

Homework

13/3/17

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are probably aware, homework is an important part of school work and helps pupils to learn independently, re-enforce the learning done during school time and helps develop good self-discipline and work ethic, if done regularly and as requested. We would like to thank the majority of pupils and parents that help to ensure that good routines are in place at home and those that ensure that homework is done regularly and to the best of their ability. Unfortunately not every pupil completes every piece of homework, and research shows that those pupils that don't complete homework to re-enforce their learning don't perform as well as pupils that do complete homework regularly. It is therefore vital that we work together to develop good routines.

Over the coming weeks and months we will be re-enforcing our school homework policy with pupils and we ask for your support with these issues. Pupils that do not complete a piece of homework will be entered into SIMS(our school record keeping system) and a text message will be sent to parents informing them of their child's failure to complete a homework. Each time this happens within the same faculty/department, consequences will be put in place in line with our school policy. These consequences will be dependent on the number of occurrences and severity of the problem. Consequences could be one or more of the following: lunchtime detentions, after school detentions, homework monitoring cards, referral to Head of Department or Leader of Learning and meetings/phone calls with parents to try and resolve the issue.

A homework club is held every lunchtime in ICT1, where pupils can use ICT equipment, and if required, receive support from a member of staff. This is put in place to support pupils, and not as a detention/consequence. Unfortunately, some pupils are very reliant on this lunchtime session and are not doing much/any homework at home. Some pupils are also happy to receive a lunchtime departmental detention rather than complete their homework during their own time at home. Please encourage your child to develop good homework routines at home, some possible examples could be :

- To spend a set or agreed amount of time working independently each weekday evening in a quiet room.
- No electronic games/TV/social media/internet access before their homework is completed or until they have worked for the agreed amount of time.
- Ensure that they do regular work at home. Quite often, pupils will say that they don't have homework, this is sometimes the case, but often an excuse! If they don't have homework – reading and/or revising is a good way of re-enforcing learning and developing good habits/routines. A small amount of work regularly is often better than a large amount at the 'last minute'
- Avoid doing homework late at night.
- Encourage pupils to translate their homework if you do not understand Welsh and wish to help them. This will help them understand the work better and is good for their bilingualism. Use of dictionaries, online dictionaries or free apps such as 'ApGeiriaduron' will assist with this.

Thank you for your co-operation with the above, if you would like to discuss any aspect of this letter/policy please get in touch with myself or your child's Leader of Learning.

Mark Bridgens
(Assistant Head)



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