



Looe Community Academy

Homework Policy

Aim

Looe Community Academy aims to create a safe, secure and happy learning environment, which recognises the contributions of motivated students who are working purposefully to 'Be the Best they can Be'. The importance of relevant, regular and challenging homework assists students on their journey to academic success by encouraging them to become, reflective, independent learners, who actively strive, and have a natural love for lifelong learning.

The purpose of homework

- Homework allows students to develop as independent lifelong learners involved in learning skills such as self-discipline, meeting deadlines, taking responsibility and problem solving.
- Homework assists in increasing confidence, motivation and aspirations.
- Homework consolidates and reinforces knowledge, understanding.
- Homework allows students to realise that learning can take place in a variety of settings and encourages students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- Homework encourages a partnership between parents, students and the school.
- Homework can give opportunities for long term research and other work.

How does the school help students to organise their homework?

- Each student is given a planner at the beginning of the school year.
- Students take their planner to all lessons and must be given sufficient time by their class teachers to record the homework set and when it is due in.
- Students are never set homework for completion on the following day.
- Teachers provide clear guidelines for all students regarding the quality of homework set.
- Teachers check all students have recorded their homework.
- Tutors monitor how students are coping with homework and suggest homework club as a place to access support.
- To support parents and students, staff from the Academy place homework onto an easily accessible website (currently Show My Homework). Parents and students are able to access all homework details.

Guidelines for Parents

- Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the planner.
- Sign their child's planner once a week to show they are monitoring it.
- Encourage regular study time at home and try to ensure there are suitable conditions for learning.
- Help their child organise his or her time to their best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- When homework is not set (e.g. if a teacher or student is absent) parents can encourage their child to revise the work they have previously done in a subject using Need to Know, The Day and GCSE Pod to complete subject specific extension tasks.
- Parents are encouraged to communicate with us if there are problems with homework.

- The first point of contact for parents about homework is the class teacher, who will be glad to offer advice or help.

How much Homework should my child be doing?

Time spent on homework should gradually increase as a student progresses through the school. A student in year 7 should undertake between 5 and 7 hours of homework each week increasing to between 6 and 12 hours each week in year 11.

The nature of Homework

- Homework should be viewed as “home-learning” and will take many forms. Often the work set will not be a written task. Other tasks if completed properly can have a greater benefit in aiding the learning process; developing skills, understanding and knowledge.
- Students will be given a variety of homework tasks.

Tasks may include:

Learning specific spellings, meanings, formula, answering questions; finding out information on a given topic; drawing or completing diagrams, maps, illustrations; planning investigations, designs and essays; collecting materials for class work; writing about a given topic; interviewing others as part of a survey; reading; watching a particular TV programme; plays on a topic; examining the work of others (e.g. visiting local exhibitions, performances etc.); revising class work for tests and examinations.

Guidelines for Teachers

- Teachers will encourage all students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Teachers must ensure that all homework tasks have been set on ‘Show My Homework’ for all students and parents to access.
- Homework set by the teacher needs to be regular and differentiated to ensure that all students are extended.
- Homework or independent study tasks must be meaningful and have clear aims linked explicitly to the scheme of work.
- Homework should not be used to finish off class work as this may place too heavy demand on some students and too light on others.
- Teachers will keep a record of all homework set. The homework will be marked in line with the whole school Feedback policy. Homework is assessed, in most cases, by the subsequent lesson and students are encouraged to engage in dedicated improvement time when necessary.
- When appropriate, teachers will give quick and appropriate feedback and on some occasions organise, lead and ‘model’ peer assessment opportunities post homework tasks.
- Teachers will reward students if they show to apply a lot of effort to homework and progress well academically, because of homework.
- Examples of successful pieces of homework are displayed or regularly discussed with classes to keep expectations of learner outcomes high.

Guidelines for Curriculum Leaders of Learning

- LOLs have a responsibility for monitoring the setting, completion and marking of homework as specified. Leaders of Learning monitor homework through SMHW statistics, sampling students’ books, and student voice, planners and teachers records.

Use of ICT and Homework

- The school expects ICT to play an ever-greater role in homework.
- The school encourages the use of ICT to support learning and its use for homework is no different.
- Most pupils have access at home to appropriate ICT to allow its use in homework. For those not in

this position, computer facilities are available in school before the start of the day, during break and lunch-time and from the end of the day until 4:30pm. Where students require computer time to complete tasks, these facilities can be used by all members of the school community. This provides ample time for students who require ICT to complete work but do not have the facilities at home.

- The school provides a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support the learning of individuals. This can be accessed at any time, from school or home and will provide relevant links and details for any work set in subject areas.
- Where ICT is used for homework, staff, parents and pupils need to be aware of the necessity to reference material from other sources and plagiarism must be discouraged at all times.
- Homework can be hand-written where no computer facilities are available but must conform to the relevant department presentation policy.
- The school will recommend software suites, which are free to use at home, to help students with completion of homework.
- All homework can be viewed through Show My Homework using a website or app for tablets and computers.

Guidelines for students

- Seek additional support early from your subject teacher if you need clarification
- Utilise Homework Club and VLE resources such as My Maths, The Day and GCSEPod
- Plan your time wisely and ask for assistance from your tutor to help you manage your time

Failure to complete Homework

- Homework should be completed to the best of a student's ability. Failure to do this may result in the student repeating the work.
- Homework should be submitted by the due date.
- Homework not attempted, submitted or poorly completed may result in parents being contacted and the requirement to attend homework club to ensure homework is completed to a high standard.