

## **Homework, Independent Learning and Personal Study**

### **What is Homework, Independent Learning and personal Study For?**

Alder Grange aims to be a school where everybody is inspired to be the best they can and where excellence is nurtured such that our expectation that all pupils and students will aspire to and achieve the highest possible levels of academic excellence, personal organisation and responsibility. A carefully structured and systematically applied Homework Policy is of central importance in enhancing pupils' and students' achievement and fostering personal organisation, responsibility, confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline.

Homework therefore consolidates and extends learning that has taken place within lessons and gives pupils and students the opportunity to work independently and prepare for future lessons. Homework done regularly throughout years 7 to 13 can be equivalent to an additional year of study.

Our aim is for this to be structured, meaningful and coherent for all concerned. Homework also gives parents and carers the chance to support their child's progress and encourages dialogue about school experiences.

For each subject's Programme of Study there will be meaningful homework and independent study opportunities. Assignments will take various forms including reading, note making, project work, personal research, the critical viewing of drama productions, systematic learning and a wide range of other activities. Homework and independent study will never be set just for the sake of it.

At key Stages 3 and 4 appropriate homework and independent study relevant to a subject's Programme of Study will be set in accordance with the homework timetable. The amount will vary according to pupils' ages. Pupils are expected, with guidance from staff, to organise their work to meet assessment deadlines.

At key Stage 5 appropriate and challenging homework and independent study assignments, some of which test prior learning from several weeks/months ago will be set by students' teachers. Furthermore wider reading tasks may be set to develop students' knowledge and understanding.

### **How Does it Work?**

We have produced a homework programme which outlines the number of homework activities set per week.

## Homework Programmes

Subject	Number of Homework Activities set per week	
	Years 7 and 8	
English	One spelling or reading and one written task per week	
Maths	One homework each week	
Science	1 or 2 weekly	
Humanities*	* Geography 1 per fortnight	
	* History 1 per fortnight	
	* RE 1 per half term	
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)	1 or 2 weekly - vocab learning 1 per half term - writing task from menu	
Product Design	One homework each week	
Food Technology	One homework each week	
Art	One homework each week	
Computing	1 or 2 per term (Project based)	
Games	Not Applicable	
Music	1 per term - project based - 'You Decide Homework'	
Drama	1 per term - response and evaluation of taught scheme.	

Subject	Number of Homework Activities set per week	
	Year 9	Years 10 and 11
English Language and Literature	One spelling or reading and one written task per week	One revision and one written piece per week
Maths	One homework each week	at least one homework each week for foundation and 2 for Higher tier
Statistics	One homework each week	1 per week
Combined Science	2 per week	2 per week
Biology	1 per week	1 per week
Chemistry	1 per week	1 per week
Physics	1 per week	1 per week
History	1 per week	1 per week
Geography	1 per week	1 per week
Religious Education	* RE 1 per half term (none GCSE)	1 per week (GCSE Religious Studies)
French	1 per week - vocab learning	2 per week - vocab learning
Spanish		2 per week - vocab learning
Psychology	1 per week	1 or 2 per week

Sociology	1 per week	1 or 2 per week
Health and Social Care	1 per week Coursework	1 per week Coursework
Product Design	1 per week	1 per week
Food Technology	1 per week	1 per week
Hospitality and Catering	1 per week	1 per week
Art	1 per week	1 per week
Computing	1 per week (Programming)	1 per week (Theory)
Cam. Nat IT		You decide homework / exam questions 1 per week.
Cam. Nat. Business	You decide homework / exam questions 1 per week.	You decide homework / exam questions 1 per week.
Physical Education (PE)	1 per week	1 per week
Cam. Nat Sport	1 per week	1 per week
Music	You Decide homework/rehearsal/exam questions 1 per week.	You Decide homework/rehearsal/exam questions 1 per week.
Drama	1 every other week	1 per week - however this can include attendance of a rehearsal outside of lesson time
Media	1 per week	1 per week, 'You decide homework' in the second term.

Subject	Number of Homework Activities set per week	
	Years 12 and 13	
English Language	2 per week	
English Literature	1 per week	
Maths	2 per week	
Biology	1 per week plus associated on-going revision and required practical reports as and when required	
Chemistry	1 per week plus associated on-going revision and required practical reports as and when required	
Physics	1 per week plus associated on-going revision and required practical reports as and when required	
Applied Science	1 per week	
History	Up to 2 tasks per week - may include set work on set aspects of the coursework.	
Geography	Up to 2 tasks per week - may include set work on aspects of the coursework.	
French	3 per week - vocab + writing tasks	
Psychology	3 per week	
Sociology	3 per week	
Health and Social	3 per week	

Care	
Law	3 per week
Product Design	1 per week
Graphic Design	1 per week
Art	1 per week
Computer Science	Weekly project / programming work & 1 theory task
Cam. Nat IT	Weekly work on aspects of the coursework.
Cam. Nat. Business	Weekly work on aspects of the coursework.
Physical Education	2- 3 times per week and on- going revision
Cam. Nat Sport	extended certificate;1-3 times per week and diploma qualification 1-6 times per week, where necessary
Music	2 per week based on exam question/rehearsal/composition/research and on going revision.
Music Technology	2 per week based on exam question/recording/composition/research and on going revision.
Drama	Classed as an enrichment - 1 per week - varied from rehearsal/exam questions/research and on going revision.
Media	1 per week based on exam questions/projects/research and on going revision.
EPQ	1 per week

Form Tutors remind pupils at the start of term that it is pupils' responsibility to record their Personal and Homework Timetables into their Pupil Planners. This is for their use and yours.

