



Homework Policy

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1 Senior School

1.1 The Purpose of Homework

Homework set at Haberdashers' is purposeful, with a view to supporting the educational development of our students; it is not set to tick a box. We define purposeful homework as appropriate tasks which consolidate student learning, prepare students for future learning, or extend student learning beyond the specification. This approach enables teachers in departments to set tasks in a flexible and responsive manner, but this flexibility is monitored to ensure students do not become overwhelmed. Alongside the setting of task-based homework, students are encouraged to engage in wider reading both on academic disciplines and for pleasure, with a view to placing their studies in a broader context and to support their well-being and co-curricular pursuits.

1.2 Broad Whole School Homework Principles:

- Homework at Haberdashers' will broadly either consolidate student learning, prepare students for future learning, or extend student learning beyond the specification.
- For students to balance their homework with other commitments, inside and outside of school, and ensure they are not overloaded on one given night; staff will not set work to be completed for the next day. Students will be given *at least* two evenings for homework to be completed and many will often be given a week.
- Teachers will set the most purposeful homework for that sequence of learning and distribute the setting of it over the course of the week i.e. teachers will avoid setting all homework at the beginning of the week.
- Our teachers are the experts; they know what purposeful homework looks like in their subject to benefit student progress; if homework is not purposeful, it will not be set.
- Homework will not always be written. It is not always the 'visible' tasks and transactional ticks in a book that produce the best outcomes. Lengthy written tasks or worksheets that can be circulated on social media or completed using generative AI, for example, are often not the most effective way to determine how well a student has grasped a concept. For example, reading an extract from a book or source, or watching a video, followed by questions in class, may help to develop understanding far more, even if there is not immediately a visible 'outcome' to hand in.
- The quantity of homework differs between Lower, Middle and Upper School, but in all cases, it will be set on the day that it is issued using the 'Assignments' function of Microsoft Teams which enables students and parents to easily track and manage weekly workflow.
- Homework set on Assignments will have clear instructions and will distinguish what work is to be completed at home and what work is to be completed in class (if set as cover work). For any homework which lasts more than one week, teachers will scaffold the task and break it down into bitesize weekly chunks to support students in managing their time.

1.3. Year Group Guidelines

7-9 guidelines:

- A student in Year 7 should expect around 20 minutes of homework per subject per week, or every other week in certain subjects.
- A student Year 8 should expect around 30 minutes of homework per subject per week, or every other week in certain subjects.
- In Year 9 students study a greater breadth of subjects (perhaps 13 or 14 in a fortnight) and consequently, their individual subject allocations are reduced. A student in Year 9 should expect to complete around 30 minutes of homework per subject per week, or every other week in certain subjects.
- One of the most important independent study skills is knowing how to manage your workflow and we feel that the most suitable time to begin this skill is in the Lower School (Year 7 and Year 8) when the students can be supported in a low risk, understanding and supportive environment. For many students in Year 7, the transition to Senior School leads to a change in the style and quantity of homework they will be given. To try and help students manage that change, the homework expectations may vary slightly when compared to Year 9. For example, homework is not set during the first two weeks of the Autumn term for Year 7 and Year 8, and there may be times in the year when Lower School students are given a homework-free period, in order to focus on revision, on reading for pleasure, or on their broader well-being.
- If Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students are not 'set' as much work in any given week, they should use that newly available time to read for pleasure and broaden their horizons.
- In Years 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students do not have holiday homework.

GCSE guidelines (Year 10 and Year 11):

- Students in Y10 and Y11 typically study 9 or 10 subjects and should expect homework of some kind in each subject, each week. Typically, they can expect to spend around 40 minutes per GCSE subject each week.
- If Y10 and Y11 students are not 'set' as much work in any given week, they should use that newly available time to consolidate past learning and to test themselves, as well as to read for pleasure.

A Level study guidelines (Year 12 and Year 13):

- Students in the Upper Sixth should expect to be doing five hours of work for each subject, to be completed outside of lessons each week. They can use their Private Study periods to complete some of this and the rest should be completed at home.
- Students in the Lower Sixth should expect to be doing around four hours of work for each subject to be completed outside of lessons each week. It is expected that the majority of this work will be completed at home, although Lower Sixth formers do have some Private Study periods too.
- Different subjects set work in different ways. Some essay-based subjects may work to a deadline set weeks in advance for a piece of work. The expectation in these subjects is that students will organise their time towards that in the intervening period. Other subjects may set smaller, discrete tasks that are assessed 'little and often'. The guidelines above are a starting point. There may be some weeks in which boys do not get as much 'set' work. However, there is always work to be done; consolidation, planning and organisation can always be used to fill the time available to them, as well

as extension work. Equally, revision should not be seen as something to just do at the end of the course, but rather as an on-going process, supporting incremental learning throughout the year.

