



Northallerton School and Sixth Form College

Learning and Achieving Together

Homework guidance for KS3

Rationale

Homework is an essential part of learning. It allows students to extend their understanding, consolidate learning that has taken place in class and demonstrate creativity, imagination, resourcefulness, independence and ownership of their learning. In addition to specific tasks that are set, we want learners to be curious and find things out to extend and develop things that they may have learnt in or out of school. They should also be encouraged to review and revise the work they do in school as a matter of course.

All members of the school community have a part to play in high quality homework:

- Subject staff – to set meaningful, challenging, thought provoking, skill developing activities. To provide feedback to students on the completed work.
- Tutors - students are expected to record all homework in their planners. These will be checked and signed regularly by tutors.
- Students – to complete work set to the best of their ability in the timescale set. If a student has been absent from school when the homework is set, they are still expected to complete the task, and may be granted an extension to the deadline.
- Parents and carers – to support students in completing homework and organising their time effectively, to monitor the use of the planner and sign to acknowledge they have seen it.

The setting and return of homework

When homework is set, all students will be provided with:

- Clear instructions - to be written into their planner (occasionally on a printed sheet) about the task to be completed.
- A precise date for the return of the work.
- In KS3, the nature of the homework task will determine the length of time it should take, and therefore the frequency with which it is set. As a general rule, core subjects (English, Maths and Science) should usually set a homework task once a week lasting 30 minutes, on average. Subjects that have less curriculum time would usually set homework once every two-three weeks.
- In most cases, students should be given at least 3 days to complete their homework. This allows students and subject areas flexibility in planning and completion of homework. Where a piece of homework is set with a shorter deadline, the demands of the homework should reflect this. Equally, where homework deadlines exceed a week, this should also reflect the expectations of the work that is set.
- We do not issue a prescriptive homework timetable. Homework is most effective when linked to a particular element of learning, rather than as an 'add-on'. It should link to the learning being done in the classroom, and as such the teacher has to judge when a task will best support progress.

In school opportunities to complete homework

There are times when a student may wish or need to complete homework during part of the school day or at school after the school day. The opportunities to do this include:

- Homework club
- Use of the Library before school, at break and lunch time
- Support through Learning Support Bases
- With subject staff permission – use of ICT facilities
- Support at lunch or break time from subject teachers at their discretion and with prior arrangement.

Concerns about homework and points of contact

If there are concerns about homework at any time during the school year, we would like to hear about them immediately. It has been our experience that when parents and staff work in partnership on this area, a positive result can be achieved. Methods of contact are as follows:

Students - speak directly to their subject teachers, either at the start, during or at the end of a lesson or speak to their family tutors. This should be in advance of a deadline so that time can still be given to complete the task or to seek an extension where appropriate.

Parents – either through email, by a telephone call to the school office, with a request to speak to the member of staff concerned, a note in a student planner or by letter to the subject teacher.

Subject Guidance

ARTS FACULTY

Subject: ART - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

What type of homework tasks might be set?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-learning• Research –resource collecting• Skills practise.• Media experiments• Evaluation
How often will homework be set?	Usually at the beginning of projects- over a 3-4 week period. Not set during the practical session. Evaluation at the end of projects.
How can learning be extended?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop in sessions on Wednesday 3.15-4.30• Extension tasks for more able, enthusiastic students encouraging them to try more challenging options.• Worksheets with examples given.

Subject: MUSIC - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

What type of homework tasks might be set?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music Theory• Guided/Detailed Listening• Research – Resource collecting• Research - Genre or Style specific• Skills practise• Literacy – Key Words• Instrumental practise (where possible)• Composition – Where possible, using mobile apps and websites• Evaluation
How often will homework be set?	Students should expect to complete a piece of homework at least once per half term; however this should be seen as a guideline as projects vary throughout KS3.
How can learning be extended?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop in sessions on Thursday afternoons, 3.15-4.30 (students must pre-book)• Extension tasks• Wider listening of a particular genre or style• YouTube. There is a vast array of information regarding performance, composition, and listening skills on the video sharing site. If students wish to learn more about something, YouTube is a great place to start.

