

Homework and Independent Learning – Policy and Procedures

Our Policy.....

At Nunthorpe, we have a passionate commitment to Homework and Independent Learning.

When Year 7 and Year 12/13 students (and their parents) choose our school, they choose a school of quality.

A key part of our quality is our commitment to Homework and Independent Learning.

We are committed to Homework and Independent Learning because:

1. It encourages/develops habits of working alone and independently – particularly in current school/college learning cultures which (rightly of course) emphasise group/team work and collaborative learning activities. It is, quite simply, another learning style – and in the case of some students, possibly their preferred learning style.
2. It is one of the few learning styles which encourages (often demands) **extended** writing practice/practices.
3. It is an essential skill for all formal examination preparation (even the Driving Test now has a compulsory written element - completed alone of course).
4. It encourages/develops self-motivation/self-determination – essential life skills and certainly required in a large number of careers
5. It is VITAL for ALL post-16 and post-19 education – whatever the level and whatever the chosen qualification route(s).

Policy Agreed – June 2008

Policy to be Reviewed – May/June 2009

The Procedure(s)

Years 7-11

- 1. Every Subject Area across KS3 and KS4 has a published Homework timetable and schedule on our school website. These can be directly accessed via our Homepage.**
- 2. The Homework Schedule for each subject is based around an academic year of 38 teaching weeks. Standard tasks are set each week.**
- 3. Each homework task or set of tasks is the MINIMUM homework that will be set each week in each subject. Individual teachers have professional freedom to set *additional* homework when and if they so wish.**
- 4. Roughly speaking, each subject will set approximately 30 minutes homework for each 1 hour lesson taught. (For example, in Years 7-9, students have 4 hours each week for Science; this means they can expect approximately 2 hours homework each week in Science).**
- 5. A record of ALL homework set each week will be entered by every student into their Student Planner. This is then checked and signed each week by the student, a parent and the student's Form Tutor.**
- 6. Homework and Independent learning tasks will take a huge variety of forms in the 11-16 section of our school.**
- 7. Period 6 Detentions can be issued by all staff for non-completion of homework. These will be issued as a matter of course for non-completion of homework without a valid reason (a 'valid reason' must be accompanied by a note from a parent to the relevant subject teacher). Without a valid reason, Period 6 detentions will continue to be**

issued to a student until the homework is completed to an acceptable standard.

(n.b. Obviously, in the case of persistent non-completion and/or submission of homework, teaching staff will refer a student to the relevant Pastoral Director. It is obvious to state that all of the consequences for such unacceptable behaviour which are detailed in our Behaviour and Rewards Policy can and will be used – including that of permanent exclusion in the most extreme circumstance.)

- 8. We define an ‘acceptable standard’ as being work which is broadly in line with an individual student’s FFTD predicted grade in the relevant subject. Work which is submitted below an acceptable standard will be re-done and re-submitted by the student. This process of re-submission will continue, indefinitely, until the individual subject teacher is satisfied with the quality of the work.**

(n.b. Again, where we feel that a student is willingly under-performing (bluntly through laziness) the many consequences detailed in our Behaviour and Rewards Policy will be applied.)

Years 12-14

- 1. Our Sixth Form students will be set homework and independent learning for all courses/qualifications as necessary.**
- 2. Each hour of teaching in our Sixth Form will result in approximately one hour of homework.**
- 3. Roughly speaking, a student in Year 12 can expect approximately 5 hours of homework per subject per week as a MINIMUM. (For example, most AS and A2 qualifications are taught for 5 hours per week per subject in our school).**

- 4. Homework and Independent learning tasks will take a huge variety of forms in our Sixth Form.**
- 5. Appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be used for all non - completion/submission of homework in our Sixth Form.**
- 6. Please consult the Sixth Form section of our school website for more detail.**

Debbie Clinton
Headteacher

1st September 2008