

Ralph Thoresby School – Homework

Member of Staff Responsible for the Policy:

Deputy Headteacher in charge of Quality of Education

Date on which this Policy was last reviewed:

September 2023

Date on which the Policy will next be reviewed:

June 2024

Dissemination of the Policy:

School website

What is Homework?

Homework is an important part of school life, contributing to student progress and attainment. It plays a key role in extending the knowledge, understanding and skills that are developed in school and provides opportunities for students to consolidate, enrich and extend their learning. Work that is set will consist of meaningful and worthwhile tasks or projects designed to extend the learning of the student outside the classroom.

1. Aims of Homework

- 1.1. To help all students make progress;
- 1.2. To allow practice and consolidation of the learning done in class;
- 1.3. To extend learning from the lesson, e.g. the completion of past exam questions;
- 1.4. To embed key subject content in long term memory, e.g. the learning of vocabulary, spellings etc.
- 1.5. To reinforce, practise and develop mastery of key skills e.g. calculations;
- 1.6. To engage in wider reading and research in preparation for future learning;
- 1.7. To allow students to gain and practise the skills and knowledge that they will be required to reproduce in assessment situations such as examinations;
- 1.8. To give students dedicated time to reflect upon learning, correct mistakes and act on feedback to make improvements;
- 1.9. To develop study skills such as independence, self-discipline, time management and working to deadlines;
- 1.10 To encourage students to take pride in their learning.

2. Principles

- 2.1. Homework should be timely, purposeful and achievable, giving students the opportunity to embed and develop their learning;
- 2.2. Homework should be accessible and challenging to all. It should support the most vulnerable and include the provision of appropriate resources (time, space, materials and expertise);
- 2.3. Homework should give students the opportunity to explore their subjects in more detail and broaden their understanding of the learning that has taken place in the classroom.

3. Type and frequency of Homework

- 3.1. Homework should be planned thoughtfully to enable all students to make progress. There is an expectation that regular opportunities for homework will be set in all subjects (except core PE) although we recognise that every subject is different. The frequency of the setting of homework is outlined below, however, there are subject specific outlines also on our website, which will be monitored closely by Heads of Department and Senior Leaders.

Year Groups:	Subject	Frequency
Y7-Y8	English, Maths & Science	1 per week
	MFL	2 per half term
	All other subjects	1 per half term

Year Groups:	Subject	Frequency
Y9	English, Maths & Science	1 per week
	MFL	2 per half term
	All other subjects	1 per half term

Year Groups:	Subject	Frequency
Y10 & 11	Computer Science, English, Maths, Science	1 per week
	All other subjects	Fortnightly
	Art	3 times per half term

Year Groups:	Subject	Frequency
Y12 & Y13	All Subjects	Every Week (includes self-study tasks)
	Technology	Fortnightly

3.2. Some subjects may decide to run project-based homework that spans over a greater period of time. E.g. an extended learning project may last a whole term. If subjects run this model, there is an expectation that regular 'checkpoints' take place throughout the project. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure that students are on track and to raise concerns with parents should they arise;

3.3. Sixth form students will be expected to complete additional tasks and study in relation to their learning. Sixth form study sessions are timetabled to provide students with time and space to complete these tasks. Subject staff will direct students to the work that they should complete and will set this on Arbor.

4. Supporting students with Homework

4.1. There are many places where homework can be completed: at home and in supervised after school session located in the ILZ between 3pm and 4pm;

4.2. Teaching staff will scaffold homework tasks for those students that need it, check students understand what is required and ensure the tasks are properly recorded on Arbor.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1. Subject Leaders will ensure their departmental homework guidelines support the school policy. These guidelines should clearly identify the expectations of extended learning in subjects;

5.2. Subject Leaders will undertake quality assurance to ensure homework is allowing students to progress their learning. This may involve work scrutiny/review, learning walks, lesson observations, pupil voice and moderation of work;

5.3. Senior leaders will review implementation of the homework policy and support Subject Leaders with the monitoring of extended learning.

