

Homework at Magdalen College School

Information for Parents and Carers: updated September 2019

This document is intended to provide you with information about: what we undertake to provide for your daughter/son; their responsibilities, and how you can support both your child and the school.

Why do we set homework?

The primary purpose of homework is to embed and consolidate learning from lessons. As students move up the school they will benefit from developing good study habits and the ability to revise and retain what they have learnt.

What do we set for homework?

This is not an exhaustive list but aims to give a flavour of the types of homework that are set:

- Learning / Memorisation: facts, information, quotations, formulae, new vocabulary
- Reading: around a subject; to prepare for a future lesson, to improve your understanding
- Reviewing and correcting mistakes in a piece of writing
- Correcting, practising and learning spellings identified in written tasks
- Redrafting and improving a sentence, paragraph or section of a written task
- Practising skills or activities: solving equations in Maths, or developing your accuracy in Art
- Reflecting on your learning: making corrections, setting targets for improvement, writing summary notes or creating a revision resource
- Online learning activities: quick quizzes or games to embed learning, short research tasks
- Watching video or film clips, listening to recordings of music
- Solving an extended problem using learning and skills from your lessons
- Organising notes and other learning resources to aid revision

How long should homework tasks take?

Every homework task will be set with information about the amount of time your daughter/son should take to complete the task. This is the *minimum amount of time* they should spend, ensuring that they produce excellent work and benefit from working hard at the tasks.

In Year 7 we are aiming to build up good habits of personal study and organisation. Each student should therefore have 5 hours and 20 minutes of directed homework per fortnight. Individual tasks will be set to last either 20, 30 or 40 minutes. The time for the task will be set by the teacher.

In Year 8 we are developing the habits of personal study and organisation with slightly more homework overall. Tasks will last 20, 30 or 40 minutes. The time for the task will be set by the teacher.

By Years 9, 10 and 11 students should have well-organised homework habits. Homework at this level may involve more complex or extended tasks. Tasks will last 20, 30 or 60 minutes. The time for the task will be set by the teacher.

What should I do if my child completes the work in less than the allotted time?

All learners benefit from hard work where high standards are expected. Any extra time should be used to read through and check answers or tasks. The bullet points below can help students to check through:

- Have you answered the question accurately?
- Is your spelling, punctuation and grammar correct?
- Can you add detail to an answer?
- Can you link what you have covered in this work to something you learnt earlier in the year?

Students should use their Green Pens to show where they have edited, drafted and improved their work.

If the work has been completed to an excellent standard and checked with some time to spare, please use the time to engage in one of the Independent Learning Approaches highlighted later in this guide.

What should I do if my child has not completed the work in the allotted time?

All learners benefit from hard work and not giving up when they encounter something challenging, or when a time limit has elapsed. Your daughter/son should continue working hard at the task for up to 50% more time than set. Therefore a 20 minute task may need up to another 10 minutes to complete to an excellent standard. All time guidance refers to time *dedicated* to just the homework, undisturbed by other activities.

If your daughter/son has worked hard for the allotted time plus 50% and the task is still incomplete please note this on their work or in their planner. Your daughter/son should make sure their teacher is aware of the note so that they can follow-up with them.

How will I know what homework is set for my child?

Homework is set by teachers in lessons. It is the responsibility of every student to record their homework accurately in their planner. Teachers will record the homework set on Go4Schools. This will be set in line with the homework timetable for each child, which will be recorded in their planner.

Some subjects may give students a number of homework tasks to be completed over a series of weeks or a term. Teachers will still 'set' the homework in lessons to remind students of the need to complete the task on schedule.

You can support your daughter/son by helping them check their planner and using Go4Schools to make sure they complete all set tasks.

What feedback will my child get on their homework?

Teachers will check homework *completion* through:

- Mini test scores
- Online learning records
- Parental signatures in planners
- Evidence in student books
- Physical evidence of homework – for example a revision resource, or artefact used in the lesson

In many cases the assessment of how well a task has been completed will come from in-class tasks where the learning is tested or applied. The homework itself may not therefore be formally assessed. However, on occasions, a piece of more extended homework might receive more detailed feedback.

Teachers will keep records of homework completion alongside their records of progress. These records will provide evidence when teachers are completing tracking data which is sent home to parents and carers.

Rewards for completing homework to an excellent standard and sanction for incomplete or below-standard homework will be issued in line with the relevant school policies, and recorded on Go4Schools.

What else could my child do if they want to do more homework?

We are happy to encourage students to push themselves and extend their own learning. Where homework has all been completed to an excellent level within the time guidance (allotted time + 50%), students are encouraged to read widely both fiction and non-fiction, and the printed press.

In addition to this we subscribe to a range of online resource packages which support learning at home and in school. These are used for setting some subject specific homework but are also available to students to consolidate further aspects of their learning.

