

Upper Shirley High Homework Guide

Homework Statement

At Upper Shirley High we value independent study and homework as an important part of developing our students. It has been shown that effective homework will increase a student's achievement by a whole level or grade over their time in education. Using the principle of 'little and often', our homework timetable integrates traditional knowledge based homework with an enquiry based project called Passport to Independence (P2i).

- **Traditional homework** focusses students upon deepening their understanding of the lesson knowledge through independent study and challenging activities.
- **P2i homework** offers students the opportunity to explore concepts important to the subject. A P2i will be set with an open ended description of what will be required and set over four weeks. Students will be trusted to manage their time and the teacher will ask for weekly updates in order to offer support when it is needed.

Purpose of independent study

Homework enables students to:

- Take responsibility for their learning through review and practice of what has been covered in class.
- Improve their thinking and memory.
- Develop positive study skills, learning habits and time management.
- Learn how to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer websites to find information.
- Explore subject knowledge more broadly than classroom time permits and to enrich learning by applying skills and knowledge to new situations.

Homework enables parents to:

- Learn more about what their child is learning in school.
- Spark their child's enthusiasm with the learning and broaden their understanding through the parent's own knowledge of the subject.
- Communicate with the school any difficulties their child is having with the task.

The amount of homework

The school has a main homework timetable which identifies the subject and a guide of how much time should be spent on the work (see additional resources – 'Homework Timetable and Allocation'). Please note that the timetable indicates the minimum amount of homework that will be set.

Upper Shirley High encourages internet based resources and currently subscribes to:

- SamLearning
- MyMaths.

All of these are accessible via the school website and are free to students. Students are also encouraged to access their work through the website tab labelled **Gateway**, to attend afterschool 'period 6' catch-up sessions and to use the Library.

Handing homework in

Students will be rewarded for their independent study through:

- Celebration within the class by the teacher.
- The school rewards system which could include rewards points, letters home, phone calls and announcements in the newsletter.
- Work put on display.

To support students with deadlines:

- The teacher will always inform students when the work is due in. Deadlines are often crucial but the teacher will respond to late work on the merit of the situation.
- If deadlines are regularly missed, further support will be gained from the Subject Leader, Tutor, Year Leader or parent.

Expectations

What to expect from our staff:

Subject teachers will:

- Ensure that homework is relevant, achievable and challenging to all student abilities.
- Check that the planner has the homework recorded in it.
- Record homework on **SIMS Learning Gateway**.
- Mark homework in good time and give feedback to identify what has gone well and how the work could be improved.

Tutors will:

- Check that homework is being recorded correctly in the planner.
- Inform the relevant person if a student appears to have too little homework.

What we expect from our students:

- Students should have their planner out at the beginning of all lessons to record homework and instructions; this must include hand in date and title of the task.
- If students are absent from the lesson, they should see the teacher to seek guidance on how to complete the homework.
- Students should take pride in the quality of their work and strive for accuracy wherever possible.
- Students should grasp the opportunity to apply past knowledge to their work and be creative, imaginative and innovative in its presentation.
- Students must hand work in on the deadline even if it is incomplete or might have errors; hard work will always be valued.
- Problems with the homework should be resolved before the deadline.
- Students will respond to feedback given by the teacher once it is marked. This might involve improving the homework.

What support we need from our parents:

To support your child with their homework, please:

- Track your child's homework through SIMS Learning Gateway.
- Support your child with time management in terms of meeting deadlines, spending the guided time in completing the work and to persist with challenging work.
- Provide a quiet space to complete homework.
- Check the presentation and content of your child's homework and help them with spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Praise your child when deadlines are met and when work clearly shows pride.