

Homework in Years 10 and 11

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 10 and 11 **1 ½ hours 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. Homework and independent learning is an essential part of success in examinations.

How homework should be planned and co-ordinated

Student planners are issued to all students to help students 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 e XL revision support is available for students who may need extra help to manage their Homework. The e XL study programme is available on the school website and also from the school reception. 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 in e XL time, during lunchtime and after school, as well as opportunities away from school at libraries or community centres.

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Subject	How often? Year 10	How often? Year 11	Types of tasks
English	Once/twice week. 30 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	Twice per week Weekly homework sheet and Mathswatch tasks to be completed online over the half term 50-60 mins per week	Twice per week Weekly homework sheet and Mathswatch tasks to be completed online over the half term 50-60 mins per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each homework sheet has 20 questions on topics that are being taught that term or in previous terms so that students can review and embed their knowledge. • 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. • The sheet your child receives will either be Foundation or Higher based upon the set they are 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 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.
Science	Once per week per subject: Biology, Chemistry, Physics 30-40 minutes per week per subject.	Once per week per subject: Biology, Chemistry, Physics 30-40 minutes per week per subject.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions/worksheets to test knowledge/understanding of a topic. • Research for work which will be done in the following lessons, including the ISA controlled assessment. • Writing up evaluations of work already completed. • A learning task of scientific vocabulary. • Completion of Homework Question booklets. • ICT tasks. • On-line homework tasks/revision using www.doddle.co.uk • Revision for forthcoming assessments. • An independent learning task. • Practice of exam past paper questions.
Art and Design Studies	3 per term	3 per term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop independent research into particular artists, designers or culture • To develop design sheets related to the above • To develop drawings related to a particular topic using media related to their class project - staff will specify type of media / technique e.g - cross hatched drawing, tonal shading etc.
French German Spanish	Once per week: 30-60 minutes	Once per week: 30-60 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vocabulary learning task. • A worksheet/language task to complete. • An independent learning task. • ICT tasks (in kerboodle) • Listening/Reading tasks (in kerboodle) • A summative independent written task. • Revision/preparation for a forthcoming assessment. <p>NB The usual homework schedule may be adapted to work around controlled assessment requirements as appropriate.</p>
Geography	Twice a week: 30 minutes	Twice a week: 30 – 45 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answering exam questions. • Peer marking. • Learning key words and concepts. • Researching information independently using internet sites eg BBC Bitesize, OS Mapzone, • Map work and atlas work. • Wider reading and note taking on case studies from books and BBC News online. • Preparing presentations. • Preparing for debates and role play.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision for tests and exams.
History	<p>Written task once per week</p> <p>Reading / revision task - once per week</p>	<p>Written task once per week</p> <p>Reading / revision task - once per week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe key events • Source analysis and evaluation • Analysis and explanation of events leading to causation • Exam practice questions • Independent research • Reading • Revision- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/modernworldhistory
Catering Child Development Health and Social Care Home Economics	<p>Two x 45minutes in a two week cycle</p>	<p>Two x 45minutes in a two week cycle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written work – planning, drafting and writing up notes • Secondary research for assessment tasks using books, magazines, internet • Primary research for assessment tasks Such as questionnaires and interviews • Group presentation work • Subject specific terminology • Worksheets to check knowledge and extend thinking • Planning and evaluation sheets • Observations of individuals/clients in settings • Use of ICT to enhance work and create posters and leaflets • Revision
ICT	<p>Once per week</p>	<p>Once per week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing worksheets • Research tasks • Coursework • Revision • Attend support clubs after school
Dance	<p>Once/twice per week.</p> <p>30 minutes</p>	<p>Once/twice per week.</p> <p>30 – 45 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written work – planning, researching, drafting, redrafting, copying up notes, completing log books/diaries, completing documents required for written evidence as set out in assignment briefs • Focused Research–history and development of individual dance styles and techniques, key dance practitioners, issues concerning health & safety, performance skills and performers biographies/autobiographies • Wider reading – internet articles, magazines and books of their own choice as part of independent study • Rehearsal of leading warm ups-individually and in groups • Rehearsal for performance • Prep for Via Voce • Developing & refining technical skills and abilities-following appropriate exercise regimes

Music	Performance practice every day. Listening/ composition task once a week	Performance practice every day. Composition for 1 ½ hours per week. Learning terms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice of instruments • Theory tasks • Composition tasks • Listening tasks • Performance practice • Revision and exam techniques
Business Studies GCSE	Once a week	Normally once a week, more during controlled assessment task.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Worksheets • Collecting news articles • Past exam questions • Reading and highlighting important points • Preparing revision notes/cards/mind-maps
Business BTEC	Once a week	Once a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Completing work to meet deadlines • Reading news articles
Sociology	Weekly	Weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research current issues to develop analytical skills • Exam questions to develop exam skills • Extended essays • Reading / watching news to keep abreast of current social issues
Drama	During Controlled Assessments / mock Controlled Assessments after every Drama Lesson (Twice a week) Otherwise once a week 60 minutes a fortnight	During Controlled Assessments after every Drama lesson (Twice a week) Otherwise once a week 60 - 90 minutes a fortnight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research tasks on Playwrights / Practitioners / Theatre styles / historical figures / issues / scripts / theatres / play reviews / specific shows / different Performance Support skills – use of the Internet and book sources • Watching and analysing live theatre • Written work – diary entries, writing in role, write ups of lessons, rough Documentary Response notes for controlled assessments, redrafts from mocks, review notes of plays seen, work on texts, work on issue based pieces, own scripts / outlines / cue sheets. • Focussed reading – text extracts, poetry stimulus, articles, set speeches, learning lines • Preparation for performances • Planning for performances (to class, for an audience of students from other classes / years, for exam prep in front of an invited audience) • Planning for presentations for assessment purposes • Reworking all types of pieces in the light of feedback given • Homework tasks stretch over half term blocks as the GCSE is based on the system of Units lasting 6 weeks.

PE (Physical Education)	One piece 30 minutes	One piece 30 - 40 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets that help to recall facts and reinforce learning from the lesson. • Short answer exam questions relating to the lesson topic. • Multi choice exam questions from previous exam papers. • Tasks from practice pre release material (case study) • Research tasks on current issues in sport.
BTEC Sport	30 minutes weekly	40 minutes weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets to support and recap class work • Assessment tasks from each unit • Improvements and corrections to assessed work. • Research around current issues in Sport.
Ethics and Philosophy	10D 3-5 times a fortnight 10N 2-3 times a fortnight	11D 3-5 times a fortnight 11N 2-3 times a fortnight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written tasks: planning, drafting, redrafting key responses to/essays on the issues studied. • Targeted reading of key texts in preparation for class work, discussion and/or debate. • Research on key issues, using the library, internet, etc. • Preparation and rehearsal of group presentations. • Thinking tasks – key questions to be analysed personally in preparation for discussion next lesson. • Peer marking and analysis of exemplar answers. • Creation, and structured use of, revision materials.

Name of Policy	Homework Information for Parents Key Stage 4
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