6. Feedback, Rewards and Sanctions

6.1. We expect homework to be produced on time. This gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines. Students will be rewarded for producing good homework through achievement points, competitions, and positive messages home;

6.2. If homework is not handed in, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school behaviour policy. Subject teachers will discuss with a student the reasons why homework has not been completed. A negative behaviour point will be recorded on Arbor and a subject sanction actioned. A detention will usually be issued in line with departmental/school policy;

6.3. Heads of House will monitor incomplete homework and interventions will take place to improve the quality and completion rates;

6.4. Subject teachers are not required to give written feedback on homework, however one of the following will apply:

- Individual written feedback;
- Whole group feedback (written and/or oral);
- In-class peer assessment, under teacher direction;
- Marking extended learning, in lesson time, with immediate verbal feedback;
- Use of PINS process marking
- Use of auto generated feedback on knowledge recall tests.

7. Responsibility for implementation of the homework policy

7.1 Teachers will ensure that the homework task is purposeful and meets the learning goals of the lesson.

7.2 The role of the Class Teacher:

- To set purposeful homework which satisfies the school policy and whole school objectives;
- To give full and comprehensive instructions for completion;
- To ensure appropriate resources are available;
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met;
- To provide feedback;
- To provide help and support as and when required.

7.3 The role of the student:

- To regularly check Arbor for all their homework tasks;
- To attempt all work and give their best;
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline;
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties;

7.4 The role of the Mentor/Coach:

- To monitor that homework is being recorded and completed;
- To carry out meaningful conversations with students who require additional support with the completion of homework;
- Mentors/coaches should draw the attention of the relevant Head of House of students who regularly have difficulties with homework so relevant interventions can be put in place;

7.5 The role of the Heads of Department:

- To monitor the quality and quantity of the homework set;
- To ensure that marking of homework is carried out in line with the school policy and department feedback policies.

8. The role of parents and carers

We encourage parents and carers to:

8.1 Help their child by going through homework tasks and checking their child understands what must be done;

8.2 To reinforce and discuss the importance of completing homework to make progress;

8.3 Provide a suitable environment in which work can be done;

8.4 Encourage students to attend after school support sessions e.g. ILZ, or department afterschool sessions, where students can work in a learning environment with accessible support and resources;

8.5 Monitor the completion of homework and contact the school if their child is having difficulties completing set work.

Subject Specific Details:

Art/Photography		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	Research tasks to support the termly projects in lesson. Research will include visual presentations in PowerPoint. This will also include written annotation and facts about artists and/or culture.	1 per half term
KS4	Research Projects. This is primarily research focused, but there will also be the opportunities to develop ideas, take photographs, develop 3D work and drawings etc. depending on student individual specific tasks.	3 per half term/Research and individually tailored plans depending on the individual project that the pupil is working on
KS5	This is primarily research focused, but there will also be the opportunities to develop ideas, take photographs, develop 3D work and drawings. etc. depending on student individual specific tasks.	Every week. Variable depending on individual project

Business		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS4	Extended learning to focus primarily on exam-style questions to facilitate skills and knowledge development. Case studies used to incorporate comprehension, extended writing, and formal language.	Fortnightly
KS5	Research tasks on current economic affairs. This will broaden knowledge base, give pupils a real-world grounding of concepts and aid memory retention. Past paper questions of varying mark allocations to build experience of different exam techniques for different size questions. Group research tasks for debate in class. Marcouse worksheets to embed knowledge and develop analysis & evaluation skills in a user-friendly format. They are also very useful for revision notes.	1 per week

Computing		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	SENECA Learning: Students will be shown how to sign up for a free SENECA account and given a class code for their individual group to access homework tasks. The tasks set will focus on current learning, revising prior learning or new learning.	1 per half term

KS4	<p>Media: Students will be expected to work on coursework units to meet given a deadline.</p> <p>For the examination unit they will also be expected to create their own revision materials (flash cards/notes/mind maps) and complete low stakes quizzes.</p> <p>As we get close to exam season, they will be given past papers or exam style questions to help them retain and recall knowledge required for the examination unit.</p>	Fortnightly
KS4	<p>Computer Science: Students will be expected to watch a video about a given topic and write notes which they will need for their next lesson.</p> <p>As we get closer to an end of topic test or mock exam students will be expected to create their own revision notes and revise the material using a range of techniques taught in class.</p>	1 per week
KS5	<p>Students will be given past papers or exam style questions to help them retain and recall knowledge required for the examination units.</p> <p>They will also be expected to create their own revision materials (flash cards/notes/mind maps).</p> <p>Students will also be given coursework assignments to complete.</p>	1 per week

