



Birchwood High School Home Learning Policy

At Birchwood, we place strong emphasis upon the importance of home learning throughout all years within the school. We see home learning as a vital part of the pupils' learning experience, enhancing attainment and ensuring that strong foundations are laid within early stages of the curriculum to aid progression and development into certificated courses and beyond. Home learning is seen as an important way in which student achievement can be raised.

The underlying principles of the Birchwood High home learning policy are to:

- enable students to understand that *independent learning* is vital to achieving success;
- give every student the opportunity to develop their knowledge, creativity and resourcefulness through *perseverance*;
- instil in all students the *importance of life-long learning*;
- provide training for students in *planning and time management*;
- promote *responsibility* for learning within each student;
- promote *self-esteem* through regular accomplishments, which aids students' mental and physical health;
- promote consistency across the school to ensure that teachers and pupils are aware of what is expected of them;
- engage parents in the home learning process.

Our aims

We believe in offering our students a broad and balanced curriculum that will enhance their skills and prepare them for work beyond school. Home learning is not restricted to certain subject areas and must reflect the breadth and balance of the curriculum.

At Birchwood, we aim to provide:

- home learning that is easily accessible through our online platform;
- home learning that is carefully planned and which deepens or develops class work: it is not seen as a dispensable extra;
- home learning that matches the needs and abilities of students;
- home learning that promotes opportunities for consolidation and extension;
- home learning that is related to current work and where possible, is stimulating and challenging;
- home learning opportunities that are issued to all year groups and in all subjects;
- feedback on home learning that is constructive; pupils should receive recognition for their effort and work well done.

Home learning may include activities such as:

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- consolidation exercise e.g. maths, including memorisation of tables;
- practising for mastery e.g. spelling words or building vocabulary;
- revising information about a current topic;
- practising words or phrases learned in a language other than English;
- reading for pleasure;
- essay writing.

Preparatory home learning – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading;
- Reading e.g. an English text for class discussion;
- Researching topics for a class unit of work;
- Collecting items e.g. geometric shapes.

Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- writing e.g. a book review;
- making or designing something e.g. art work;
- investigations e.g. science, social science;
- researching e.g. history, local news;
- information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the internet;
- monitoring e.g. advertising in particular newspapers.

The school, however, will have regard for equity issues when setting home learning that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged. Home learning support sessions are offered after school in the library or in our Personalised Learning Centre.

Please note that some students may be offered a reasonable adjustment or alternative to their Home Learning provision in response to their significant learning difficulties. This will be coordinated by the SENCO.

Students' role

Students will be encouraged to recognise the value of home learning, and made fully aware of its capacity to improve their learning. Students should seek appropriate support from their teacher and ask questions to ensure that they are able to complete tasks set for home learning in good time and certainly before the due date.

Students are responsible for completion of home learning to the best of their ability and on time. It is the student's responsibility to catch up with home learning missed due to absence. All home learning tasks should be accessed on the home learning area of our school website.

Students must record all home learning tasks in their planner. They must clearly label home learning as such and they must respond to comments on their home learning tasks in order to demonstrate their subsequent learning – for example, that they have learned from a mistake, added or considered a point more deeply.

Students who do not complete their home learning should expect to receive a sanction in line with the Choices and Consequences chart outlined in the Behaviour Policy.

Parent/Carer's role

At Birchwood, we recognise that parental involvement in home learning has a powerful influence on achievement. Parents/ carers can help students succeed with home learning by providing clear messages about the importance of home learning, such as:

- *Home learning is an important part of school:* parents/carers should expect students to complete home learning and hand it in when it is due. Holding students accountable for home learning builds responsibility and time management skills. Parents/carers should support the school behaviour system when their child has failed to meet expectations around home learning.
- *Parental support will be provided as needed.* Students are less likely to become discouraged or frustrated when parents/carers offer encouragement and assure them that help is available when they get stuck. For some students, it is helpful just to have a parent/carers nearby while they work.

- *Parents/carers will not do home learning for their students.* This message lets students know that the parent/carer role is to encourage and to help them get unstuck, while at the same time communicating that home learning is designed to help students to master skills that parents/carers may have already attained.

Subject Teachers' role

Teachers are responsible for setting, recording, marking and returning home learning. Teachers are also responsible for ensuring that home learning tasks are available on the school's online platform. Home learning should be issued in appropriate quantities and frequency, as agreed on the timetable. Completion dates should be both clear and reasonable, taking account of home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. Tasks are best set during the lesson rather than at the end, so there is enough time for all students to record the task accurately and to ask questions to clarify what they have to do. Teachers must ensure that students are adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set.

Feedback on home learning is a crucial aspect of learning and can take many forms. It is not always appropriate for all home learning tasks to be marked by the teacher but there should always be some appropriate feedback. Some home learning may be peer assessed to enhance pupil understanding and encourage discussion. Teachers must allow students time to respond to home learning marking comments as part of the assessment process – this is best done at the start of the lesson where home learning is returned. Tasks should be differentiated where necessary and a variety of tasks should be set over time to develop different skills.

