



## **Oldbury Academy – Homework Guidance 2022-23**

### **1. Introduction and rationale**

This is the school's policy for the provision of homework to students and has been drawn up in accordance with guidance from the DFE and Sutton Education Trust.

At Oldbury Academy we believe that homework plays a vital role in supporting, developing and improving the performance of students in schools. This belief is based on national, accredited research. It must also be recognised that parents play a vital role in the education of their child, therefore it is important and valuable to have a good home-school partnership, of which a homework policy must address.

At Oldbury Academy, we use Show my Homework to set all homework for all students. Students and parents have individual logins to see what homework has been set for them, and every piece of homework set is visible through Show my Homework. You can also access homework through the Show My Homework app, which is available on Apple, Smart and Android devices.

If you lose your login details, please use the video link from the school website [https://youtu.be/ORJgQKA\\_VFQ](https://youtu.be/ORJgQKA_VFQ). If this still does not allow you to log into Show my Homework please email:

showmyhomework@oldburyacademy.org.uk

### **2. Homework - A definition**

Homework is defined as any work or activity that students are asked to undertake outside of lesson time, either on their own or with the aid of parents and carers. Homework doesn't necessarily have to be completed at home but can be completed during after-school homework clubs. We see work completed outside of lesson time as a valuable part of a student's learning.

### **3. The purpose of homework**

The school regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- Provide learners with the opportunity to work on an activity that is relevant to learning outcomes, or that contributes to gaining qualifications/accreditations.
- Develop an effective partnership between the school, parents and carers in pursuing the academic aims of the school and the development of their child.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding prior to the following lesson.
- Extend learning across the curriculum, for example through additional reading.
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence, self-discipline and independence to develop organisational skills.

Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. We hope that parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work completed at home is done so conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

#### **4. Current practice**

At the beginning of the academic year, each year group will be informed about what is expected of them with regards to homework, from the different faculty areas. At Oldbury Academy we recognise that different subjects have different demands, so each faculty provides individual guidance on what students can expect in the different subjects they study. This guidance is detailed at the end of this document. All homework set for students at Oldbury Academy can be viewed by logging into Show my Homework via the website or the app.

#### **5. Time to be spent completing homework**

Students may be expected to undertake a variety of homework activities. These activities will differ depending on the teacher and subject. Examples include: Reading tasks, numeracy tests, spelling tests, quizzes, project work, classwork extensions, coursework, essays and research activities, but this list is not exhaustive.

As a general rule, teachers will not usually set substantial homework tasks to be completed for the next day, students will have at least two days to complete any work set. At Oldbury, we recognise that different subjects have different demands, and these demands might change over the year; this is reflected in the individual subject guidance provided at the end of this document.

#### **6. Feedback to students**

The school recognises the importance of providing prompt and actionable feedback to pupils, parents and carers. Feedback will include how well homework tasks have been tackled, and the knowledge, skills and understanding developed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback, such as an appropriate comment of praise, appreciation or area for improvement. Any given feedback will vary according to the age of the student.

#### **7. Contact points for parents and carers**

Should any parents or carers have a query regarding a specific lesson they should contact their child's normal class teacher, who will have responsibility for setting quality homework. In addition to this, all faculties and year groups have nominated Homework Champions who lead on the quality of homework set across their own faculty and year group. The member of the Senior Leadership Team with specific responsibility for the quality of whole-school homework is Mr P Dryburgh.

#### **8. The School Homework Guidance – access and review**

The Homework Guidance, as well as useful information for parents in supporting their child's learning, is displayed on the School Website. Parents' Evenings and New Intake Evenings will be used to promote this partnership and obtain feedback (e.g. English and Numeracy workshops).

The Homework Guidance will be reviewed every year. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the various stakeholders that make up our school community.

#### **Subject Specific Information**

***Important note – all homework will be set using Show my Homework from September 2022. This can be accessed using individual logins to both the Show my Homework website and the Show my Homework app (available on all platforms).***

#### **English**

All students are set work based on knowledge organiser revision each week for English. Every year group have a knowledge organiser assigned linked to the curriculum for each English scheme of work. Homework knowledge is retrieved in lessons in the form of quizzes, do now activities leading up the core knowledge needed for an assessment each term. This approach is designed to deepen student's understanding of the English knowledge and skills required to make good progress, but also to encourage independent revision. Knowledge organisers are shared via Show my Homework and are available on Microsoft Teams for Year 10 and 11.