ENGLISH FACULTY

Subject: ENGLISH - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

What type of homework tasks might be set?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-learning• Research/enquiry• Explain tasks• Literacy• Creative work• Written tasks• Composition• Re-drafting• Contextual learning• Revision
How often will homework be set?	Usually once a week, although that may depend upon the nature of the task and the proximity to exams.
How can learning be extended?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wider reading of fiction/non-fiction• Exploration of literary context• Search opportunities for cultural enrichment• Writing in real-life contexts• Speaking/communicating in real-life contexts

HUMANITIES FACULTY

Subject: HISTORY - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

What type of homework tasks might be set?	<p>There are a variety of tasks that will be set through the year to develop different historical skills, knowledge, understanding and literacy. For example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning information for factual tests.• Learning definitions or spellings of key vocabulary.• Source- based tasks on the topic being studied in class.• Essay/ report writing.• Research/ enquiry tasks.• Revision for end of topic assessments.• 'Explaining' homework. (Tell someone at home about your learning)
How often will homework be set?	<p>Homework will usually be set every two weeks for History, although it depends upon the type of task. Some extended enquiry tasks may be equivalent to two or three homework tasks. As a minimum, students will usually be given at least three days to complete a task.</p> <p>Students will usually be given a sheet with the instructions/task on it. Students are expected to record the task and return date in their planners during lessons, as instructed by their teacher.</p>
How can learning be extended?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask the teacher for examples of novels that might be linked to the topic.• Visit the LRC/ Northallerton Library and take out a book on the topic.• Visit a useful website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zk26n39 https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/• Visit a local site/ museum

Subject: GEOGRAPHY - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

<p>What type of homework tasks might be set?</p>	<p>There are a variety of tasks that will be set through the year to develop different geographical skills, knowledge and understanding. For example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning information for factual tests, often using maps of places being studied. • Learning definitions or spellings of key vocabulary. • Data response questions. • Essay/ report writing. • Research/ enquiry tasks/ surveys. • Revision for end of topic assessments.
<p>How often will homework be set?</p>	<p>Homework will usually be set every two weeks for Geography, although it depends upon the type of task. Some extended enquiry tasks may be equivalent to two or three homework tasks. As a minimum, students will usually be given at least three days to complete a task. Students will usually be given a sheet with the instructions/task on it. Students are expected to record the task and return date in their planners during lessons, as instructed by their teacher.</p>
<p>How can learning be extended?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read/ watch local and national news reports linked to geography • Visit a useful website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrw76sg https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/ http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/hi/default.stm http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/geography/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/ http://www.ons.gov.uk/ • Look for evidence of physical and human geography in your area.

Subject: SRS (social and religious studies) - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

<p>What type of homework tasks might be set?</p>	<p>There are a variety of tasks that will be set through the year to develop understanding and knowledge. The homework tasks are designed to work alongside classwork. The tasks will include research projects, exam style questions and revision tasks.</p>
<p>How often will homework be set?</p>	<p>Homework will usually be set twice a half term, although it depends upon the type of task. Some extended tasks which involve research projects may be the equivalent of two or three homework tasks. As a minimum, students will be given at a week to complete a task. At the end of each half term/term students will be given a revision worksheet to complete in preparation for an end of unit exam. Students will usually be given a sheet with the instructions/task on it. Students are expected to record the task and return date in their planners during lessons, as instructed by their teacher.</p>
<p>How can learning be extended?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be given the overview of what they are studying at the beginning of each new topic – they can use this information to access a variety of books available in the school library which relate to the topic. • There is a wide range of local places of worship students can visit to extend their knowledge and experience. If you are interested please feel free to ask Mrs Bainbridge (Head of Subject) for some suggestions. • There are a wide variety of websites students can use to extend their learning. The most accessible is the BBC Bitesize Religious Studies KS3 site. • Students can also ask their teacher for suggests of fiction books that will assist their learning.

