



**South Dartmoor Community College**

## **Home Learning Policy**

***2019-2020***

***Opening Doors through Education***

# ***Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education.***

*1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools*

Home learning is an integral and important part of learning for South Dartmoor Community College students. Home learning refers to tasks given to students by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons.

*Homework is set in order to:*

- Encourage students to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and self-discipline needed to study effectively as independent and life-long learners.
- Consolidate, reinforce and extend what students know, understand and can do at school.
- Extend school learning: not all learning takes place at school.
- Involve parents and carers in students' learning and keep them informed about what students are doing at school.
- Help students to get to grips with managing particular demands, such as GCSE coursework.
- Further stimulate enthusiasm for learning.
- Provide a great opportunity to rehearse key skills for successful outcomes.
- Act on feedback to move learning and progress forward.

*EEF Research provides strong evidence that, when used appropriately, homework benefits student achievement. The evidence shows that the impact of homework, on average, is five months' additional progress.*

## **Supporting Learning at Home**

We recognise that getting the best out of every student is a joint effort between the College and home. Many parents/carers ask what they can do to help support their child's learning. *Below are a few suggestions of what parents/carers can do to help:*

- Check they are organised for school (exercise books, correct equipment, full school uniform, PE kit, and ensuring completed homework).
- Make sure they attend school regularly and are on time.
- Set clear boundaries.
- Ensure they have a suitable diet including breakfast and drinks.
- Talk with your child about the value of hard work and the importance of education.
- Find out what's happening at school.
- Attend Parents' Evenings and discuss your child's progress with their teachers.
- Read all reports and messages that come from the College.
- Encourage your child to think about their future.

- Develop schedules and stable routines.
- Support with extended project work by helping your child to plan and manage their time.
- Provide a quiet and suitable work space (e.g. a desk or table with a chair) for students where they are not distracted by interruptions (and preferably away from watching the TV or using mobile phones).
- Keep younger children out of students' way as they work.
- Support and praise your child's work, not just when it is completed, but as it is being done.
- Give help if required without doing the home learning for them.
- Encourage your child to attend any Home Learning Clubs and, for older pupils working towards GCSE, any revision classes on offer.
- Allow them to take part in decision-making (and to learn that sometimes this means sacrificing fun now, for benefits later).
- Check Show My Homework daily.
- Plan a balanced life (study, fun, and other commitments).

## Home Learning Activities

*Home learning activities might include the following:*

- Short or long answer questions or pieces of writing.
  - Project based learning.
  - E-Learning.
  - Learning key vocabulary.
  - Developing coursework (if applicable).
  - Making a model.
  - READING: an invaluable support to learning.
  - Report writing.
  - Research.
  - Spellings.
  - Exam practice.
  - Revision.
  - Simple experiments.
  - Teaching parent(s)/carer(s) what has been studied at school.
  - Visit to a public library or museum.
- Students may expect to receive two or three pieces of homework per night and on those nights when less is set to engage in reading, research, coursework improvement (if applicable) and project based learning tasks.
  - Independent Study, to encourage students to review their work and improve or extend their learning themselves, will also be set from time to time by all departments. This could involve reviewing notes, reading, or even watching a relevant television programme. Independent Study may also be used by subjects which require more regular but shorter home learning tasks (for example, Maths and Languages).
  - Teachers should avoid setting home learning over a single night.

## Home Learning Timetable

The home learning timetable ensures that students are able to organise their time more effectively. All subject areas will be expected to set homework for all students. Some subject areas might set extended project work.

**Subjects will set roughly one piece of homework for every two/three hours of curriculum time.** This means that students should expect rather more homework from English, Maths and Science as they have more lessons in these subjects. Homework will always be set via Show My Homework. Show My Homework login information will be provided in September for all students and will be provided for tutors to support tutees thereafter.

<b>Years 7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Period <i>per fortnight</i></b>	<b>Homework <i>per fortnight</i></b>
About 30-40 minutes per task	English/ Maths/ Science	7	2
	DT/IT	4	2
	Drama/ Art/ RS/ Geography	2	1
	History	3	1
	MFL	4	2
	PE	5	Flexible
	Music	3	Flexible
	Performing Arts	2	Flexible

<b>Years 9</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Period <i>per fortnight</i></b>	<b>Homework <i>per fortnight</i></b>
About 45-50 minutes per task	English/ Maths	7	2-3
	Science	9	2-3
	PE	5	Flexible
	Options/ET	4 (3 in ET)	2
	RS	2-3	2
	Performing Arts	4	Flexible

<b>Years 10 &amp; 11</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Period <i>per fortnight</i></b>	<b>Homework <i>per fortnight</i></b>
About 1 hour per task	English/ Maths	7	2-3
	Science	8	2-3
	PE	4	Flexible
	Options/EBACC Options	4	2
	RS/ET	2 or 4	2

## **SEND**

Subject teachers are expected to work closely with the SENCO and SEN colleagues and make reference to the Code of Practice and the College's SEN register. SEND students are required to receive homework tasks that cater for their individual learning needs, including consolidation or reinforcement of skills practised in class.