1.3 Holiday Work

For Years 7 to 9, teachers will not set homework in School holidays. By contrast, examination groups (Years 10 to 13) may expect to complete homework and revision during School holidays based upon guidance from their subject teachers.

1.4 Late Homework

If work is submitted consistently late, the student's Tutor and Housemaster should be informed, and particularly in those years leading up to public examinations, prompt action must be taken by the teacher, to remedy the situation. Staff should follow the sanctions policy to support this.

2 Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory Schools

2.1 The Purpose of Homework

Homework serves as a crucial extension of the classroom experience, reinforcing the academic foundation laid during lessons and fostering independent learning skills. Designed with intentionality, homework assignments are crafted to challenge students intellectually, encourage critical thinking, and promote a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Beyond the acquisition of knowledge, homework cultivates a sense of responsibility and time management, essential attributes for success in both academia and future endeavours. By engaging with homework, students not only solidify their academic proficiency but also develop the resilience and self-discipline necessary for a well-rounded education, preparing them for the challenges of higher education and beyond.

2.2 Homework Principles

- Homework at Haberdashers' will broadly either consolidate learning, prepare for future learning, or extend learning beyond the specification.
- For students to balance their homework with other commitments, inside and outside of school, and ensure they are not overloaded on one given night; staff will not set work to be completed for the next day. Students will be given *at least* two evenings for homework to be completed and many will often be given a week.
- Teachers will set the most purposeful homework for that sequence of learning and distribute the setting of it over the course of the week i.e. teachers will avoid setting all homework at the beginning of the week.
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grasped a concept. For example, reading an extract from a book or source, or watching a video, followed by questions in class, may help to develop understanding far more, even if there is not immediately a visible 'outcome' to hand in.

- The quantity of homework differs throughout the Pre-Prep and Prep School, and increases in tasks set. Homework is assigned by the subject specialist on the day their subject is taught. A homework schedule is set by Phase Leaders to ensure student timetables can be managed efficiently.
- Assigned homework is written in the student's homework diary for clear communication between home and school.
- Holiday homework will not be set in the Pre-Prep or Prep School.

2.3 Homework Guidelines

A schedule of the amount of homework is outlined below. The amount of homework will increase during a student's time in the Pre-Prep and Prep School, with each piece lasting approximately 20 minutes in length, and covering a range of curriculum areas.

Year Group	English	Maths	Science	Humanities (History, Geography and T&P)	Spellings	Times tables	Reading
YR							To encourage nightly reading and fill reading record 2/3 times a week, including learning 'key words' (Phonics)
Y1	1x/week across two of the following subjects: English, Maths, Science and Humanities (e.g. English and Humanities, Maths and Science)				1x/week		To encourage nightly reading and fill reading record 2/3 times a week
Y2	1x/week across two of the following subjects: English, Maths, Science and Humanities (e.g. English and Humanities, Maths and Science)				1x/week	1x/week	To encourage nightly reading and fill reading record 2/3 times a week
Y3	1x/week	1x/week	At teachers' discretion		1x/week	1x/week	To encourage nightly reading and fill reading record 2/3 times a week
Y4	1x/week	1x/week	1x/week	At teachers' discretion (will replace)	1x/week	1x/week	To encourage nightly reading and fill reading record 2/3 times a week

Year Group	English	Maths	Science	Humanities (History, Geography and T&P)	Spellings	Times tables	Reading
				Science if necessary)			
Y5	1x reading/week 1x writing/week	1x/week	1x/week	1x/week	1x/week	1x/week	To encourage nightly reading and fill reading record 2/3 times a week
Y6	1x reading /week 1x writing/week	2x/week	1x/week	1x/week	1x/week	1x/week	To encourage nightly reading and fill reading record 2/3 times a week

Pupils in Pre-Prep will write in their message book when Homework is set. Every student in Year 3-6 has a Prep School Homework Diary in which homework should be written, under the appropriate date. If a student requires a replacement, they must speak to their Form Tutor in the first instance.

Written homework must be marked and returned promptly with suitable comments and/or verbal feedback provided to enable the student to have an accurate understanding of their achievements and next steps.