MATHS FACULTY - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

What type of homework tasks might be set?	A variety of tasks will be set although more often than not homework tasks will focus on consolidation of learning in the lesson. Tasks may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further examples to continue practise of a method covered in the lesson• Research-based tasks in preparation for future work• Solving a particular problem using methods covered in the lesson• Revision for end of topic assessments• Online activities supporting learning of methods covered in the lesson
How often will homework be set?	Homework will be set at least once a week and students will be given at least two evenings to complete the work, smaller tasks may be set more regularly.
How can learning be extended?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop-in sessions are available every Monday from 3.15pm in E17 where students are having difficulty with a piece of homework or a class topic. Maths staff are also always willing to give extra help outside of lessons where needed.• Websites providing a range of Maths support include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ www.mathszone.co.uk○ BBC bitesize at www.bbc.co.uk/education○ www.sumdog.com• Students should always try to use their Maths in other subjects and have access to a calculator, preferably scientific, which is not a phone app.

MFL FACULTY

Subject: MFL - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

What type of homework tasks might be set?	Vocabulary learning Conjugation learning Sentence writing Extended writing Research on cultural topics
How often will homework be set?	KS3: once or twice a week (SEN groups about once in every 2 to 3 weeks depending upon curriculum time)
How can learning be extended?	KS3: Access www.linguascope.com and www.quizlet.com

SCIENCE FACULTY

Subject: SCIENCE - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

What type of homework tasks might be set?	<p>A range of activities are likely to be set. The vast majority of which will require the submission of a final piece of work, though some (e.g Educake based tasks) homework is submitted online. Homework is always designed to extend, consolidate or prepare learning for/from the classroom. Tasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further examples to continue practise of a method covered in the lesson• Educake online revision ‘tests’• Research-based tasks in preparation for future work• Researching and learning key words and terms• Finding examples at home to support the science covered in lessons• Revision for end of topic assessments
How often will homework be set?	<p>Homework will usually be set once a week, however, the frequency may vary at the teacher’s discretion. A reasonable period of time will always be given to complete homework, ranging from a single night for a very small task to a couple of weeks for a project. Deadlines will be made clear when homework is set.</p>
How can learning be extended?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watching the news and keeping up with current affairs• Websites providing a range of science support include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ www.educake.co.uk○ BBC bitesize at www.bbc.co.uk/education• Reading science journals e.g. Natural Geographic or New Scientist• Looking at science and nature TV documentaries and internet blogs• Listening to scientific podcasts• Trying to see science in action in everyday tasks• Proactively researching answers to questions or observations

TECHNOLOGY FACULTY - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

	Design & Technology	ICT
What type of homework tasks might be set?	<p>There are a variety of tasks that will be set throughout the year to develop skills; extend class work with provocative thinking; encourage and develop independent learning; provide a vehicle for extended writing to develop analytical and evaluative documentation. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of various contexts of various projects • Researching the context and materials required for given design briefs • Further designing of ideas to solve a problem or prepare a meal following on from class working • Learning definitions, acronyms and spellings • Writing detailed specifications with given guidance. • Documenting with photographic evidence product development and manufacture • Evaluating made products to given criteria • Revision of theoretical materials in preparation for testing 	<p>There are a variety of tasks that will be set throughout the year to develop skills; extend class work with logical thinking; encourage and develop independent learning; provide opportunities to further develop programming and recognise the use and impact of ICT in the world of work. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of various lesson tasks • Undertaking practical software tasks to experiment and develop experience • Designing materials, with guidance, ICT based products in preparation for classroom tasks • Revision of theoretical materials in preparation for testing • Learning definitions, acronyms and spellings
How often will homework be set?	<p>Homework will be set weekly/biweekly depending upon the position in the subject programme. Students will always be given one week to complete a task.</p> <p>Students will generally be given support materials to assist their understanding of the requirements and it will be clearly written in the student planners.</p>	
How can learning be extended?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask teachers for assistance • Focussed teacher directed individual work set at appropriate level of expectation to match targets. • Using exemplar materials to 'see' the work required to achieve the aspirational 'level' of achievement. • Visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z4qmhyc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask teachers for assistance • Examine and use websites directed specifically by teachers • Use http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z8mtsbk