



Home Learning Policy

Approved by the Academy Governors:

September 2016

Replaces Homework Policy 2008



HOME LEARNING POLICY

Key Points:

- Students should attempt Home Learning activities as soon as possible.
- In Key Stage 3, Home Learning activities will be set in Mathematics, English and subject based literacy.
- In Key Stage 4, Home Learning activities will be set in all subjects
- **Parental involvement in Home Learning activities has a hugely beneficial impact on the achievement of their child.**
- Parents should provide a suitable environment for Home Learning activities
- Students who struggle to complete a Home Learning activity must see their Subject Teacher as soon as possible
- Students who do not sufficiently attempt their Home Learning activities will be required to attend a mandatory Home Learning Catch-up session.
- Students struggling with workload should speak with their Form Tutor

Home Learning Policy

What is Home Learning?

“Home Learning” is any activity which students are expected to do outside normal lesson time.

Home Learning Expectations

Bulwell Academy recognises the importance of students continuing their learning experience outside of the Academy. Activities set as Home Learning allow students to reflect on their learning and deepen their understanding of a subject. Home learning is a vital part of a student’s education and one that relies on parental support and encouragement. If embedded as part of a child’s regular home-life routine, it can foster a love of learning and improve their attainment.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8), Home Learning activities will be set in Mathematics and English. Revision Homework will be set in all subjects, prior to end of topic tests or examinations, at the discretion of the Subject Teacher. Literacy-based Home Learning activities may also be set throughout the year. Key Stage 3 Home Learning activities should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 (Years 9 to 11), Home Learning activities will be set in all subjects. Students will be expected to organise their own personal home learning and revision timetable but will be given guidance and support from their Form Tutor and through the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme. Key Stage 4 Home Learning activities should take approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

Setting Home Learning Activities

When Home Learning activities are set by a teacher, students will be given sufficient time in lesson to make a note of the activities in their Homework Planner, together with an expected completion date. Time should also be given in lesson to allow students to clarify any points related to the Home Learning activity and the teacher should endeavour to check that all students have effectively written down the expected task(s). Students should take responsibility for ensuring they have sufficient information with which to complete the Home Learning activity effectively.

Parents should review their child’s Homework Planner regularly and sign at the end of each week in acknowledgement. Parents may also use the Homework Planner as an additional means of communication with the Form Tutor. Homework Planners will be checked by Form Tutors on a weekly basis during Form Tutor time.

Parental Support

Involvement by parents in Home Learning activities has been shown to have an enormous impact on students’ achievement. Parents have the most positive influence when they offer moral support and encouragement, make appropriate resources available and discuss general issues. They should only actually help with Home Learning activities when their children specifically ask them to. Problems may arise when parents try to help with Home Learning activities,

especially when they feel they lack the knowledge or the time. Parents should endeavour to provide a suitable environment and time to allow their child to make their best attempt at Home learning activities.

Engaging with Home Learning Activities

It is critical that students fully engage with Home Learning activities. If a student struggles to complete an activity due to misunderstanding or difficulty with the task, they should make their best attempt and then see their Subject Teacher at their earliest opportunity; this can be arranged via their Form Tutor.

If a student has made little or no attempt at a Home Learning activity, a Home Learning Catch-up session will be assigned. Catch-up sessions are intended to give the student an opportunity to attempt the Home Learning activity and meet with a subject specialist to gain further support. Attendance at a Home Learning Catch-up session is mandatory and failure to attend will result in sanctions in line with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Home Learning Activities

Home Learning Activities are intended to develop subject specific skills and in so doing will contribute to students' literacy and numeracy. Activities will develop the study skills that are essential to the students' development as independent learners. A regular and consistent habit for homework is essential for students to develop independent study skills. Examples of activities which students will be asked to do include:

- Research
- Designing
- Essay writing
- Reading around the subject
- Reading for leisure
- Simple experiments
- Report writing
- Drawing
- Drafting and redrafting
- Making a model
- Interviews
- Project work
- Investigations
- Library work

In all years, students should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home. Students must develop a reading habit if they are to secure outstanding results. They should choose their own books and read regularly in their own time.

In Years 11, 12 and 13 students are expected to significantly manage their own learning at this level, doing whatever is necessary to secure an outstanding outcome.

The effective use of individual study time is crucial to reflect on ideas and concepts

encountered within formal teaching. Time taken to deepen learning at this stage will provide strong foundations for success in the future.

Guidance from staff will be given as appropriate to the **type** (e.g. coursework-based or examination-based), **level** (intermediate or advanced) and **range** (e.g. GCSE, BTEC, and A Level) of courses that particular students undertake. For example, for A level courses, it is expected that students undertake an hour of independent study for each hour of taught time each week to guarantee successful completion of the course.

Independent study facilities are available for sixth form students to use during times in the week when they do not have timetabled lessons. Mature and regular use of these facilities could limit considerably the amount of work students need to do at home.

Support in managing Home Learning Activities

To develop independent learning skills students must take responsibility to manage their time throughout the week devoted to work outside of the classroom. Students have Homework Planners to help them plan their workload. They should use these to record any difficulties they are having to aid them when discussing the activity with their teacher. Students will be expected to organise their own personal home learning and revision timetable but will be given guidance and support from their Form Tutor and through the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme.

Students may elect to complete Home Learning activities at the Academy and “Homework Clubs” have been set up after school to facilitate this. Homework clubs, library and information resources will be available Monday to Thursday between 3.30pm and 4.30pm at the Academy. The school’s website carries details of when clubs are available and how students may book themselves into sessions.

If a student is struggling with workload, they should speak with their Form Tutor as soon as possible. Similarly, parents should contact the Form Tutor in the first instance, if they have any issues relating to general arrangements for Home Learning Activities.