Drama		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	One piece of homework per half term, ranging from line learning, research into theatre styles and theatre companies, watching live theatre online, developing a script or character idea. At KS3 homework will be largely practical, evidenced on practical work produced in a follow up lesson.	1 per half term
KS4	Learning lines, extra rehearsals, mock coursework, research into theatre companies and styles. This will be a mixture of practical and written tasks.	Fortnightly (as a minimum)
KS5	Learning lines, extra rehearsals, mock coursework, research into the set texts, theatre practitioners, relevant social, political, cultural, and historical contexts. This will be a mixture of practical and written tasks.	1 per week (as a minimum)

English		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 3 pupils are provided with a homework booklet every half-term. • Each homework booklet contains tasks that amount to one homework task for each week of that half-term. • Pupils keep homework booklets in a homework folder. • Pupils will present this folder to their teacher in the final English lesson of each week. • The teacher will check progress in the final English lesson of each week. • At the end of the half-term, the teacher will award: two PROUD stamps and a Key 5 achievement for exceptional homework, one PROUD stamp and a regular achievement for good homework and sanctions in line with whole school policy for insufficient homework. 	1 per week
KS4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 4 pupils are provided with a GCSE independent study booklet every half-term. • Each GCSE independent study booklet contains tasks that amount to one homework task for each week of that half-term. • Pupils keep GCSE independent study booklets in a GCSE independent study folder. • Pupils will present this folder to their teacher in the final English lesson of each week. • The teacher will check progress in the final English lesson of each week. • At the end of the half-term, the teacher will award: two PROUD stamps and a Key 5 achievement for exceptional homework, one PROUD stamp and a regular achievement for good homework and sanctions in line with whole school policy for insufficient homework. 	1 per week

KS5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 5 pupils are expected to complete two hours of A-Level independent study each week. This takes into consideration that Key Stage 5 pupils are given study periods during school hours and are also expected to work at home. • Pupils keep homework tasks in an A-Level independent study task folder. • Pupils will present this folder to their teacher in the final English lesson of each week. • The teacher will check progress in the final English lesson of each week. • At the end of the half-term, the teacher will award: two PROUD stamps and a Key 5 achievement for exceptional homework, one PROUD stamp and a regular achievement for good homework and sanctions in line with whole school policy for insufficient homework. 	1 per week
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Geography		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	<p>SENECA Learning: Students will be shown how to sign up for a free SENECA account and given a class code for their individual group to access homework tasks. The tasks set will focus on current learning, revising prior learning or new learning on case studies or examples.</p> <p>Research Tasks: Students will be asked to complete research tasks about current learning. This will include information gathering before an assessment or project, or extra information for a case study investigation.</p>	1 per half term
KS4	<p>SENECA Learning: Students will be shown how to sign up for a free SENECA account and given a class code for their individual group to access homework tasks. The tasks set will focus on current learning, revising prior learning or new learning on case studies or examples.</p> <p>Research Tasks: Students will be asked to complete research tasks about current learning. This will include information gathering before an assessment or project, or extra information for a case study investigation.</p> <p>Exam Questions: Students will be given past paper or revision exam questions to complete on prior and current learning. This could include skills questions, or extended answers where case study knowledge is assessed.</p>	Fortnightly
KS5	SENECA Learning: Students will be shown how to sign up for a free SENECA account and given	1 per week

	<p>a class code for their individual group to access homework tasks. The tasks set will focus on current learning, revising prior learning or new learning on case studies or examples.</p> <p>Research Tasks: Students will be asked to complete research tasks about current learning. This will include information gathering before an assessment or project, or extra information for a case study investigation.</p> <p>Exam Questions: Students will be given past papers or revision exam questions to complete on prior and current learning. This could include skills questions, or extended answers where case study knowledge is assessed.</p> <p>Wider Reading: Wider reading lists are made available to students, so they can access articles and academic websites prior to learning or as a set homework task on current learning.</p> <p>Associated tasks could include comprehension style questions, extended answers related to key concepts in the reading or note taking activities.</p>	
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History		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	Research-fact files Posters/leaflets Revision of content/key words Low stakes quizzes Pilot of Seneca Learning app in Yr. 7	1 per half term
KS4	Research/pre-reading Exam style questions Revision Low stakes quizzes Pilot of Seneca Learning app in Yr. 9	Fortnightly
KS5	Research/pre-reading Specific preparation tasks Exam style essays Low stakes quizzes	1 per week