Pupils are also responsible for recording in their Planners at the end of each week the subjects for which they should expect Homework each day during the following week. Pupils must also record fully and accurately in their Planners all Homework tasks set.

Pupils' Planners are especially printed for us to our own design. They enable pupils to record a wealth of material to help them organize themselves successfully. They are expensive to produce and need to be cared for.

At Key Stage 5 all students will receive, at the beginning of the new school year, a copy of the ag6 student diary. This is used to keep on-track with all deadlines and to be aware of when examinations are scheduled to take place. Students are expected to write into their ag6 diary before the beginning of each week, the subjects expected each day and any other essential information. In addition they should ensure homework assignments are recorded fully and accurately. It is expected that all students will spend time each evening revising the work covered that day as a matter of routine, regardless of other homework tasks set.

## How Can You Help?

Homework is an essential extension of lessons and must be completed. We rely on you to help see that homework tasks are undertaken when your child is best able to do it well. This is early in the evening before tiredness takes its toll.

It is advisable to ensure that only on-line material relevant to homework tasks is used. Social media and other on-line resources, unless a feature of the homework activity will reduce concentration levels and could result in too much time being spent on a homework activity.

We ask that you look at your child's Planner every evening to be aware of the tasks set and to ensure that tasks have been completed to a good standard reflecting their potential. If your child has completed homework in a Private Study room at school during the day, please check it has been completed properly.

At key Stage 5 there is not a requirement to look at your child's ag6 student diary. That said, a discussion with them about deadlines for up-coming assignments will help them plan their schedule ahead of time. This is a skill that you can support them in developing further.

Homework and independent study time used efficiently contributes towards pupils/students being effective in securing good outcomes in assessments/assignments at key stage 3, GCSE, A-level and BTEC. The rigours of GCSE/A-level and BTEC courses are such that consistent and persistent review of current and previous learning is an essential element of securing success.

We ask you to ensure that the appropriate amount of time is spent on each task. The following guidelines show time allocated to homework per subject across a typical week:

- Key Stage 3 (year 7 and 8): 40 minutes per subject
- Key Stage 4 (year 9): 60 minutes per subject
- Key Stage 4 (year 10 and 11): 90 minutes per subject
- Key Stage 5 (year 12 and 13): 300 minutes (5 hours) per subject

### Key Stage 3:

Homework in Art and RE is set as required. Drama and Music project work will be on-going across the half-term. Computing homework will be given on the day of the lesson when required.

### Key Stage 4:

Homework in RE will be set as required.

## Where Homework Should Be Done?

Whenever possible, pupils/students need a quiet, well-lit and ventilated room with a table, to complete their work properly. It is advisable to ensure that only on-line material relevant to homework tasks is used. Social media and other on-line resources, unless a feature of the homework activity will reduce concentration levels and could result in too much time being spent on a homework activity.

Private Study rooms are provided in school:

- For year 7 to 11 pupils the Library is available for private study.
- For year 12 and 13 students the student study room located on the top floor in ag6 is available to students at break, lunchtime and after school.

AG+ services are available for SEND and any other pupils/students who may require some additional support. Each of these supervised sessions is run by qualified AG+ staff:

- Breakfast Club in the 'R and R' room, 8:15am to 8:45am Monday to Friday.
- The Homework Club in the 'R and R' room, 3:30pm to 4:00pm, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also by arrangement with the SENDCO, between 8:30am and 8:55am.
- Lunchtime in the 'R and R' room, 12:50pm to 1:40pm.

## How Can We Support Each Other?

### At key stages 3 and 4:

#### Pupils

1. To write into their homework planners before the beginning of each week, the subjects expected each day and any other essential information;
2. To ensure homework assignments are recorded fully and accurately;
3. It is expected that all pupils will spend time each evening revising the work covered that day as a matter of routine, regardless of other homework set;
4. If a specific task has not been set pupils should record '**Revision**' and be expected to revise the work most recently covered. No pupil should ever say that they have no homework;
5. Any pupil failing to complete homework assignments will be dealt with by the department concerned in the first instance;
6. If absent, pupils are responsible for catching up on homework.

Parents and carers are asked:

1. To check the completion of homework assignments each day;
2. To sign pupils' homework planners for the appropriate week only;
3. To report any concerns to their child's form tutor or achievement leaders by letter or a comment in the homework planner. Alternatively, parents and

carers can contact the relevant achievement leader using the email address:  
[reception@aldergrange.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@aldergrange.lancs.sch.uk).

### **At key stage 5:**

#### **Students:**

1. To write into their ag6 diary before the beginning of each week, the subjects expected each day and any other essential information;
2. To ensure homework assignments are recorded fully and accurately;
3. It is expected that all students will spend time each evening revising the work covered that day as a matter of routine, regardless of other homework tasks set;
4. If a specific task has not been set students should record '**Revision**' and be expected to revise the work most recently covered;
5. Any failing to complete homework assignments will be dealt with by the department concerned in the first instance;
6. If absent, students are responsible for catching up on class and homework;
7. **To inform their class teacher or curriculum leader if they are struggling to meet BTEC deadlines.** This is so that appropriate early intervention can be put into place.

#### **Parents and carers** are asked:

1. To report any concerns to their child's form tutor, ag6 learning mentor or ag6 achievement leaders using the email address:  
[reception@aldergrange.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@aldergrange.lancs.sch.uk).

### **What if my child says that they have no homework?**

There are occasions when homework cannot sensibly be set. In this case pupils/student should record '**revision**' and be expected to revise the work most recently covered. It is also expected that pupils/students will spend some time each evening revising the work covered that day, regardless of any other task set.