

HERON HALL ACADEMY

Homework Policy (Updated 2026)

1. Rationale

Homework is an integral component of the curriculum at Heron Hall Academy. It is used to consolidate, practise and extend subject knowledge beyond the classroom. When carefully planned and aligned to curriculum intent, homework strengthens long-term retention, supports the development of independent study habits, promotes retrieval practice, and prepares students effectively for assessment and examination.

Homework forms part of the planned learning sequence within each subject. All students are expected to engage with homework as a core element of their academic development.

The Academy is committed to ensuring that homework is purposeful, manageable and supportive of high-quality learning, while maintaining an appropriate balance with family life, enrichment activities and student wellbeing.

2. Principles

- Be clearly linked to curriculum content.
- Support knowledge retention and skill development.
- Promote independent study habits and organisation.
- Be proportionate and manageable.
- Be distributed across the week to avoid overload.
- Be communicated consistently.
- Be monitored appropriately.
- Take account of student wellbeing and access to resources.

The quality and purpose of homework take precedence over volume.

3. Time Expectations

Years 7–8: 50–60 minutes per evening.

Years 9–10: 70–90 minutes per evening.

Year 11: 100–120 minutes per evening.

Years 12–13: 2–3 hours per school day (including Independent Study lessons).

These timings reflect the increasing academic demands of GCSE and A Level study and are intended as a general guide to support effective study habits.

Some variation may occur depending on curriculum demands, project-based work and examination preparation. However, these guidelines should not routinely be exceeded.

Students must be given a minimum of five school days' notice for completion unless exceptional circumstances apply.

Where students are regularly spending significantly longer than the guidance suggests, workload will be reviewed and support provided where appropriate.

4. Setting and Communication

Weekly Homework Structure

Each subject has a designated weekly homework setting day in order to support balance across the curriculum. Homework is distributed across the week to ensure students are not overloaded on any one evening.

Homework is set every week for all year groups unless curriculum design requires an alternative structure.

Monday – Science, History

Tuesday – English, Geography

Wednesday – Maths, MFL

Thursday – RE, Computer Science

Friday – Options / Creative Subjects (Art, Music, Drama, PE, DT)

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is the Academy's central platform for homework communication and signposting.

All homework must be recorded on Google Classroom, including clear instructions, deadlines, required resources and links to external platforms where relevant.

Students and parents should regard Google Classroom as the single reference point for homework information.

Departments retain autonomy to use subject-appropriate platforms where these enhance learning (for example, Sparx Maths, Seneca, booklets or other specialist tools). In such cases, full details must be clearly signposted on Google Classroom and completion must be monitored by the class teacher.

In creative and practical subjects, homework may at times take the form of a longer project-based task extending across a half term where this is educationally appropriate.

5. Completion and Follow-Up

Teachers will check homework regularly.

If homework is not completed:

1. The teacher will first check that the student had appropriate access to the task and required resources.
2. Support will be provided where needed.
3. If appropriate, the school's standard follow-up procedures will then apply.

The Academy's approach prioritises securing learning and developing responsibility, while ensuring appropriate support is in place.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Subject Leaders

Subject Leaders are responsible for ensuring that homework within their department is coherent, purposeful and aligned with curriculum sequencing. They will quality assure homework regularly and ensure compliance with this policy.

Classroom Teachers

Teachers are responsible for setting homework in line with departmental planning and the published schedule; recording all homework clearly on Google Classroom; ensuring deadlines are appropriate; monitoring completion; checking access before applying follow-up procedures; and providing support where required.

Students

Students are expected to check Google Classroom regularly, meet all deadlines, complete homework to the best of their ability, seek clarification promptly where required, and develop effective routines and independent study habits.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting students to develop effective homework habits. The Academy encourages parents and carers to:

- Provide a quiet, well-lit and calm space for study.
- Establish a consistent homework routine.
- Minimise distractions, including mobile phones and television.
- Encourage planning, organisation and meeting deadlines.
- Check Google Classroom regularly.
- Contact the school where concerns arise regarding workload, access to resources or wellbeing.

Constructive feedback is welcomed and will inform ongoing review.

7. Monitoring and Review

The implementation and impact of this policy will be reviewed through line management and departmental review processes.

The policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required, to ensure it remains effective, balanced and aligned with whole-school priorities.