

Sanders' Home Learning Policy - Updated January 2018

Evidence shows that the completion of homework has a measurable, positive impact on the progress of students. Students who get in the habit of completing homework on a daily basis make on average of an additional 5-8 months progress.

Home Learning is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education.

The Purpose of Home Learning

Effective home learning enables students to:

- Develop their research skills
- Foster good habits of personal organisation, responsibility and time management
- Develop and reinforce their knowledge and understanding of topics and skills investigated within lesson time
- Provide students with additional opportunities to develop their creativity
- Engage parents in their child's education

The Expectations of Home Learning at Sanders

- Homework should be issued on a regular basis – on average, once every 3-4 lessons.
- Homework should visibly impact on progress within lessons.
- The setting of homework should be an integral part of the lesson, and set up within the lesson.
- Homework should only be issued when it is relevant – never “for the sake of it” – students should be able to explain relevance when asked.
- All homework must be placed on Show My Homework (SMH), with clear instructions.
- An appropriate amount of time should be left between homework being issued and due, to enable students to ask their teacher for support when required. Teachers and students to use the message facility on SMH.
- All homework should be reflected upon within feedback.
- Homework in Year 11 should be exam focused – revision activities and/or exam questions.
- Homework should be to consolidate learning from a lesson, or to prepare for next lesson (e.g. pre-annotate an extract)
- Teachers to consider how varied techniques can be incorporated within the homework.

The Role of Students

All students are expected to complete their homework tasks to the best of their ability and submit this to their teacher by the deadline.

Students are to ensure they understand each homework task before they begin each task. If they are unsure of the expectations of a homework task, they will actively ask their teacher for clarification.

According to recommendations from the Department of Education, students should be spending the following length of time on their home learning:

Years 7 + 8: from 4 hours per week

Year 9: from 5 hours per week

Years 10 +11: from 7.5 hours per week

The Role of Parents

Parents can support their child in the completion of their home learning activities by:

- Encourage your child to get into a regular pattern of study when they return home.
- Encourage the completion of home learning when it is set and to manage their time effectively so as to avoid the build-up of tasks, which may have the same deadline.
- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which students can complete their home learning at home. If this is not possible, encourage your child to use the Bronte Centre to complete their home learning.
- Encourage students to make the most of resources available at the school to support their extension work outside of the classroom.
- Make it explicit to students that, as parents, you value home learning and support the school's policy on this.
- Encourage students to proof read their homework to make any necessary improvements and praise them when they have completed their homework to the best of their ability.
- Check the Show My Homework website on a regular basis to support your child in meeting the deadlines that they are set.

School Facilities available to support Home Learning

Your child's subject teacher is the first port of call to offer support for any home learning tasks.

The following are also available within the school to support students with the completion of their home learning:

- Homework Club in the Bronte Centre from 08.00 to 08.30 and 15.10 to 16.00 each day which is organised by the Learning Support Team
- Computer Rooms, by prior arrangement with a relevant member of staff.