

Uplands Community College

Homework Policy for Parents and Carers - September 2017

What is the purpose of homework?

We believe that homework plays an important role in:

- Consolidating knowledge, understanding and skills;
- Preparing for lessons;
- Being ready for assessments;
- Deepening enjoyment of a subject;
- Fostering creativity and independence.



Is homework actually useful for learning?

Research by the Sutton Trust and the Education Endowment Foundation suggests that homework tasks which are closely linked to learning help to boost educational achievement. If you would like to read more about the benefits of homework please follow this link:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/resources/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework-secondary/> .

As a parent or carer, how do I know what homework has been set?

We use an online programme called Show My Homework. The address is

www.showmyhomework.co.uk

A teacher sets a task and a deadline and this will appear in a student's personalised homework calendar. Both students and parents can log on to view homework tasks. It is possible to set up notifications, so that you can be alerted when homework is set by your child's teachers. The website is well-designed and user friendly. If you experience problems, the helpdesk is very supportive. If the helpdesk is unable to resolve your issue, please inform your child's form tutor.

How much and how often?

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students can expect between 20 and 50 minutes of homework per subject per week. The exceptions to this in Years 7 and 8 are Drama, PE, Ethics, ICT and Religious Studies, who do not set homework due to the infrequency of lessons. English and maths, having more frequent lessons, will set more extensive homework.

Key Stage 3

Subject	Amount of time per week
Art	20-30 minutes
Geography	20 minutes
History	20 minutes
English	50 minutes
French/Spanish	30 minutes
Maths	40 minutes
Religious Studies	20 minutes
Science	30 minutes
Technology	30 minutes
Total: 4 hours 20 minutes	

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Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11, students can expect between 30 minutes and 1 hour of homework per subject per week. This means students might spend between one and two hours per evening, five times a week completing tasks. Purchasing a relevant revision guide for each subject and creating revision notes is also a good way to spend additional homework time during Year 10 and 11. Please contact subject teachers for advice on revision guides. If you have any financial difficulties in obtaining study guides, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Subject	Amount of time per week
English	30 minutes - 1 hour
English Literature	30 minutes - 1 hour
Maths	30 minutes - 1 hour
Science x2	1-2 hours
Option 1 (which may also be science)	30 minutes - 1 hour
Option 2	30 minutes - 1 hour
Option 3	30 minutes - 1 hour
Option 4	30 minutes - 1 hour
Total: Minimum 4 hours 30 minutes – Maximum 9 hours	

Students studying BTEC will need to ensure they are meeting deadlines throughout the course, which will require work outside lessons on a regular basis.

Key Stage 5

In Year 12 and 13, students can expect an hour of independent learning for every hour spent in the classroom.

Subject	Amount of time per week
Subject 1	3-4 hours
Subject 2	3-4 hours
Subject 3	3-4 hours
Subject 4 (only applicable to students sitting four A Levels)	3-4 hours
Total: 9-12 hours (12-16 hours for those studying four A Levels)	

Students studying BTEC will need to ensure they are meeting deadlines throughout the course, which will require work outside lessons on a regular basis.

Where can my child go for help and support?

To enable all students to access Show My Homework and have a supportive place to complete work, there is a Homework Hub, with a member of staff present every lunchtime. Regardless of the subject, students can attend the allocated computer room to access Show My Homework. If students need subject specific advice, then a representative of the relevant subject will be available at the Homework Hub.

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Day	Room for PC access	Subject(s) supervising
Monday	A3	Art, Photography, Drama, Music
Tuesday	Tech 8	Maths, Geography, History
Wednesday	SLA	Science
Thursday	Tech 8	Technology, French, Spanish
Friday	A3	English

Please note that students receive £10 of printing credits per year. Any additional printing will need to be paid for through Parent Pay.

How will tutors be involved?

Once a week, form groups will go to a computer room to review homework. These rooms are as follows:

Year 7	Tech 2
Year 8	IL2
Year 9	IL4
Year 10	IL1
Year 11	Tech 8

During this tutor period, the tutor will check your child's usage, submissions and statistics, as well as giving them a chance to log on and raise any issues or concerns. The tutor will also be proactive in identifying issues (a student not logging in for a week, for example) and addressing any problems students are experiencing.

Whilst some homework tasks might be undertaken in this tutor session, the focus will be organisational, rather than being a chance to complete homework.

What happens if homework is not handed in?

- The teacher will record completion or non-completion in SMHW;
- If homework is not completed, students can expect to attend a teacher detention;
- If students fail to submit two pieces of homework in a term, they will be required to attend a Homework Hub session;
- Failure to complete homework for the third time in a subject will trigger contact with home;
- A record of homework submission will be available at parents' evening;
- If you would like up to date information on submissions, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.