

Mission Statement

“Chart your success!”

Key Stage 3 Homework

Students in years 7, 8 & 9 will be set project-based tasks. These will comprise of half-termly, themed tasks, which should be handed in on a weekly basis. The tasks cover the skill areas of English – reading, writing, speaking and listening. Projects have been designed and planned to ensure that all Key Stage 3 students experience a range of challenges that allow them to practise and develop their skills at the same time.

The main driving force behind this policy is the need to encourage students’ independent learning skills. Therefore, each task has a suggest set of websites, references to texts available in the Learning Resource Centre and other advice. A homework help board will be located in the Learning Resource Centre to encourage students, offer help and promote the use of the Learning Resource Centre.

Importantly, students will also be encouraged to read for pleasure. Lists of books will be made available to students, displayed in English classrooms and on the school website.

The projects will be largely self-assessed. However, there will be opportunities for the students to share work and gain peer assessment. Homework will not be levelled, as per the National Curriculum, with rather an effort grade being awarded instead. It is also anticipated that certain parts of the projects will take the form of competitions with certificates and prizes being awarded. Particularly good examples will be displayed and shared with the school and a wider audience.

Teachers will be using the homework tasks as a means of assessing areas of development for their students and building this into future planning.

Key Stage 4 Homework

Homework tasks for students in years 10 & 11 will primarily address coursework and exam preparation. Teachers will make full use of websites such as SAM Learning and BBC Bitesize, setting and assessing tasks on a weekly basis.

Due to the nature of English Language and English Literature coursework, approximately 50% of students’ homework will be related to planning and preparation for assignments.

In terms of turnaround for homework, where a short focussed task (such as those on SAM Learning) is set, one week is appropriate. Where a more detailed piece of coursework is being completed, two weeks is more apt.

Students will also be encouraged to read for pleasure. Lists of books will be made available to students, displayed in English classrooms and on the school website.

Extension Activities

There are a number of activities that are led by the English Department outside of the classroom. These activities are designed to enhance students' literacy skills, as well as encourage the enjoyment of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Examples include:

- The Readables book group.
- Poetry & writing competitions including nationally run competitions.
- Theatre visits.

Students can also develop their English skills through online resources, including:

- www.dartonenglish.blogspot.com
- www.shakespeare4kidsz.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english