

Homework in Years 7, 8 and 9

Information for Parents

Purpose of Homework

- To encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively as independent learners. This is vital given the importance for students in the future of life long learning and adaptability.
- To raise academic standards.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school.
- To sustain the involvement of parents and carers in the management of students' learning and keep them informed about the work students are doing.

Guidelines

The amount of homework and supported study appropriate for different ages which are advised by the Government and adopted by Neston High School are:

Years 7 and 8	45 minutes per day
Year 9	1 hour per day

We support the view that a healthy balance between homework and other life enriching activities should be maintained. On average students will receive three sets of homework per night which make up the duration stated above. All students will receive a form of homework in all subjects. However, the setting of homework is flexible and may depend on the nature of a particular topic at different times with some tasks stretching over a number of weeks, particularly in the case of extended projects and also on individual teachers.

How homework should be planned and co-ordinated

Student planners are issued to all students to help them and their tutors / teachers monitor the homework timetable. Each student receives an individual timetable which is sent home to parents each academic year along with a promotion leaflet outlining the purpose and importance of homework, to which all subjects make a contribution. Homework is also listed in the learning programmes which are distributed to parents each year and also available on the website. The library and a homework club will be available for students who may need extra support to manage their Homework. The librarian and homework club staff are there to help with strategies to manage independent study and research. Resources, ICT facilities and stationery are available in the library and homework club to support those who have difficulty in accessing such resources outside school. Planners are checked by tutors, fortnightly. In this way tutors can check all the systems are working; that is that parents have signed for the week's work and that tasks have been set in line with the homework timetable in the student's planner.

The role of parents and carers

Subject teachers, tutors and parents (who sign a home school contract) should continually work together to support students in relation to homework. Neston High School expects parents will:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place where students can do their homework or help students attend other places where homework can be done, such as homework club, libraries and other study centres.
- Make it clear to students that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress in school and in life.
- Encourage students and praise them when they have completed homework
- Expect deadlines to be met and check they are.

Homework and Supported Self Study facilities

In addition to facilities provided at home there are opportunities for students to do homework under supervision at school, during lunchtime and after school, as well as opportunities away from school at libraries or community centres.

Summary of Homework Guidelines for Subjects – Years 7, 8 and 9

Subject	How often? Year 7	How often? Year 8	How often? Year 9	Types of tasks
English	Once/twice week. 30 minutes per week	Once/twice week. 30 – 45 minutes per week	Once/twice week. 30 – 45 minutes per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written work – planning, drafting, redrafting, copying up notes. • Focused reading – a class novel, poetry, plays, non fiction. • Wider reading – books of their own choice as part of an independent reading project. • Research – for projects such as competitions, book talks. • Group presentations. • Exercises – on punctuation or grammar, for instance, to practise skills taught in the classroom. • Corrections – identified through marking e.g. Spellings. • Use of internet sites eg. BBC Bitesize and Samlearning. • Homework may stretch over 2 weeks in the case of a reading journal for example.
Maths	<p>Year 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice per week • Weekly homework sheet 	<p>Year 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice per week • Weekly homework sheet 	<p>Year 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice per week • Weekly homework sheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each homework sheet has 20 questions on topics that are being taught that term or in previous terms

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathswatch tasks to be completed online over the half term • 40-50 mins per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathswatch tasks to be completed online over the half term • 40-50 mins per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathswatch tasks to be completed online over the half term • 40-50 mins per week 	<p>so that students can review and embed their knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic that each of the 20 questions focuses on remains the same throughout the term although the questions may increase in terms of the level of challenge as the term progresses. This repetitive nature means students can again embed their knowledge but also assists them in making progress each week by reflecting upon previous weeks solutions. • There are three levels of homework sheets and the level given depends upon the maths set your child is in. • To assist them in completing the sheet each week an overview sheet is provided detailing the Mathswatch video clip number they can watch on the topic being assessed. • In addition to the weekly sheets, tasks are set online each half term on Mathswatch for students to complete as independent study. These tasks are based on the topics being taught that
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				<p>half term and can be used before class teaching of the topic in order to make greater progress in lessons or after as part of their revision of the topic.</p>
Science	<p>Once per week</p> <p>30-40 minutes per week.</p>	<p>Once per week</p> <p>30-40 minutes per week.</p>	<p>One homework from Chemistry, Biology and Physics once per fortnight</p> <p>30-40 minutes per subject per fortnight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions/worksh eets to test knowledge/underst anding of a topic. • Research for work which will be done in the following lessons. • Writing up evaluations of work already completed. • A learning task of scientific vocabulary. • ICT tasks. • On-line homework tasks/revision using www.doddle.co.uk • Revision for forthcoming assessments. • An independent learning task.
Art and Design Studies	<p>Approximately 3 per project</p>	<p>Approximately 3 per project</p>	<p>Approximately 3 per project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 projects during the year with an average of 3 homework's per project set at the start, middle and end. • To develop independent research into a particular artist, designer or culture, and produce a design sheet. • To produce an A 4 observed drawing of a particular object related to their class project (as specified by the member of staff) - normally staff will specify type of

