

MEDEN SCHOOL AND TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

HOMework POLICY

Why homework?

- We set homework for a range of reasons including: providing opportunities for raising achievement
- Independent work
- Encouraging good working habits
- Checking that pupils have understood classwork
- Consolidating and extending work already covered
- Preparing for future lessons

Evidence shows that homework completed regularly and carefully does make a great difference to pupil achievement and future examination success.

What kind of work?

The work set for homework should always be integrated into the work of the class. It may involve similar exercises to those covered in class, finishing off work, learning vocabulary or formulae, research for the next lesson, reading, writing, note taking, practising skills or applying knowledge learnt in class but above all, it should be meaningful; consolidate or extend learning.

How often will it be set and how long should it take?

All homework must be recorded in planners. Homework will clearly vary according to the age and Year group of the pupil. In Years 7, 8 and 9, as a general rule, homework will be set on a weekly basis in most subjects and last for approximately 30 minutes for each subject (longer in Year 9 than in Years 7 and 8). Two or sometimes three homeworks may be set each day and pupils will be expected to organise their time carefully with the help of their planners. They should make particular note of when the homework is due. Homework will increase lasting for approximately 1 hour per subject each week in KS4. The KS4 homework timetable is a minimum requirement.

It is important to appreciate, however, that different subject departments will have different ways of making learning more effective and wish to be flexible in their approach to the nature of the homework set. For example, a vocabulary learning exercise in French in preparation for the next lesson a very different task to a longer coursework project in Geography to be completed over a 6 week period.

How can school help?

If working at home is a problem then opportunities will be provided at school to complete homework e.g. lunchtime in quiet rooms and the library, or at special homework clubs run by departments or after school in clubs or the library. If your child has problems in understanding the work then it is important that he/she asks for help from the teacher rather than not bothering to attempt the work at all. Teachers will be far more understanding if a genuine attempt is made with a homework than with an outright refusal to do it.

How can parents help?

The school expects parents to support the setting and completing of homework. Parents can do this by: talking about the work that has been set, checking the work has been completed, encouraging good working habits and seeing that there is a quiet area for private study at home with a desk or table and chair, good light and possibly shelving for the organisation of folders and books. It can also be helpful to encourage the use of the libraries both in Warsop and Mansfield where IT facilities exist and, if possible, encourage the use of computers at home. The school will gladly advise over appropriate and compatible computers.

What are the consequences if homework is not done?

If homework is not completed then at least one of the following actions will be taken:

1. Note in planner
2. Letter sent home – the onus for completing homework is on parents to check and ensure it is completed.
3. Teacher/departmental action – this will most often take the form of extra work or department detention after school, about which parents will be notified beforehand.

If a pupil continues not to do the homework then further longer detentions will be held. It is clearly in the pupil's interests to complete homework on time in the first place rather than to build up a backlog or extra work and detentions.

These sanctions are exercised in order to demonstrate the value placed by the school on homework to the pupil's education. If pupils do not bother to complete homework it is likely to affect the level of achievement (any may lead to poorer exam grades, or in extreme cases, non-entry for examinations).