

Homework in Years 12 and 13 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 prepare for lessons and for forthcoming areas of study
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school.
- To explore areas of the subject not covered by the A Level syllabus (essential preparation for interviews and study at degree level)
- 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:

If studying four AS subjects or equivalent: 2 hours per day

If studying three AS subjects or equivalent: 1 1/2 hours per day

If studying three A2 subjects or equivalent: 2 hours per day

Homework should be divided equally between the subjects. Homework must include self-directed study in preparation for forthcoming topics; it is not sufficient to complete standard homework tasks. Students and families can access a list of topics which can be used to guide self-directed study. Please note: students who undertake an EPQ will have further independent work to undertake.

How homework should be planned and co-ordinated

Homework is also listed in the learning programmes which are distributed to parents each year and also available on the website. Support for independent study can be obtained from subject teachers or the Sixth Form team. The rooms in school where independent study can take place are listed below.

Room	Availability	Subject Area	Support Available
Sixth Form LRC	Always	General	Occasional Supervision
Library	Nearly always	General	Full-time librarian
Lab 8	Always	Sciences	Staff available at all times
Art Rooms	Always*	Art and Design	Staff available at all times
IT Rooms	Always*	IT/ Business*	Staff available at all times
Languages Study Room	Always	All Languages	Staff on-hand: students welcome to pop into lessons

The role of parents and carers

Subject teachers, tutors and parents 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 learn independently 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 independent work, and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress in school and in life.

6th Form – Years 12 and 13 Homework Information for Parents – 2012 - 13

Subject	How often? Year 12	How often? Year 13	Types of tasks
English	Once/twice per week. 30 minutes per week	Once/twice per 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	Work on the exercises in the course textbook following each lesson. Independent study from Integral websites exercises and online skills tests.	Work on the exercises in the course textbook following each lesson. Independent study from Integral websites exercises and online skills tests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be successful at KS5 Maths requires repetition in the application of knowledge acquired following each lesson as well as regularly revisiting prior learning over the two years. • The course textbook is made available online for each student and after each lesson students should work through the relevant exercise in the book. Once a unit's work has been completed they should then work through the mixed exercise at the end of each chapter. • Alongside these students should access further exercises and skills tests via the Integral website that

	<p>Formal homework sheets completed at the end of a unit of work.</p> <p>30-60 mins after each lesson</p>	<p>Formal homework sheets completed at the end of a unit of work.</p> <p>30-60 mins after each lesson</p>	<p>they will be provided a personal login for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal homework sheets are to be completed and handed in for teacher assessment and feedback once a unit of work has been completed. In addition to these homework's students should produce revision material that can be used throughout the two year course, learn vocabulary and formulae that they are required to do before formal examinations as well as revisit material not covered for some time to ensure their knowledge is kept at a high level.
Science	<p>30-40 minutes following every lesson</p>	<p>30-40 minutes following every lesson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider reading to consolidate the work covered in class. Writing up of class work notes. Developing a glossary of vocabulary specific to the subject area. Completion of Homework Question booklets. Use of interactive websites/ animations to consolidate understanding and knowledge. Revision for forthcoming assessments Summarising topic notes for revision purposes. To practice answering exam questions To self assess/ peer assess work using the exam mark schemes
Art and Applied Design	<p>3 per term</p>	<p>3 per term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop independent research into a particular artist, designer or culture To develop design sheets relating to the above To develop drawings related to their class project To extend their ideas through the use of selected media
A level Economics and Business	<p>Twice a week</p>	<p>Twice a week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading and highlighting relevant points Exercises from textbooks Watching recommended T.V. programmes Reading and bringing into school news articles Completing past paper questions Familiarising case study for June exam

BTEC Level 3 Business	Twice a week	Twice a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing coursework to deadlines • Research • Watching recommended T.V. programmes • Reading and bringing into school news articles • Completing past paper questions
French German Spanish	One or more pieces of homework: 1-2 hours	One or more pieces of homework: 1-2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vocabulary learning task. • A worksheet/language task to complete. • An independent learning task. • ICT tasks (in kerboodle/research on the internet) • Preparation for language assistant lessons • Private research. • A summative independent written task. • Revision/preparation for a forthcoming assessment. <p>NB The usual homework schedule may be adapted to work around examination requirements as appropriate.</p>
Geography	2 – 3 times per week: 1 hour	2 – 3 times per week: 1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting and writing up Fieldwork • Answering exam questions, • Learning key words, concepts and models. • Researching information independently using internet sites eg. USGS, BBC News online. • Wider reading and note taking on case studies from books and web sites. • Preparing for tutorials and presentations. • Preparing for debates and role plays. • Revision for tests and exams. • Atlas work and map work. • Reading or watching the world news. • Peer marking.
History	Ongoing reading and research expected to be undertaken throughout the year in addition to any written homework tasks set weekly.	Ongoing reading and tasks expected to be undertaken throughout the year in addition to any written homework tasks set weekly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam practice questions • Explanation of events / changes • Written assessments of key issues • Debate contributions • Student presentations • Independent research of key course themes and subject matter • Wider reading • Exploring historical interpretations • Revision