Languages		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	Students will have a selection of these activities throughout the half term: Vocabulary learning Activities using language gym.com Grammar tasks Written tasks Reading comprehensions Cultural research Flipped learning Assessment preparation	Homework to be set at least twice per half term

KS4	<p>Students will have a selection of these activities throughout the half term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary learning Activities using language-gym.com Grammar tasks Written tasks Reading comprehensions Cultural research Flipped learning Interactive listening/reading exercises Exam questions Speaking exam preparation Assessment Preparation 	Fortnightly
KS5	<p>Students will have a selection of these activities throughout the half term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary learning Activities using language-gym.com Grammar tasks Written tasks Reading comprehensions Cultural research Flipped learning Interactive listening/reading exercises Exam questions Speaking exam preparation Assessment Preparation Research on IRP preparation of speaking stimulus cards 	1 per week

Maths		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	<p>Homework tasks will be set on our online learning platform Sparx. 60% of the homework will be based on current content and 40% of the homework will be recap work. These homework tasks will not be put onto Arbor, parents instead will receive emails each week detailing how much of the homework has been completed.</p>	1 per week
KS4	<p>Homework tasks will be set on our online learning platform Sparx. 60% of the homework will be based on current content and 40% of the homework will be recap work. These homework tasks will not be put onto Arbor, parents instead will receive emails each week detailing how much of the homework has been completed.</p> <p>For year 11, Sparx will be set once every two weeks, with the other homework being exam questions practice.</p>	1 per week
KS5	<p>Recap work on prerequisite tasks for future lessons. Some work will be revision of current content.</p>	1 per week

Music		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
7 & 8	<p>Homework will be set and submitted via Microsoft Teams. Students will complete Microsoft forms Quizzes that encompass the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical theory tasks that will include notation puzzles, rhythm work, note and rest duration that develops numeracy skills. • Literacy based tasks that will include spelling recall quizzes and definition tests. 	1 per half term
KS4 (Including Year 9 Option)	<p>Students will be expected to engage with a variety of homework tasks.</p> <p>Regular music practice on instrument/voice: Students must be having regular musical instrument or vocal tuition and work each week on dedicated practise for this. This is the best way to ensure excellent performance grades at the end of the course.</p> <p>Composition development: During composition period, students will be required to develop musical ideas outside of lesson time.</p> <p>Theory work: Musical theory tasks that will include notation puzzles, rhythm work, note and rest duration that develops numeracy skills.</p> <p>Literacy based tasks that will include spelling recall quizzes and definition tests.</p> <p>Research and presentation work – students will be required to work independently or as part of a group to research specific areas of music and present findings to the class.</p> <p>Students will be required to develop writing skills by completing a variety of long answer questions based on musical set works.</p> <p>Students will be required to engage with a variety of listening exercises as homework.</p>	Fortnightly
KS5	<p>KS5 is 100% coursework based. Students complete a vocational course which has various units that students are expected to constantly work on in study hours and at home. Students can access their work using Microsoft Teams and should always have independent work related to their selected units to complete outside of lessons.</p> <p>If students are completing A Level Music, their homework will be the same as KS4 but at a more</p>	Every week

