

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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20th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Independent Learning Update:

Thank you to those parents/carers who have given feedback on how the independent learning has been working at home. After listening to our students, staff and parents along with conducting our own quality assurance we have decided to make some changes that will begin after half term.

We do not believe in setting homework for the sake of it. We believe that the core purpose of homework is to help students make progress in their learning, whether that be in their knowledge, skills, understanding or their own personal growth. A balance of homework and extra-curricular commitments/family life is something we really value.

What are the Changes?

Compulsory homework will be set in English, Maths and Science for Years 7-11 (Key Stage 3 and 4).

Years 12 & 13 (Key Stage 5) remains the same. KS5 will continue to be set either homework or will receive access to guided independent learning tasks on a weekly basis.

On average, up to 30 minutes of homework will be set per week for each subject (English, Maths and Science).

What types of Homework can we expect?

Teachers will set homework in a variety of ways, for example:

- English - spellings challenges, independent reading activities and consolidation tasks.
- Maths - a mixture of consolidation, revision and flipped learning tasks.
- Science - a mixture of consolidation, retrieval (recalling knowledge previously learnt) and revision tasks.
- Independent work will continue to be set for all other subjects. In lessons, teachers are driving the importance of completing independent work at home, ensuring appropriate rewards are given for completion.

Teacher Aims and Responsibilities:

- To promote a positive attitude towards homework that encourages students to become flexible, independent learners.
- To promote students' self-discipline and personal responsibility for their learning and organisation.
- To set homework which is appropriately challenging for all students.
- To ensure that each piece of homework set can be completed within 30 minutes.
- To use a range of strategies to feed back to students on completion of homework, this may vary from teacher marked, peer or self-assessed.
- To record on GO4Schs with clear instruction and hand in information.

Student Responsibilities:

All students should:

- Listen to homework instructions in class and check Go4Schs daily for work set/ reminders.
- Attempt all work and give their best.
- Inform the class teacher of any difficulties they may have with the task as quickly as possible.
- Ensure that homework is completed and handed in by the deadline.

Parents/Carer Support:

To ensure homework is as effective as possible, parents/carers can support their child with homework by:

- Taking an interest, but not completing the work for them.
- Finding their child an appropriate space to work.
- Contacting their child's Form Tutor should they have any concerns about homework.

Link to the Go4Schs login page: <https://www.go4schools.com/parents/Login.aspx>

This is the link to the guide:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/09/Go4schools-guidance-for-parents-and-carers-Sept-20.pdf>

Rewards and Sanctions:

There is an expectation that homework should be completed on time and to a high standard. Merits for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a department phone call/email/postcard may be sent home. Failure to complete English, Maths, Science homework will result in a 'no homework' log on Go4Schs. Class Teachers and Form Tutors will monitor and communicate home for any students who do not complete their homework.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding the changes to our homework policy, please contact your son/daughters form tutor who will be able to support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Starkie
Assistant Headteacher