## **Mathematics**

The mathematics faculty set homework to consolidate the new skills learnt during lessons to at least once a week. Students in KS4 should expect the frequency of homework to increase to meet the demands of their GCSE preparation. Homework is used as a means of supporting students in their preparation for assessments. Homework is also used to provide targeted intervention to students to support them in areas where they struggle mathematically. Completion of regular homework ensures that students master the mathematical skills taught in class and enable them to apply their knowledge to solve problems. Furthermore, students' completed homework provides diagnostic information to the class teacher to enable their planning of bespoke lessons to allow the progression of all students.

Homework in maths may take a variety of different formats including:

- ✓ Use of websites where students are provided with instantaneous feedback
- ✓ Worksheets where students will receive feedback from their teachers
- ✓ Revision materials to ensure that students can prepare themselves for assessments/exams
- ✓ Past exam papers where students can familiarise themselves with the style of questioning used in assessments/exams

Homework will be marked regardless of the platform used to set homework by:

- ✓ Instantaneous online feedback
- ✓ Self/peer assessment during the lesson
- ✓ Teacher marked

The faculty is committed to ensuring that:

- ✓ Students will be set homework on a weekly basis which will be logged on Show my Homework
- ✓ Homework challenges students to accelerate their learning
- ✓ Feedback is given to students to ensure that they are aware of their strengths and weaknesses from the homework assignments
- ✓ Students will be set sanctions initially by their class teachers in the event that homework is not completed on the deadline specified.

Occasionally, students may require additional support to complete homework. To support students at home, please refer to the following websites and apps which provide tutorials on the range of Maths topics:

- ✓ Mathswatch website: students are issued with individualised logins
- ✓ PIXL Maths app: this can be used online or downloaded as an app. Students have individualised logins

In the event that students are not able to complete the homework due to their lack of understanding of the topic, it is important that students bring this to the attention of the teacher at the earliest convenience so that the teacher can arrange a suitable time to discuss the key concepts to ensure that students can continue to make progress.

## **Science**

Students will be set one homework per week using Seneca Learning. The assignment set will be to consolidate prior learning. Following the Seneca task, all students will sit a weekly recall test in lesson to assess understanding and embed learning into long-term memory. Research into Cognitive Science extensively supports the use of recapping material that has been taught in lesson to ensure that learning is embedded. It is therefore essential that all students complete Science homework as it is an important strand of our strategy to improve retention amongst our students.

An overview of the Homework process that all students will follow in science is:

- 1 x Seneca Learning assignment will be set by the classroom teacher based on prior learning. Sign-up instructions and access to the work will be set on Show My Homework.
- The assignment will take no longer than 20 minutes and students will have 1 calendar week to complete their work
- Feedback will be provided instantly via Seneca Learning

- Students will sit a 20 mark 'recall' test based on their homework during the first 15 minutes of their first lesson the week after the homework is due
- Students will self-assess this work and identify any areas for improvement

To support with access to Seneca Learning and homework completion, the science department offers a weekly homework club that runs on a Wednesday from 15:00-16:00 in B1-85.

## **MFL**

Learning German relies heavily on revising vocabulary. You should be spending a regular amount of time each day towards learning the key words you have come across in lessons. At Key Stage 4 we will expect you to spend at least 15 minutes a day. At other times you will be given online quizzes to complement your class work. Sometimes we will also set homework on the Active Learn platform. All homework will be meaningful and will support or enhance your previous learning. It is vital that all homework set is completed.

## **Humanities**

### **History**

KS3 - Students will be set homework once every two weeks. This will be set through SMHW and will take the form of either a quiz that retrieves knowledge that students have previously learnt in lessons or a spelling test of key words that they are learning for each topic.

