planning, and effective organisation.

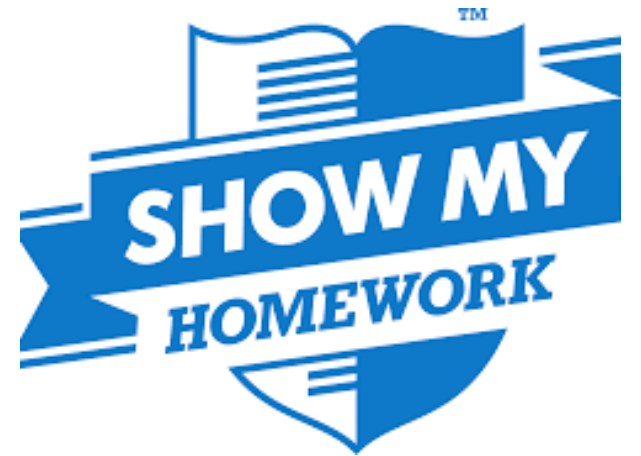
Homework at The Friary

KS3 students receive regular weekly homework in Maths and French.

In addition to this they receive two Home Learning Assignments (HLAs) every fortnight. Each HLA is equivalent to approximately 3 hours work.

The two week completion window for HLAs allows pupils to plan their homework around their out of school commitments.

It cannot and should not be 'crammed' the night before a submission.





How can you
help?

Have High Academic Expectations

Out of all the things parents can do, having high aspirations and expectations of your child has the biggest impact on their grades.

Parental expectations include how important school is, their attitude towards teachers, and the value of education.



Regular Communication

This includes developing and maintaining communication with children about their school life.

This helps parents nip any potential problems in the bud before they manifest into bigger issues.



Good Reading Habits

Encourage good reading habits and reading for pleasure.

Reading has been associated with improvements in vocabulary, spelling, maths, and general academic achievements.

You can find recommended reading lists for Y7, 8 and 9 on the school website on the 'Library' page.



6 Reasons to Put Your Phone Away

by @Inner_Drive
www.innerdrive.co.uk



Lowers Concentration

Having your phone out while doing homework or revision has been shown to reduce performance by 20%.

Warps Your View of Reality

Nobody is as happy as they seem on Facebook or as wise as they appear on Twitter.



Increases FOMO

Fear of Missing Out (FOMO), or the compulsive need to know what others are doing, leads to worse moods and increased anxiety.



Reduces Memory

Instant messages are distracting, which often leads to forgetfulness.



Increases Stress and Anxiety

Over use of mobile phones leads to increased anxiety, feelings of loneliness and low self-esteem. Reliance on mobile phones can cause irritation, frustration and impatience.



Makes You Sleep Worse

Prolonged use of a mobile phone leads to poor sleep quality and duration. The backlight on your phone delays the release of Melatonin, which is a hormone important for sleep.



Homework rules

Evidence suggests that parents establishing homework rules for their children is one of the most powerful things they can do to assist their child's academic development.

In addition, making sure they explain why these rules are in place can help pupils eventually make better decisions regarding their independent study time later in their school career.

Have clear rules to deal with how they divide their homework and leisure time.

Given that students often do their homework with their mobile phones in front of them, which can be incredibly distracting, having a clear structure and set of rules can help.

How can parents help?

- **Set up a homework-friendly area.**
- **Schedule a regular study time.**
- **Help them make a plan.**
- **Keep distractions to a minimum.**
- **Make sure they do their own work.**

Continued...

- **Be a motivator and monitor.**
- **Set a good example.**
- **Praise their work and efforts.**

If there are continuing problems with homework, get help.



Supervising homework

Despite it sounding counter-intuitive, research has found that parents supervising their child's homework does not have a significant impact on grades.

Although support has some short term gains early on, as students get older and the homework they do becomes more complex, the need for them to take individual responsibility and ownership for their own success becomes more important.

Helping your child develop healthy and consistent routines is the best way for you to help your child thrive at school.



How can you support their learning at home?

Often it is beneficial to support your child with their learning and assist them in learning and revisiting content.

This is most common when pupils are preparing for a test or some other form of assessment.

How can I help my child to test their knowledge and understanding?

- Regularly interact with your son or daughter, encouraging them to recall and retrieve recently learned information - this is called retrieval practice.
- After studying something new, ask them to recall and retrieve from memory, with little or no support and without the use of their books of information.
- Ask them after different periods of time have passed (1 day, 2 days, 5 days). This is called spaced practice.

Without your son/daughter looking at their notes or resources consider:

- **Supporting Reading** – ask your child to summarise and write about what they have read – consider reading the EEF's 7 Top Tips to Supporting Reading at Home resource.
- **Brain Dumps** – create a spider diagram or a list of points to 'tell me everything you know about...' Then revisit the original learning and add parts that were forgotten.
- **Picture Framing** - Show a picture linked to a recent piece of work. 'Write down everything you know that links to this picture' e.g. a picture of a plant to see if students can remember the necessities for life & growth, water transfer and the life cycle (KS3 Science).
- **Picture Series** – show 3 or 4 pictures from a topic. 'Explain how these pictures are linked' e.g. pictures of a destructive tectonic plate margin, a tsunami, the Red Cross (Y10/11 Geography).
- **Leitner Flashcards** – create a set of flashcards with questions on the front and answers on the back. Use spaced practice to test your son/daughter every day, every other day and once a week (see next slide for video link).

What
strategies can
you use at
home?

Where can I find out more?

- EEF resources for supporting Literacy and Mathematics at home (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/support-resources-for-schools/>)
- An explanation of the Brain Dumps method of retrieval practice (<https://www.retrievalpractice.org/strategies/2017/free-recall>)
- A 3-minute video on the Leitner flashcard revision method (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C20EvKtdJwQ>)
- Videos for students on memory, retrieval and spaced practice from the Learning Scientists (<https://www.learningscientists.org/videos>)

The Future

What is undeniable is that homework becomes more important as students progress through education.

Very soon your child will be studying for their GCSEs and these will rely heavily on being able to work independently to consolidate learning and revise for examinations.



KS3 Revision guides

- Many subjects in school will produce their own resources to help support pupils with their learning.
- **Some** pupils may benefit from extra reference material that can be purchased from book shops.
- We recommend the CGP range of study guides which also have work books that can be used alongside them.

