

Gillingham School Home Learning Policy - Summary For Parents (Years 9, 10 & 11)

If you are concerned about your child's homework, please contact their tutor in the first instance.

Why is homework important?

Not only does homework reinforce and support classroom learning, it also helps develop the independence and self-discipline necessary for life-long success.

When will homework be set?

Please see the published homework timetables for Years 9-11.

How much homework will be set and when will it be due in?

Teachers would not normally ask for homework to be in for the next day, so your child will usually be given a minimum of 48 hours, and often longer, to complete work set. This enables them to plan their homework around any other activities and weekly commitments. The school does not want homework to interfere with other educational, social, religious or family activities. Indeed we value students' participation in sporting activities, theatrical performances and the countless other activities that pupils are involved in out of school. Your child should spend up to one hour on each subject set and the total could be up to two hours per evening. Understandably, these times may increase when students are revising for external examinations.

It is the student's responsibility to record any homework set, and the deadline, in their homework diary/planner.

It is expected that as students progress through Years 9, 10 and 11 they will display greater self-motivation in taking responsibility for their own learning. Planning their time effectively will be essential if they are to fulfill their potential, particularly in the run up to examinations.

How can parents help?

You may feel that it is sometimes difficult to help your son and daughter with their homework. However, showing that you care and taking interest, is perhaps the greatest help you can give. Please can you check your child's diary as often as possible and sign it each week? The homework diary is an important means of communication between the school and parents. Tutors will check your sons/daughters diary at least once a week. The diary should be kept tidy and free from graffiti.

Why might homework not be set?

Reasons why homework might not be set include: if a teacher is absent from school, if your child has been on a school trip or during preparation for examinations to enable students to plan their revision sessions. If you have any queries about the frequency or amount of homework set, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor.

What happens if homework is not completed on time?

We expect homework to be completed and to be handed in on time. This gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines and helps staff with their marking schedules. However, sometimes it is not possible to complete homework for a variety of legitimate reasons and we would ask that you write a note in your child's diary if this is the case. If homework is not completed without a valid reason, sanctions will be put in place.

Once again, may we thank you for your support; it is this positive working relationship between parents and teachers which benefits our children's education, progress and future prospects.