

ST AMBROSE COLLEGE HOMEWORK POLICY



Philosophy

At St Ambrose, we believe that homework is essential for students to become lifelong learners and is an integral element of our curriculum. It is important that the high ability boys at the college are challenged at all times to become independent learners and develop skills which will benefit them in later years.

Homework should:

- extend learning
- develop a range of learning strategies and skills
- develop students' independent learning and research skills
- consolidate students' knowledge and understanding
- provide students with the opportunity to apply knowledge in different contexts
- provide students with the opportunity to develop their understanding
- provide students with the opportunity to broaden their experience of the curriculum beyond the classroom
- enable the development of independent thought and develop higher order thinking skills
- develop confidence
- develop self-discipline and responsibility

We believe that homework tasks should be:

- regular
- relevant
- challenging
- appropriate to the individual
- varied

Not all homework will be marked by the teacher. Key homework tasks to be teacher assessed are identified in the Learning Programmes that are shown on the school website.

The College does not utilise a homework time-table but urges staff to keep 'next day' homework to a minimum whilst recognising that such timescales can be beneficial in some areas e.g. MFL vocabulary learning.

Our Practice

Setting of homework

Key Stage 3

Teachers are asked to balance homework tasks between short tasks and longer project-based work and be conscious of loading longer tasks at the end of the half-term.

In 1st and 2nd Year, homework should equate to approximately 45 minutes per week in RE, English, Maths and Science and 30 minutes for all other subjects apart from Performing Arts subjects and PE. In these subject areas, homework is set as appropriate. Therefore, our expectation is that boys in Key Stage 3 are spending approximately 90 minutes per night on homework. On nights where set work falls significantly below this, boys are expected to focus on independent study and/or revisiting work to be improved or responding to teacher feedback.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, homework should equate to approximately one hour per week in RE, English, Maths and Science and 45 minutes for all other subjects.

Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5, a range of meaningful homework tasks are set. Students should also be working independently. As a guide: for every one hour of teaching time, students should aim to study for an extra hour outside of lessons, made up of completing homework and independent study.

Expectations of all stakeholders

Senior Leaders

Senior Leaders will monitor the setting of homework in subject areas and will work closely with the Head of House to monitor and challenge students failing to complete work.

Subject Leaders

Leaders in all subject areas will ensure that their department sets homework consistently and as part of a wider scheme of work or learning programme. The subject leader will monitor:

- types of tasks set
- frequency of homework and when it is set
- the recommended time for homework
- how and when homework will be monitored
- sanctions for non-completion of homework
- homework which is being recorded on MILK

Subject Leaders will regularly monitor the quality and rigour in the setting of homework across all year groups and key stages.

Subject teachers

All subject teachers will set a range of appropriately challenging homework for their students and monitor its completion according to the guidelines above. They will ensure students record homework in their planners and record details of the homework on MILK.

Subject teachers will ensure homework identified in the subject Learning Programmes is teacher marked in red pen and students subsequently review/improve their homework, making any necessary changes in green pen.

Subject teachers will check and acknowledge completion of all homework, whether teacher marked or not. The teacher will consistently reward good homework, by awarding house points, and issue sanctions as appropriate (see Sanctions for non-completion of homework).

Heads of House

House Tutors and Heads of House will regularly monitor the completion of homework and identify students where there is a regular pattern of non-completion of homework.

House Tutors should support students by:

- checking homework is being recorded in the student planner, and taking appropriate action if it is not.
- checking that student planners are signed by parents, on a weekly basis.
- identifying where a student is failing to complete homework across a number of subjects, and taking appropriate action.

Academic Mentor

Should assist House Tutors and Heads of House in identifying students who are struggling to complete homework and provide appropriate support.

Parents/carers

Parents and carers are crucial in supporting students' completion of homework. Parents can develop a positive attitude to homework and thus develop students' confidence and ability to persevere.

Practically, parents/carers can assist by:

- as far as possible, providing a quiet place to work with a table/desk and chair and no distractions
- assisting their child to organise their time effectively so that homework is done as well as extra- curricular activities and leisure time activities
- discussing the topic and homework with their child
- checking the time spent on homework, ensuring students don't spend a disproportionate amount of time on particular tasks
- communicate with school where homework patterns may be irregular or are affecting the wellbeing of the student due to the volume being set
- signing the homework planner each week
- checking the quality of work that students have produced and ask "does this reflect your best work?"
- checking MILK to establish the homework set and monitor its completion.

Students

Students are expected to:

- clearly record homework in their planner including when it is due
- Regularly check the MILK system to ensure they are aware of all outstanding homework
- spend appropriate time on their homework ensuring that it is done fully and to the best of their ability
- submit homework on time
- on return to school from an absence, students should enquire what homework has been set and complete it at the soonest opportunity

Sanctions for non-completion of homework

On the first occasion, non-completion of homework will result in a loss of credit and the work to be brought in the next day.

On the second occasion in the same subject it will result in a lunchtime detention and an associated pink slip.

A further failure to complete homework in that subject will result in an after school detention and associated pink slip.

Reasons for issuing a pink slip will be recorded, by the class teacher, in student planners.