Health and Social Care (Single and Double Award)	Basic requirement of 1 hour after every lesson, plus extended lengths of time for coursework and revision	Basic requirement of 1 hour after every lesson, plus extended lengths of time for coursework and revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research for coursework • Written work –planning, drafting, completing coursework • Revision for unit tests and final examinations • Preparation for class presentations • Worksheets and questionnaires • Preparation before lessons on topic being covered to inform discussions • Peer assessment • Interviews with clients • Primary school visits
ICT	Ongoing project throughout year, usually twice per week.	Ongoing project throughout year, usually twice per week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework and revision • Attend support clubs after school • Note making • Mind map making
Dance	Once/twice week. Minimum of 40 minutes	Once/twice week. Minimum of 45 minutes – 1 hour	<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 – choreographers and choreographic styles, structures & devices, 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 presentations- individually and in groups. • Creation and rehearsal of choreography- individually and in groups. • Rehearsal for performance. • Preparation for Via Voce. • Developing & refining technical skills and abilities-following exercise regimes.
Music Technology Music A Level	2-3 hours per week. Independent practice is also counted as one homework	3-4 per hours week Independent practice is also counted as one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development of written tasks • Development of sequences and recordings • Essay style questions • Revising analysis of tunes • Research tasks

		homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent practice • Exam practice
Drama and Theatre Studies	Once / twice a week 60 minutes	Once / twice a week 60 – 90 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer tasks take up to 2 – 3 weeks to complete and are ongoing homework requiring 5 – 6 hours • Reading - Research on playwrights / periods / styles / genres / practitioners / theatre companies / set texts / plays to perform/ wider reading / reading through and annotating notes / sheets given in class • Writing - Supporting notes for practical – writing under strict headings and to word count / research on Practitioners / styles / analysis of practical process /responding to corrections / feedback on notes. • Reading (programme notes / research) as prep & then writing Reviews of play seen – own Reviews -following methods laid out, redrafting based on feedback, condensing each into 2 sides A4 for exam • Preparatory writing tasks eg revision tasks / essay plans / character notes / plot outlines / past paper work on Set Texts • Essay writing skills – on Set Texts and on different demands of each text / Level • Diagrams / drawings / sketches for Visual aspects of course (Costume / Set / Lighting) – more artistic / creative side to subject. • Technical skills – Lighting / Sound research and development of skills / knowledge • Planning / preparation for Practical work – research, rehearsal plans , contributions to group, learning parts, suggestions for staging etc • Planning / Preparation for - Performing to audiences and acting on feedback given in preparation for the Practical exams
Performing Arts	Once/twice week.	Once/twice week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written work – planning, researching, drafting, redrafting, copying up notes,

	Minimum of 40 minutes	Minimum of 45 minutes – 1 hour	<p>completing log books/diaries, completing documents required for written evidence as set out in assignment briefs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused Research– theatre companies, history and development of individual performance 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. • Learning lines and blocking. • Rehearsal of presentations- individually and in groups. • Creation and rehearsal of performance material - individually and in groups. • Developing & refining technical skills and abilities-following appropriate personal regimes.
PE Physical Education	3 pieces per week 30 minutes per piece	3 pieces per week 30 minutes per piece 1 piece of coursework per fortnight – 1 hour per fortnight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research tasks to broaden student notes and resources for revision. • Exam questions to improve exam technique • Reading to broaden student knowledge • Worksheets to help recall facts from the previous lesson. • Preparation (revision) for progress tests (1 every ½ term),
BTEC Sport	3 pieces per week 30 minutes per piece 3 pieces of assessment 30 minutes per piece	2 pieces per week 40 minutes per piece 2 pieces of assessment 1 hour per piece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research tasks for assessment preparation. • Reading to develop understanding of the topic • Preparation and rehearsal of presentation. • Written assessments from the assessment briefs.
Sociology	Twice per week	Twice per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Research tasks • Reading / watching news to develop analytical awareness and build up stock of empirical evidence • Preparations for presentations • Short answer exam questions • Essay questions

Ethics and Philosophy	9 times per fortnight	9 times per 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.
Uniform Public Services	Time spent should amount to approximately four hours per week (double award).	Time spent should amount to approximately four hours per week (double award).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching key issues • Preparation of fact sheets/ information texts • Preparation of spoken presentations • Researching aspects of Public Services life • Producing analysis and evaluations of key experiences <p>This course is 100% coursework therefore independent learning tasks are on-going.</p>

Name of Policy	Homework Information for Parents Key Stage 5
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