KS4 - Students will be set one piece of homework every two weeks. The homework should take approx. 30-45 minutes to complete. This will increase closer to the examination period where students will be expected to revise & complete exam questions more frequently. Homework will be set through SMHW, but students will also be directed to various platforms such as SENECA and the YouTube channel 'History Teacher OA'.

### **Geography**

KS3 - Students will be set homework every two weeks. This will be set through SMHW and will sometimes involve paper based homework that may involve independent research or other activities. Year 9 students will also be directed to use the platform Educake.

KS4 - Students will be set one piece of homework every two weeks. The homework should take approx. 30-45 minutes to complete. This will increase closer to the examination period where students will be expected to revise & complete exam questions more frequently. Students will use Educake to complete their homework and will also be directed to complete work from their revision guides.

### **Religious Studies**

KS3 - Students will be set one piece of homework every two to three weeks. One member of the RE department will be responsible for each year group and setting the homework on my homework.

KS4 - Students will be set one exam style question every week except when revision is set. Whole papers will be set towards the end of year 11.

## **ICT and Business**

KS3 ICT – set weekly on doddle ranging from a quiz to a question exercise. Feedback is instant from Doodle, and this is quality assured by subject teachers and key stage leads.

KS4 – ICT and Business – set weekly ranges from revision, past papers, exercise questions, research or homework booklets. Marking is then completed either as a lesson exercise or by the teacher and returned to the students to self-reflect and improve their work further.

## **Computing**

### **Media**

KS4 – Media – set weekly during the teaching of theory. Activities will range from research, revision, past papers, or exercise questions. These activities directly relate to the topic currently being taught. Marking is then completed either as a lesson exercise or by the teacher and returned to the students to self-reflect. During periods of coursework delivery students will receive homework when there will be a direct benefit to their progression.

## Computer Science

KS4 - Computer Science - set weekly. In year ten students complete a Homework Booklet, either researching topics to be taught or used to strengthen understanding of taught topics. Homework is marked Bi-weekly. A RAG rating is recorded on a central tracker to allow students to review their progress and effort. Students will also be set revision / exam practice questions. As they move to y11, students will prepare Revision Flash Cards as a retrieval activity and preparation for their final exam. Students will also complete exam questions / question workbooks and be directed individually.

## Sport

Students will not receive homework from their Core PE lessons in KS3 and KS4.

Homework will be set once a week in Sport; this could be on either of the days that you have a Sport lesson. Homework will be linked to theory, practical lessons and assessments. Homework will be set in the lesson by your class teacher and will be recorded on Show My Homework. This will give you information on the type of task being set, resources to help you and the deadline for the homework to be completed. There is an expectation that homework is still completed if you were absent in the lesson that it has been set. It is the expectation on the pupil to see their class teacher ahead of their next lesson to catch up on the work set.

Homework set will always be purposeful and matched to your learning in lessons. It will be given in many different forms for e.g research, exam questions, worksheets, applied assessment tasks, spelling tests, revision (Year 10 and 11) and assignment completion (Year 11 only). Homework duration will be a 30 minutes – 1 hour each week.

All Sport pupils will have a purple homework book to complete the work in and stick any resources in. Homework must be well presented and in line with the minimum expectations policy in PE. Your teacher will mark your homework and give feedback where appropriate. Achievement points will be awarded for excellent pieces of homework. If you do not hand in your homework you will receive a behaviour point and an after school detention.

Homework is an important extension of your learning that your teacher plans carefully and marks for you ready for the next lesson.

## Creative Arts

### Art

In year 7, 8 and 9 students will complete homework tasks fortnightly. The homework tasks will directly link to classwork ensuring that students have the opportunity to refine their class taught knowledge and understanding, as well as mastering practical skills. Homework will mirror knowledge and skills from our curriculum learning journey ensuring that students revisit themes and skills over the key stage to strengthen and build upon knowledge, skills over time.

In year 10 and 11 all students will be set 1 piece of homework weekly. We will expect students to spend at least one hour on each task. This homework can be a set piece of written/ creative work to complete at home or in session 6 for extra support and guidance with their practical work.

