



Oldbury Academy – Homework Guidance 2024-25

1. Introduction and rationale

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 and Sparx in mathematics to set 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 and Sparx. You can also access homework through the Show My Homework and the Sparx website.

If you lose your login details, please use the video link from the school website 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 and Sparx from September 2024. This can be accessed using individual logins to both the Show my Homework and Sparx website.

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

Once a week the mathematics faculty set compulsory homework to practise new skills learnt in lesson, and consolidate prior learning. Homework is set on a website called Sparx, and therefore students will require a suitable device (such as laptop, tablet or smart phone) to access the work. The weekly homework tasks are set at 3pm on a Wednesday, and must be completed by 3pm the following Wednesday. On average each piece of Sparx homework

should take about 60 minutes to complete. All students are expected to complete 100% of the homework every week. A lot of support is available via after school homework clubs, and through individual class teachers. Students not completing homework can expect class teachers to contact home to discuss what barriers might be preventing them from accessing Sparx. Optional homework tasks (XP Boost and Target) are available on Sparx each week for students to further develop their mathematical skills.

At Oldbury Academy we believe in celebrating students' successes, therefore each week we provide queue-jump passes for the top two students in each year group to use in the canteen. Winning students are invariably those who not only complete their weekly homework, but engage in additional independent learning on Sparx that provides them with extra XP points. We issue certificates to students each time they "level up" on Sparx, which is achieved by accumulating XP points. We also award prizes each half term to the top student in each year group, given out at the Celebration Assemblies.

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 on Sparx provides instantaneous feedback to students. Sparx contains algorithms that provide a unique set of questions to individual students based on their previous work, taking in to account accuracy and speed of completion. Therefore it is very important that students are completing their homework themselves. If students get someone else to answer the questions, or use websites to give them correct solutions without understanding the process, Sparx will assume a stronger mathematical capability and start giving more complex problems in future homework tasks.

Occasionally teachers may wish to issue additional homework, especially for KS4 in preparation for the demands of GCSE exams:

- 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.
- 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.

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 piece of memory homework each week. At KS3 this will be in the form of a knowledge organiser. At KS4 this will be a section from the Revision Guides that have been given to students. The assignment set will be to consolidate prior learning. Following the task, all students will sit a weekly recall test in lesson to assess understanding. It has been experimentally proven that revisiting previously taught material embeds learning into long-term memory. 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.
- 1 x Memory Homework using the look, cover, write, check method modelled to students in class. At KS3 this will be a one-page knowledge organiser. At KS4 this will be a section from the CGP Revision Guide that students have access to.
- Students are expected to spend a minimum of 1 hour on Science homework each week.
- 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 peer-assess this work and marks are collected. This allows the classroom teacher to monitor student retention of key concepts over time.

MFL

Learning a language relies heavily on revising vocabulary. For German students will be set homework once a week. You should be spending a regular amount of time each day towards learning the key words you have come across in lessons.

The homework set complements your classwork. Weekly lessons are also uploaded to give students the chance to revisit any content of lessons. Homework is set on SMHW and can include online quizzes and at other times will be set on platforms like language gym, Quizlet and Active learn.

At Key Stage 4 we will expect you to spend at least 15 minutes a day. In addition at times you will be set written homework to further improve your language skills. All homework will be meaningful and will support or enhance your previous learning. It is vital that all homework set is completed.

Humanities

The Humanities faculty regularly set homework to consolidate the new knowledge and skills that students are taught in lesson. It also helps students to retrieve knowledge that they have previously been taught to help them maintain and consolidate it. As part of the examination courses, 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. Homework will be set through SMHW, but will take a variety of different formats – revision, quizzes, spelling tests, exam questions, reading and comprehension. Students may also be directed to use various online platforms to support them in their homework including BBC Bitesize, SENECA and Microsoft Teams to name a few. Homework must be well presented and meet the expectations set out by your teacher. Your teacher will mark your homework and give feedback where appropriate. Achievement points will be awarded for excellent pieces of homework.

Computing

KS3 – This will be set every other week. Homework will be meaningful and will also be used to further support and accelerate the learning of our students. This will be set via SMHWK but take a variety of different formats for example;

Quizzes - using online quizzes where students are provided with instantaneous feedback.

Literacy based - where students read an article and show their understanding of a topic by answering questions to consolidate their learning.

Worksheets – These will be based on the learning that has already taken place in the classroom. These could be teacher assessed/self-assessed or peer assessed.

Spelling Test – to embed the learning of key Computing specific vocabulary.

KS4 – ICT: Set weekly whilst the exam component is being undertaken. This could take the form of a homework booklet which consolidates the learning already undertaken in lessons. Other types of homework that could be set will be; revision, past papers, exercise questions, research. 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. During periods of PSA delivery students will receive homework when there will be a direct benefit to their progression

KS4 – 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. During periods of PSA delivery students will receive homework when there will be a direct benefit to their progression.

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.

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). Homework duration will be a 30 minutes – 1 hour each week.

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 marked for you ready for the next lesson.

Health and Social Care

Homework will be set once a week in Health and Social Care; this could be on either of the days that you have a

lesson. Homework will be linked to theory 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). Homework duration will be a 30 minutes – 1 hour each week.

Homework must be well presented and in line with the minimum expectations policy in Health and Social Care. 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 marked 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 which 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.

Faculty	Homework Champion
English	Rosie Hudson
Maths	Dan Fogarty
Computing	Shabnum Nawaz
Science	Matt Baker
MFL	Amanda Thomson
Humanities	Mel Kimberley
Applied Learning	Nigel Hodges
Sport	Sally Boden
Creative Arts	Lucy Wardle

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