

HOMWORK POLICY

At Hanson we regard homework as very important. It is set according to the demands of each subject following a homework timetable published in 'The Parents and Students Study Guide' which is given to every student at the start of the school year.

Why we set homework

Homework is considered to be an integral and necessary part of school work and is a valuable tool in preparation for all external examinations. We believe that the purpose of homework is to allow students to:-

- Complete and reinforce work already studied and begun in class.
- To follow their own chosen lines of inquiry.
- Have the opportunity to prepare work for forthcoming lessons.
- Organise their time effectively and show a pride in their achievements.

Monitoring homework

Homework is monitored in the following ways:-

- Subject staff will write the homework on the board during the lesson (preferably not at the end) so that students can record it accurately in their journal. If for any reason homework is not be set, e.g. at the end of a unit the students should be asked to record 'none set because.....'
- Subject staff will adhere to the published homework timetable.
- Subject staff will carry out checks during lesson time to ensure homework is recorded accurately by students.
- All Schemes of Work will include homework to be set.
- Heads of Faculty will carry out journal checks to ensure that homework is being set in line with Schemes of Work, regularly and according to the published timetables.
- Form tutors will check and sign journal weekly.
- Form tutors carry out journal checks when they ensure homework is being recorded and that the journal is kept up to date.
- Year Managers will carry out journal check to monitor correct use of journal by the students to ensure homework is being set regularly according to the published timetable.
- Faculties will determine appropriate sanctions for use when students fail to meet their responsibilities regarding homework.
- We will encourage comments from parents about homework, via the tutors or Year Managers.
- Year Managers will support faculty staff in the event of regular failure to record/complete homework.

If students wish to complete homework at the end of the day we welcome them to use the computer rooms and the school library where there is staff available to help. In addition students in the lower school who find it difficult to complete homework on their own can attend 'Homework Clubs' run by the Learning Mentors.

Parental involvement

We emphasise in our Home School Partnership Contract the important role that parents have in supporting the schools homework policy, by encouraging their sons and daughters to work conscientiously and by providing a suitable calm and quiet area where tasks can be completed. We ask that parents check and sign weekly the students' journals.

We publish the following in our Parent and Student Study Guide.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP WITH HOMEWORK

There are many ways in which parents can make sure that their child is approaching homework in the proper way:-

- By providing a suitable workspace, free from all the distractions, which might interrupt concentration and prevent the youngster from producing good quality work.
- By showing their child that they are interested in her/his performance by asking their child to explain what he/she has been learning.
- By giving help, advice and encouragement wherever possible.
- By encouraging proper planning of all work and use drafts before the eventual production of the 'best' copy.
- By reading through written work and helping with spelling, expression and punctuation.
- By encouraging a regular work routine, an hour before tea for example and an hour afterwards in which to complete homework tasks.
- By helping with time management: planning what needs to have been done by a certain time so deadlines can be met.
- By giving clear guidelines for watching TV, playing computer games or going out with friends.

WHICH HOMEWORK SKILLS CAN PARENTS ENCOURAGE

Just one piece of homework may demand many basic skills. A project for example will certainly involve:-

- Using resources and other people's knowledge and experience.
- Reading to gain information.
- Selecting the relevant materials.
- Organising information and planning how best to use it.
- Taking notes.
- Using time effectively.
- Presenting the findings neatly and logically.

Probably there will be others and each skill must be adapted to suit the needs of each individual piece of work.

Types of homework

Homework takes many different forms, below are a variety of activities, which could be set:-

- Reading to gain information.
- The completion and further extension of class activities.
- Research using a wide variety of sources.
- Interviewing members of the family or friends.
- Reading books, magazines, newspapers or notes.
- Watching television programmes.
- Preparing or planning for future class activities.
- Criticising and evaluating what is read seen or produced.
- Revising work.

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Heads of Faculty.

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