	demanding/higher level and Every week rather than every two weeks.	
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Ethics Philosophy and Religion		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	<p>Students will receive a variety of homework based around the units of work. Examples in KS3 will be research-fact files as well as posters/leaflets.</p> <p>Homework will also check and test students' power of recall and regularly involve recall tasks to ensure that knowledge is remembered, such as key words tests.</p> <p>Students will also get the opportunity to research religious or social figures, religions or topics. This may include researching and coming to next lesson with knowledge to support that lesson's objectives.</p> <p>Homework will also help support our commitment to improve vocabulary and the use of subject specific terminology, students may be asked to learn key spellings, find their meanings or create a piece of work around a particular word or religious teaching.</p> <p>Comprehension tasks will also be a common feature of homework in RE in order to promote improving levels of literacy.</p>	1 per half term
KS4	<p>Students will complete regular timed exam questions to build on and develop exam skills.</p> <p>12-mark questions set for homework will be supported by clear planning within lesson time to ensure all students can access the homework when they come to complete it, students will be given sentence stems, key religious references to include as well as key terms.</p> <p>Homework will also check and test students' power of recall and regularly involve recall tasks to ensure that knowledge is remembered. Students will also get the opportunity to research around a particular unit of work. For example, they may visit a local place of worship and take pictures or speak to a leader about their course.</p>	Fortnightly
	<p>Homework will also help support our commitment to improve vocabulary and the use of subject specific terminology, students may be asked to learn the definitions of key terms or create a piece of work around a particular word or religious teaching.</p> <p>Students will also be asked to gather references to sacred texts/sources if authority to strengthen and evidence their exam responses.</p>	

KS5	<p>At KS5 students may be given extended reading to complete between lessons. This reading is essential and will allow students to debate and Discuss ethical and philosophical issues within lessons. Students will also be asked to critique and evaluate the ideas and theories that they are reading and apply an inquiry-based approach to research within the subject.</p> <p>Students will complete regular timed exam questions to build on and develop exam skills. This type of homework will be supported by clear planning within lesson time to ensure all students can access the homework when they come to complete it. Students may also be instructed to plan for a range of potential exam questions in the form of arguments tables focusing on key evidence, scholars and sources of wisdom and authority.</p> <p>Homework may also check and test students' power of recall and regularly involve recall tasks focusing on key terms and key concepts to ensure that knowledge is remembered.</p> <p>Students will also get the opportunity to research around a particular unit of work, teachers will provide guidance of where to conduct their research through recommended websites or books.</p>	1 per week
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Science		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	Educake: Students will complete recall quizzes online, with access to revision materials.	1 quiz per week
KS4	Educake: Students will complete recall quizzes online, with access to revision materials.	1 quiz per week for each of the 3 disciplines (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)
KS5	<p>Students will be expected to complete one or more of the tasks below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for work in class e.g. using A-level textbook. • Exam-style questions. • Revision for in-class assessments. • Independent research or pre-reading for a topic. • Learning key terms & definitions. • Lab reports following practical work. 	A-Level students usually have 2 teachers. Each teacher will typically set 1 homework per week

Social Science		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS4	<p>Students will be expected to complete a range of tasks over the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication task, PowerPoint and group work. • Research tasks either to deepen knowledge or preparation for the next lesson. • Exam questions. • Full and part assignments – coursework to meet a given deadline. • Poster work – campaigns. • Recall work sheets. • Setting to make revision resources such as flashcards. • Learning key terms. 	Fortnightly
KS5	<p>Students will be expected to complete a range of tasks over the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication task, PowerPoint and group work. • Research tasks either to deepen knowledge or preparation for the next lesson. • Exam questions. • Full and part assignments – coursework to meet a given deadline. • Poster work – campaigns. • Recall work sheets. • Setting to make revision resources such as flashcards. • Learning key terms. 	1 per week

Sport		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	Attend at least one ECA a week and complete a loyalty card.	Once per half term on a rota basis
KS4	Students will complete a range of tasks throughout their course which will include: Research tasks, exam revision, lesson planning, keeping a log of training/competitions, designing a training programme, assignments and presentations.	Fortnightly
KS5	Students will complete a range of tasks throughout their course which will include: Research tasks, exam revision, BTEC assignments, presentations, interview preparation, group meetings, work experience preparation, hosting sports events.	1 per week

Technology		
	Types of tasks	Frequency
KS3	<p>Homework will often be related to the current design and make project the students are following or it could be an individual piece of work which relates to an associated topic.</p> <p>Examples of homework may include elements of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research work, such as collecting information. • Extension tasks, such as graphic presentation work. • A chance to further develop a skill. • Literacy tasks, which are related to the subject. 	At least once per half term
KS4/5	<p>In KS4 and 5 students will be following a major design and make project of a more individual nature as part of their course. We would expect students to be mature and skilled enough to set their own targets (with guidance) of continuance and completion of the coursework tasks within NEA guidance. It will also include revision/ workbook activities or tasks set in Seneca learning.</p>	Fortnightly