Homework Policy

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Introduction

Homework enhances students learning, improves achievement and develops study skills and is an integral part of the learning process.

An assigned task by teachers, homework is to be completed outside of class/school time: these tasks have been carefully planned and integrated into all curriculum areas.

Students should have homework that is set regularly, and is meaningful and appropriate to their age and stage.

Homework is set in order to:

- Develop essential transferable skills for life
- Enhance, deepen and foster a scholarly love of learning in the subjects studied
- Assist in the process of formative assessment to help teachers in adapting planning accordingly
- Foster a learning community, where teachers, parents/ carers and students work as partners in the educational journey of students

Types of homework tasks

The list below is not an exhaustive list of tasks that could be set for homework, but rather an indication of the type of tasks that are appropriate. There is an expectation that students would receive a variety of tasks over time.

- Preparation for future learning (such as reading ahead and summarising or planning tasks for future tasks)
- Wider reading tasks for enrichment or consolidation
- Structured short-answer questions to consolidate learning in lessons.
- Choice of tasks with varying levels of challenge.
- Vocabulary or key-facts learning.
- Extended project work – either completed as individuals or collaboratively.
- Guided research with appropriate support at the start of the work, such as key websites or printed references.
- Timed essays or extended pieces of writing.
- Creative responses to the learning – such as pamphlets.
- Online homework tasks.
- Revision.
- Write-up of experiments or practical work.
- Rehearsal.

Current research suggests that the most effective homework tends to be preparation for future learning and completion of specific tasks with clear criteria for success. Research also suggests that it is effective to give students some autonomy with the task, such as giving them choices or license to be creative. Project work tends to be least effective.

City Academy Homework Procedure

At City Academy, we encourage all students to complete tasks to the best of their ability. Homework tasks will be set using platforms (see below), or hard copies and recorded in the student's planner. The platforms/resources used are:

- Seneca Learning: History/Geography/RE
- Educake: Science
- Mathswatch: Mathematics
- Reading Plus: English
- GCSE Pod: All Key Stage 4 subjects
- Vocabulary Booklets: Modern Foreign Languages/RE
- Sketch Books: Art/3D Art and Design
- Microsoft Teams: Health and Social Care (KS4)/Business Studies (KS4)/Digital IT (KS4)/BTEC Sport (KS4)/GCSE Geography

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 should also be completing 1 hour of Reading Plus per week.

Reading is an important habit that will help our pupils to become successful. Studies show that pupils who do not read daily are less likely to achieve the best grades at GCSE, A Levels and beyond.

Non-Completion of Homework

Pupils who fail to complete homework, or whose homework is not completed to an acceptable standard will receive a notification on Classcharts. Three of these notifications will result in the student being directed to Homework Club in the LRC (see below for times) to complete their homework under the supervision and support of the staff present. Failure to adhere to this direction will result in a detention (60 minutes) being issued. Homework is also part of the rewards system,

in that excellent homework is recognised and rewarded using the ‘Value Credit’/’Value Award’ system.

Should concerns continue to persist, about either the quality or completion of homework, the Curriculum Leader will raise this with their Head of Year, who will arrange to meet with family to resolve this issue.

Homework Club

Homework Club is available in the LRC/Library/301 on the third floor of the academy, and is open from Monday-Friday from 3:10-4:10, open for all students.

Within the LRC, there will be laptops and iPads available, which will allow students to access the digital platforms mentioned above, as well as their school Microsoft 365 accounts to save and upload work. Academic coaches in the core subjects (English, Mathematics and Science) will also be on hand to offer support in these areas.

The facility is open to all students on the days respective to their Key Stage; however, students may be directed to Homework Club (as previously mentioned) due to repeated non-completion/poor completion of homework.

Homework by Subjects

Subject	How Homework is Set	Tasks set for Homework	Frequency/How Often
English	Reading Plus (Online) GCSE Pod (Online)	• Reading texts online • Writing tasks • Revision podcasts of texts	Weekly
Maths	Mathswatch (Online)	• Mathematical tasks online linked to the curriculum	Weekly
Science	Educake (Online) GCSE Pod (Online)	• Revision tasks/quizzes/activities linked to learned content. • Revision Podcasts	Weekly
History	Seneca (Online) GCSE Pod (Online)	• Revision tasks/quizzes/activities linked to learned content. • Revision Podcasts	Weekly
Geography	Seneca (Online) GCSE Pod (Online)	• Revision tasks/quizzes/activities linked to learned content. • Revision Podcasts	Weekly
Modern Foreign Languages	Language Gym (Online)	• Revision and practice of vocabulary/key words/grammar	Fortnightly (KS3) Fortnightly (KS4)
RE	Seneca (Online) GCSE Pod (Online)	• Revision tasks/quizzes/activities linked to learned content. • Revision Podcasts	Fortnightly (KS3) Fortnightly (KS4)
DT	Worksheets	• Revision/Practice of taught content on worksheets • Preparation for new content e.g. reading and comprehension	Fortnightly (KS3) Weekly (KS4)
Music	Online Research set by Teacher	• Pre-Learning of new content/topics	Fortnightly (KS3) Fortnightly (KS4)
Art	Online Research set by Teacher	• Pre-Learning of new content/topics	Fortnightly (KS3) Fortnightly (KS4)
Drama	Online Research set by Teacher	• Pre-Learning of new content/topics	Fortnightly (KS3)

			Fortnightly (KS4)
Computer Science	Microsoft Teams GCSE Pod	• Assignment task work • Revision of theory content	Fortnightly (KS3) Weekly (KS4)
Business Studies/Enterprise (Years 10/11 Only)	Microsoft Teams GCSE Pod	• Assignment task work • Revision of theory content	Weekly
Health and Social Care (Years 10/11 Only)	Microsoft Teams GCSE Pod	• Assignment task work • Revision of theory content	Weekly
Sports Studies (Years 10/11 Only)	Microsoft Teams GCSE Pod	• Assignment task work • Revision of theory content	Weekly