

Gillingham School Home Learning - Information For Parents (Years 7 & 8)

The new GCSE exams rely on students retaining a large breadth of prescribed knowledge. Alongside this is the need to embed a range of examination skills which take time to master as students progress through school. Year 7 and 8 home learning will focus on encouraging and developing the necessary learning habits that will help students learn, and commit to memory, key knowledge and skills over time. Students will therefore always have home learning that they should be doing which should take no more than one hour per night. Students will be taught, over time, how to revise efficiently and effectively in each subject area.

- Students are expected to regularly revise the content from their lessons to consolidate their knowledge and understanding. Teachers will test whether they have been effectively reviewing their work, and committing classroom learning to memory, through regular low stakes tests and quizzes in class.
- In many subjects students will be set home learning around identified key assignments that will enable them to develop and embed key skills.
- In Maths there will be identified and specific weekly home learning set using the Hegarty Maths interactive website.
- Students should be reading for pleasure outside of school to develop their range of vocabulary and to encourage a love of learning. They should also be encouraged to read around the topics being covered in lessons to broaden their knowledge and understanding.
- We would encourage a breadth of home learning which might include visits to museums, galleries, concerts, theatrical performances, representation in local sports teams, trips away from home and other valuable educational opportunities.
- Students should also spend some time each day listening to and reading the news to make links with lessons in school.
- They should also start to be inquisitive about future careers and progression pathways by exploring the UNIFROG website (<https://www.unifrog.org>).

There are a range of excellent resources available to assist students with their home learning. These include: GCSEPod (<https://www.gcsepod.com>), BBC Newsround (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>), memorise, GCSE Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jimp3>), Corbett Maths (<https://corbettmaths.com/>), our school website (<https://www.gillingham-dorset.co.uk/>).

Students will record that a home learning assignment has been set and its due date in their diaries. More detailed instructions will be provided by the teacher via the assignment function on Microsoft Teams. It is hoped that this will further improve communication of home learning details between school and home.

Students in Year 8 are already familiar with the Microsoft Teams software. Students in Year 7 and those that are new to the school will be introduced to Microsoft Teams within the first few weeks of term.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's home learning (including any issues with accessing Microsoft Teams), please contact their tutor in the first instance.

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.