Where homework, or additional resources, are provided on these platforms class teachers will ensure that students have log-in details recorded in their planners.

How much homework should my child be set?

The amount of homework to be set is arranged by time per subject per fortnight. This may be one or more tasks per subject per fortnight.

Year Seven

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Art	Drama	Music	Geography	History	RE	Computing	Technology	Languages
Total minutes per 14nt	40	40	60	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	40

This makes a total of 5 hours and 40 minutes homework per fortnight.

Year Eight

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Art	Drama	Music	History	Geography	RE	Computing	Technology	Languages
Total minutes per 14nt	50	50	60	20	20	20	30	30	30	20	20	40

This makes a total of 6 hours and 30 minutes per fortnight

Year Nine

Subject	English	Maths	Science	RE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Total minutes per 14nt	75	75	90	60	60	60	60	60

This makes a total of 9 hours per fortnight

Year Ten and Eleven

Subject	English	Maths	Science	RE	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Total minutes per 14nt	90	90	120	60	60	60	60	60

This makes a total of 10 hours per fortnight

Year Eleven only

In this year there is a raised expectation that students are also building in revision for themselves. Students should complete 1 hour of additional revision for each subject each fortnight – 10 additional hours. Students may find it most effective to do 1 subject per hour in the Autumn Term, before moving to 2 blocks of 30 minutes, or 3 blocks of 20 minutes through the Spring term.

We recommend that students use the strategies for revision that are shared in class; and explained here: www.learningscientists.org

Sixth Form

Students in Years 12 and 13 have homework set for completion out of school and during their Private Study time. Students should expect to be set 5 hours of out-of-class work per fortnight for each A level they are studying. Students taking the Extended Project Qualification should be working for a further 2 hours a fortnight on that.

Questions and Queries

We appreciate your support and partnership in working with your daughter/son on their homework. If you have any homework-related enquiries, please direct them as shown below:

- A question about a specific homework task: please contact the class teacher
- A question about a number of homework tasks in one subject: please contact the appropriate Head of Faculty
- A question about the homework being set across a number of subjects: please contact your daughter/son's Form Tutor or Leader of Learning
- If you are unsure where to direct your question please contact:
generalenquiries@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

Staff contact email addresses can be found from the school website under Staff List.

Tom Hollis

Deputy Headteacher

September 2019

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL
Homework Policy – Updated Sept 2019

Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To embed and consolidate learning from lessons • To support learning and progress • To develop memorisation, revision, retention and recall of information • To engage parents/carers in learning
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure routine of personal study and consolidation of learning is followed • To ensure SOL have suggested homework tasks a and workload for staff is manageable • To support and structure the acquisition and recall of knowledge as students move through the school • To use homework to prepare students for ongoing and summative assessments
Stakeholders	Teachers, students, parents, class teachers, Heads of Faculty, Leaders of Learning, Leadership Group, Governors, Learning support assistants
Responsibilities of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet all deadlines • To spend at least the expected time on tasks • To work hard and aim for excellence • To record tasks and deadlines in student planners
Responsibilities of Class teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set tasks according to school schedule, and record these on Go4Schools • To set tasks in line with SOL • To ensure that homework has a positive impact on students' progress and achievement and consolidates learning • To ensure all homework tasks are marked (see relevant policy) • To keep a record of all homework set for each teaching group student completion of tasks and their quality • To ensure students record details of homework in planners • To follow up homework not completed, recording on Go4Schools and taking appropriate action
Learning Support Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support students to record homework • To work with class teacher/LS Faculty to ensure homework tasks are modified if necessary to meet students' needs .
Responsibilities of Heads of Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all staff are setting, marking and following up homework according to this policy • To ensure that homework has a positive impact on students' progress and achievement and consolidates learning • To ensure examples of tasks are incorporated in Schemes of Learning • To facilitate sharing of best practice • To monitor policy through work scrutiny and records on Go4Schools
Responsibility of form tutors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce importance of homework to tutees and encourage them to discuss and share progress and concerns • To support the development of time management skills • To pass concerns raised by parents to relevant staff • To pass on any subject concerns to LOL • To sign planners weekly in order to monitor the recording and frequency of homework • To work with students and parents to identify and support students who have issues with homework to effect improvement

Responsibility of Leaders of Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce importance of homework through assemblies and conversations with students and parents • To liaise with Heads of Faculty over any concerns • To support form tutors in establishing effective homework monitoring practices within year group • To monitor policy through work, planner and Go4Schools scrutiny
Responsibility of Senior Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that homework has a positive impact on students' progress and achievement and consolidates learning • To monitor policy through work, planner and Go4Schools scrutiny
Responsibility of Governing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that homework has a positive impact on students' progress and achievement and consolidates learning
Supporting documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and Learning Policy • Marking & Feedback Policy • Homework at MCS – Parent and Carers Guide
Review date	June 2020