



Student Homework Policy

It is generally recognized that homework can make an important contribution to the learning process; it also contributes to the development of sound study habits and improves achievement. Homework can also provide students with the opportunity to develop key skills whilst developing academic interest in a particular subject area(s).

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

- It can help pupils make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own, providing an opportunity for independent work.
- It can allow consolidation, practice and extension of skills learned in the classroom.
- It can allow pupils to access resources that are not always available in the classroom
- It can engage parents/guardians and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
- It can give opportunities for long-term research and other work.
- It can form an important part of the pupil's notes.
- It gives pupils ability to enhance their study skills: valuable experience of working to deadlines, planning, time management and self-discipline.
- It allows pupils to take ownership and responsibility for learning.

Policy

It is the policy at Swansea Sixth-form College to set and mark homework. It is also the policy of the school to advise and guide pupils to complete their homework. The type, frequency and duration of the homework are controlled by three variables:

- A whole college requirement, with advice on its duration.
- Requirements embodied in the Schemes of Work.
- A mutual agreement between teacher and students.

Process

Homework will be implemented according to the individual subject's course programme.

- Students should be offered guidance to help them to manage their homework.
- Planners should be used to record homework. Teachers should ensure that all pupils note their homework in their planners before leaving the room. Best practice is to write the task and deadline on the board for students to copy.
- Suggested homework activities will be incorporated into each subject's Scheme of Work and assessment criteria, and should form part of the continuous assessment of a pupil's performance and progress.
- Written homework should be marked promptly and returned to the pupil within a reasonable time. Positive feedback to pupils should be the objective with comments assuming as much importance as the mark or grade given. A learning homework should be tested, in appropriate ways, soon after it has been set.

Procedure

The nature of the homework will vary between subjects.

Each homework task may involve some or elements of all of the following:

- Watching a T.V. programme.
- Carrying out a project, sometimes by using the internet.
- Observing/recording.
- Completing an exercise to practice, reinforce or apply aspects of the class, e.g. writing up practical work.
- Completion of coursework assignments.

Support is given prior to the task being set by:

- Time for the completion of homework should be realistic to the age and ability of the student as well as the task given.
- Instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class.

Parents/guardians will be informed in the Parents Handbook of the nature and importance of their role:

- Help students organise his or her time to the best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- Take a positive and active interest in their child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- Let the College know if there are any problems with homework that cannot be resolved.

Failure to hand in homework

We expect completed homework to be given in on time. If homework is not given in, teachers will initially support the pupil and ensure the tasks set meet the pupil's needs. If this is so, then appropriate action is taken:

- The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the work.
- If the situation persists, the class teacher will contact the Academic Manager who may speak to the student or (in the case of under-18s) contact the parents/guardians.
- If the situation still persists, then it will result in a meeting with the director and parents/guardians to get to the bottom of the situation.