### Drama

In year 7 and 8 students will complete one homework task per half term. In year 9 students will complete 2 homework tasks per half term. The homework tasks will directly link to classwork e.g., script, research, or creative work in drama ensuring that students have the opportunity to refine their class taught knowledge and understanding, as well as mastering practical skills. Homework will mirror knowledge and skills from our curriculum learning journey ensuring that students revisit themes and skills over the key stage to strengthen and build upon knowledge, skills over time.

In year 10 and 11 all students will be set 1 piece of homework bi-weekly. We will expect students to spend at least one hour on each task. This homework can be a set piece of written/ creative work to complete at home or in session 6 for extra support and guidance with their practical work.

### Music

In year 7 and 8, students will complete one homework per topic, equating to one every half term, which will directly link to the topics being studied as well as recalling the core principle and key words used throughout the whole key stage. Year 9 students will also complete one homework project per half term to support the topics they cover. Homework will be a mixture of research, composition, performance and analysis work that directly links to what they would need to do in KS4.

In year 10 and 11, students will be set 1 piece of homework every 2 weeks with additional tasks being set to support progress, as required. The tasks will be a mix of exam preparation/essay questions, listening and analysis tasks, rehearsals sessions and research work depending on the topic they will be working on.

### Dance

In KS3 students will be set a rehearsal task every 2 weeks, where they are instructed to rehearse their practical work independently at home (this can be on their own or as a group if they wish to organise this). At the end of every half term they will be set a 'mini log book' where they review their learning from their topic of study. In addition, Year 9 students may also be set written tasks linked to BTEC taster lessons, periodically throughout the year.

Year 10 and 11 students will have a compulsory technique class to attend each week to develop their practical skills. They will also be set personalised homework tasks if they fall behind with the written elements of the course.

### **Applied Learning and Technology**

Homework is set as a relevant extension to the activities taking place in the classroom. Students would be expected to develop independent working skills and confidence through completing the tasks set. In addition, they should reinforce their subject knowledge and understanding.

All tasks set should be able to be completed by all students, and will be marked in line with the school/faculty assessment policy.

- ✓ Year 7 and 8 Design Technology – 20-30 mins homework per fortnight.
- ✓ Year 9 Design Technology – 30 mins per fortnight

This may include research for projects or sourcing ingredients and adapting recipes in Food Technology, as well as other tasks.

- ✓ Year 10 and 11 in all subjects – 45mins per fortnight

This may include independent research or revision for the current task or unit of work dependent on course. Students may be expected to collect feedback, case study information or conduct detailed investigations on a topic. At this level students would be expected to complete set homework tasks as a minimum, and may be doing their own revision and independent work to prepare for internal and external assessment in addition to this.

To ensure the quality of homework, in terms of setting of quality work, submission of quality work, and the feedback students receive, each faculty and year group have a designated Show My Homework Champion who will act as a lead for the use of Show My Homework in their area. Should you have any concerns you are welcome to contact these staff.

| <b>Faculty</b>   | <b>Homework Champion</b> | <b>Email Address</b>                     |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| English          | Mr C Blakemore           | cblakemore@oldburyacademy.org.uk         |
| Maths            | Mr D Fogarty             | daniel.fogarty@oldburyacademy.org.uk     |
| Computing        | Mr P Fryer               | philip.fryer@oldburyacademy.org.uk       |
| Science          | Mr F Ahmed               | fahmad2@oldburyacademy.org.uk            |
| MFL              | Miss M Addai             | maren.addai@oldburyacademy.org.uk        |
| Humanities       | Mr M Kimberley           | shanemel.kimberley@oldburyacademy.org.uk |
| Applied Learning | Mr N Hodges              | n.hodges@oldburyacademy.org.uk           |
| Sport            | Miss S Boden             | sally.boden@oldburyacademy.org.uk        |
| ICT, Business    | Mrs S Nawaz              | shabnum.nawaz@oldburyacademy.org.uk      |
| Creative Arts    | Mrs L Wardle             | l.wardle@oldburyacademy.org.uk           |

The member of the Senior Leadership Team with whole-school responsibility for the quality of homework provision is Mr P Dryburgh – Assistant Headteacher.