

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Updated Homework Guidance at Heron Hall Academy

Homework plays an important role in supporting students' academic success and long-term progress. When designed carefully, it helps students consolidate learning, develop independent study habits, strengthen long-term memory through retrieval practice, and build the resilience and organisation required for examination success and further study.

Following a review of our current practice, we are refining our homework approach to ensure greater consistency, clarity and balance for students across all year groups. Our aim is to make homework purposeful, manageable and supportive of high-quality learning, while maintaining a healthy balance with family life, enrichment activities and student wellbeing.

We recognise that every student is different, and we want homework to be both challenging and achievable.

How Will Homework Work?

Google Classroom

Google Classroom will act as the central platform for homework communication and signposting. All homework information, including instructions, deadlines and links will be recorded there so that students and families know exactly where to look.

In some cases, the task itself may be completed on a subject-specific platform that best supports learning. This may include platforms such as Sparx Maths, Seneca, booklets, or other subject-appropriate tools. While subjects may use different platforms, Google Classroom will always remain the single reference point for key information, so families do not need to search across multiple systems.

We will no longer be using Satchel One to signpost homework.

Homework Structure

- Each subject will have a scheduled weekly homework setting day (see schedule below).
- Students will receive at least five days' notice for completion.

- Homework will be distributed across the week to ensure students are not overloaded on any one evening.
- Teachers will check homework regularly.
- If homework is not completed, we will follow up with the student to ensure the work is completed and to provide support where needed. Before any further steps are taken, we will check that the student has had appropriate access to the task and required resources.
- In creative and practical subjects, homework may sometimes take the form of a longer project-based task, which may run across a half term rather than being set weekly.

Our focus is on securing learning and developing responsibility, while ensuring appropriate support is in place.

Homework Setting Schedule

Day	Subjects Setting Homework
Monday	Science, History
Tuesday	English, Geography
Wednesday	Maths, MFL
Thursday	RE, Computer Science
Friday	Options / Creative Subjects (Art, Music, Drama, PE, DT)

Expected Homework Time Per Evening*

The guidance below outlines the typical total amount of homework students should expect across an average evening.

Year Group	Expected Time
Years 7–8	50–60 minutes (e.g. 2 × 25–30 minute tasks)
Years 9–10	70–90 minutes (e.g. 2 × 35–45 minute tasks)
Year 11	100–120 minutes (e.g. 2 × 50–60 minute tasks)
Years 12–13	2–3 hours per school day (including Independent Study lessons)

*These timings reflect the increasing 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.

If students are regularly spending significantly longer than the guidance suggests, we encourage families to contact the school so that workload can be reviewed and support provided where appropriate. We are committed to ensuring that homework supports learning without compromising students' wellbeing.

How Parents and Carers Can Support

Parents and carers can support their child by encouraging the development of a regular homework routine, providing a quiet space for study where possible, and checking Google Classroom regularly for updates.

If you have any concerns about homework, workload, access to resources or your child's wellbeing, please contact your child's form tutor or subject teacher. We welcome constructive feedback and will continue to review the impact of this approach over time.

We are confident that this refined structure will promote independence, strengthen learning and provide clarity for students and families alike.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

David Maytham

Interim Headteacher