				<p>drawing - cross hatched shading etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ideas for own logo design using own initials. • Research images related to a particular theme e.g. machine. • A homework task may last for a number of weeks to enable students to develop their skills in a range of media.
French German Spanish	Once per week – 20 minutes	Once per week – 20 minutes for each language	Once per week – 20 minutes for each language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vocabulary learning task. • A worksheet/language task to complete. • An independent learning task. • ICT tasks (in linguascope) • A summative independent written task. • Revision for a forthcoming assessment.
Geography	Once a week 20 – 30 minutes	Once a week 30 – 40 minutes	Once a week 40 – 45 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map work. • Atlas work. • Descriptive writing. • Arguing a case. • Poster work. • Independent research. • Presentations.
History	<p>One written homework per fortnight.</p> <p>Approx 30 minutes.</p> <p>One 'research/ thinking' homework per</p>	<p>One written homework per fortnight.</p> <p>Approx 30 minutes.</p> <p>One 'research/ thinking' homework per</p>	<p>One written homework per fortnight.</p> <p>Approx 30 minutes.</p> <p>One 'research/ thinking' homework per fortnight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A worksheet task to complete. • A summative independent written task. • Independent Enquiry - Extended Project task.

	fortnight.	fortnight.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research task. • Group / individual presentation tasks. • Oral history – interviews. • Design tasks.
Home Economics	Once every 2 weeks 20 minutes	Once every 2 weeks 20 minutes	Once every 2 weeks 20 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets to reinforce knowledge and understanding. • Research- to extend knowledge. • Story board. • Evaluation of practical work. • ICT tasks. • Revision. • Learning of keywords. • Mood board. • Design ideas.
ICT	Once every 2 weeks 20 minutes	Once every 2 weeks 20 minutes	Once every 2 weeks 30 – 40 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions/worksheets to test knowledge/understanding of a topic. • Research for work which will be done in following lessons. • Hand-drawn designs for work which will be created during lessons. • Writing up evaluations of work already completed. • Learning Exercises to test/reinforce knowledge of a topic using teach-ict.com. • Year 9 Extended project workbook. Research on how ICT impacts on society.
Dance	Approximately 3 - 4 per term 15/20 minutes	Approximately 3 - 4 per term 20/25 minutes	Approximately 3 - 4 per term 25/30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research dance styles/time periods. • Research a variety of stimuli. • Create phrases of

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> movement. • Practise and improve movements. • Evaluate choreographic and performance skills (their work and professional work). • Researching and selecting music. • Watching dance footage/films/live dance. • Analysing and creating designs for setting, costume and makeup. • Researching choreographers and their work.
Music	<p>Once every 3 weeks</p> <p>20 minutes</p>	<p>Once every 3 weeks</p> <p>20 minutes</p>	<p>Once every 3 weeks</p> <p>30 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to music of various styles and types on radio or TV. • Notation tasks or theoretical exercises. • Composing graphic scores and scores using other notation. • Writing words to songs. • Research (e.g. into composers). • Evaluations of own work or professional work. • Preparation work (e.g. learning rhythms and learning musical terms).

Drama	Approximately 3 or 4 times per term 15 - 20 minutes	Approximately 3 or 4 times per term 20 minutes	Approximately 3 or 4 times per term 25 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research tasks on themes, writers, performers, practitioners in Drama. • Finding props, music and costume items to fit performances. • Writing back stories, scripts, plot outlines to move work on. • Watching TV Drama and films for research, inspiration and analysis of skills. • Learning outlines and scripts ready for performance and adding in directing notes when needed. • Evaluation of own work and work of others including work of professionals, recorded or live work when arranged (eg trips, workshops, visits etc).
PE (Physical Education)	Approximately 3 per term	Approximately 3 per term	Approximately 3 per term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended research projects • Private reading. • Research. • Preparation and practice for practical/written tasks. • Internet video clips and analysis of skills. • Layout of courts and positions for different sports. • Current issues in Sport. Eg Football and the World Cup/Olympics. <p>NB Homework for PE will not be appear on a</p>

				homework timetable due to there being extended projects at key points in the term.
RE (Religious Education)	Once every 2 weeks 20 – 30 minutes	Once every 2 weeks 20 – 30 minutes	Once every week 30 – 40 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting/re-drafting ideas in response to a task set, advice given or a key stimulus. • Targeted reading of key information in preparation for class work, discussion and/or debate. • Research on key issues (library/internet) • Conducting interviews & surveys • Preparation and rehearsal of group presentations. • Thinking tasks – key questions to be analysed personally in preparation for discussion next lesson. • Assessment preparation. • Peer marking and analysis of exemplar answers.

Name of Policy	Homework information for Parents Key Stage 3
Name of lead member of staff	
Reviewed on	
Committee Responsible	Curriculum
Ratification at Full Governors	
Equality Impact Assessments	
Date of next planned review	Autumn 13/14