## **Rewards and Sanctions**

Students should be rewarded for producing good homework. For example, constructive feedback may be given orally or in writing, achievement praise points may be awarded in line with the College Behaviour policy and departments are encouraged to contact home to inform parents/carers, e.g. via a standard letter/ postcard of praise or a phone call.

If a student forgets his/ her homework, he/ she will need to speak to the subject teacher before or during the next lesson. If homework is not produced, an appropriate sanction will be issued. This will include recording the missed Home learning on SIMS. For a first missed piece of homework, at the teacher's discretion an agreed extension can be given. Thereafter, a department home learning detention should be given for completion of the home learning task – behaviour for learning detentions will take precedence over home learning detentions.

## **GCSE/Post-16**

In GCSE classes, the nature and spread of home learning changes throughout the year depending on when controlled assessments and extended pieces of work are being completed. As examinations become nearer, students will also need to revise. The above homework timetable is a guide but this may change slightly depending on need; however it is important that students with the support of parents/carers and staff manage their time to ensure that all work is completed thoroughly. It is equally important that we try to avoid overload so any parents/carers who have concerns over this should contact the College immediately if it arises so that the matter can be resolved; the person to contact in the first instance is the Tutor or Head of House.

In the Sixth Form students have a number of non-contact periods. This independent time should be used effectively to ensure classwork and any coursework is completed to a high standard and consolidated. Each subject will set home learning on a weekly basis following the v6th Form Home Learning Policy, and students are expected to complete this by set deadlines. It is recommended that for every taught hour, students should be independently completing an hour of consolidation work for all subjects.

## **Responsibilities**

*Curriculum Leader will ensure that:*

- Homework is incorporated into Schemes of Learning at all key stages.
- Homework opportunities have been resourced for all abilities and learning styles.

- Subject teachers are setting homework and providing feedback according to College policy.
- Parents are informed if home learning is not completed.
- Support is available when students persistently fail to achieve expected standards.

*Teaching staff will:*

- Set home learning as per the College policy using Show My Homework.
- Set clear deadlines which are published using Show My Homework.
- Ensure that all students understand the home learning (purpose and task).
- Ensure that home learning is matched to students' abilities and learning needs.
- **Marking of homework:** a formally marked piece of home learning should be set as per the IACT Policy – *at least one piece of Homework for each key assessment period as per the assessment calendar – this should be marked in red pen and students should respond in green pen as per the IACT Policy.* All Homework set should be checked for completion within class on the deadline – this should be acknowledged through self-assessment (this could be a starter meet and greet activity) or peer assessment; or through how it is used in the core lesson content; or through an ICT provision.
- Raise with Subject Leader and inform parents/carers, of students who regularly do not complete Homework.

*Students are expected to:*

- Complete homework to the best of their abilities and on time.
- Ask for help if necessary.
- Do their best with each piece of work.
- Ask for help if they find the home learning too difficult, either from their teacher or from their parents/carers.
- Establish a routine with regard to home learning, aiming to complete the home learning if possible on the night that it has been set, then returning to it later and looking over the work with a fresh pairs of eyes, checking upon quality and accuracy.
- Inform teachers if they have not completed homework.

## **Show My Homework**

Show My Homework is a powerful user-friendly platform which offers functions such as:

- Setting traditional homework to be collected by teacher.
- Setting homework to be completed online.
- Homework can be differentiated, or 'targeted' to groups or individuals.
- Automatic marking of quizzes.
- Spelling tests using speech2text technology.
- Revision.
- Extension Tasks.
- Seating plans.

- School events and announcements.

This is all linked to SIMS (the School Information Management System) and can be accessed from any computer with a web browser, or through a smartphone app.

*The benefits to Students/Parents/Carers include:*

- Easily accessible (website, linked from College homepage, smartphone / tablet app).
- Organises and reminds students of homework tasks, and when they are due in.
- Very user friendly.
- Students don't have any excuse to not complete homework even if they're absent from class.
- Students who have any form of long-term absence can still access homework set, or have special work set for them.
- Easy & valuable communication with teacher without the need to email.
- Full and detailed instructions / attachments / worksheets / extension tasks.
- Opportunity to hand homework in early.

### **Policy Review:**

This policy will be reviewed during this first term and then in July 2020 (or earlier if legislation or practice should change significantly).

Implementation Date:

September 2019

Review Date:

July 2020 (ready for September 2020)

*Opening Doors through Education*