Teachers should follow up defaulters, using Choices and Consequences Chart, setting detention and contacting parents/carers as appropriate. Teachers should use their professional judgement in pursuing instances of persistent non-compliance and consult with their HOF and/or Heads of Year and a C3 sanction will be issued as appropriate. Parents/carers will be informed of non-completion of home learning.

Form Tutors' role

Students should be encouraged to plan their approach to completing home learning across each week, to ensure that their workload is as evenly spread as possible. Form tutors must ensure every student has the home learning timetable recorded in their planner and that they write in, advance, which subjects are due to set home learning each day in their planner.

It is also the Form Tutor's responsibility to monitor home learning indicators in students' planners and on SIMS, and address any concerns, liaising with their Head of Year.

Home Learning Subject Overview

Expectations for Home Learning

Year 7	60 minutes per day (30 minutes per subject)
Year 8	80 minutes per day (40 minutes per subject)
Year 9	90 minutes per day (45 minutes per subject)
Year 10, 11	120 minutes per day (60 minutes per subject)
6 th Form	180 minutes per day (approx. 3-4 hours per subject per week)

	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12/13
Eng	2 lessons of Bedrock per week	1 per week	1 per week			
Maths	Preparation for fortnightly	Preparation for fortnightly	Preparation for fortnightly	Preparation for fortnightly	Preparation for fortnightly	Min1 per week

	CA	CA	CA	CA	CA	
Sci	1 per 4 weeks (revision booklet)	1 per week per teacher				
Art	1 per half term (extended)	1 per half term (extended)	1 per week	1 per week	1 per week	1 per week
Drama	1 per half term (extended)	1 per half term (extended)	2 per half term	2 per half term	1 per week	1 per week
Music	1 per fortnight	1 per fortnight	1 per week	1 per week	1 per week	1 per week
MFL	1 per week	2 per week				
Hist	1 per fortnight	Min 1 per week				
Geog	1 per fortnight	1 per lesson				
RS	1 per fortnight	1 per week from each teacher				
Design & Technology	1 per fortnight	1 per fortnight	1 per fortnight	1 per fortnight per option block	1 per fortnight per option block	1 per week
Dance			2 per half term	1 per fortnight	1 per week	1 per week
PE			1 per week	1 per week	1 per week	A Level /BTEC 1 per lesson
Film Studies/Media Studies			1 per fortnight	1 per week	1 per week	1 per week
Health and Social Care			1 per fortnight	1 per fortnight	1 per fortnight	1 per week
Business						1 per lesson
Economics						1 per week
Financial Studies						1 per lesson
IT						1 per week
Politics						1 per week
Psychology						1 per week
Sociology						1 per week

For subject detail please see Appendix A

Appendix A

Home Learning Timetable 2018/2019



Birchwood High School

your dreams, your future, our challenge

Key Stage 3

Year 7 Home Learning Timetable 2018 / 2019

Day	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Monday		
Tuesday	7y MFL Music	
Wednesday	7x MFL	7x D&T 7y MFL
Thursday		7y D&T 7x MFL
Friday		

Year 7 English	Students are required to complete two Bedrock learning lessons, at least 48hrs apart, per week at: https://portal.bedrocklearning.org/ . Occasionally, they may be set additional HL by their teacher.
Year 7 Maths	Students in all sets are expected to use home learning time to undertake personal preparation for their next controlled assessment in class. You should be aware of this expectation and you will be given advance warning of when these controlled assessments will take place so you can prepare.
Year 7 Science	In Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students are required to complete a booklet of revision resources over a period of 4 weeks in preparation for their Controlled Assessments at the end of the four week period. Advance warning will be given to the students regarding any forthcoming assessments and so home learning time should be used in preparation for the end of topic assessments.
Year 7 Drama/Art	One extended piece per half term
Year 7 History/Geography/RS	Once per fortnight

Year 8 Home Learning Timetable 2018 / 2019

Day	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Monday	Music	
Tuesday	8y MFL	8y MFL 8x MFL
Wednesday	8x MFL	
Thursday		8x D&T 8y D&T
Friday		

Year 8 English	Students are required to complete two Bedrock learning lessons, at least 48hrs apart, per week at: https://portal.bedrocklearning.org/ . Occasionally, they may be set additional HL by their teacher.
Year 8 Maths	Students in all sets are expected to use home learning time to undertake personal preparation for their next controlled assessment in class. You should be aware of this expectation and you will be given advance warning of when these controlled assessments will take place so you can prepare.
Year 8 Science	In Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students are required to complete a booklet of revision resources over a period of 4 weeks in preparation for their Controlled Assessments at the end of the four week period. Advance warning will be given to the students regarding any forthcoming assessments and so home learning time should be used in preparation for the end of topic assessments.
Year 8 Geography/History/RS	Once per fortnight
Year 8 Art/Drama	One extended piece each half term

Key Stage 4

Year 9 Home Learning Timetable 2018 / 2019

Day	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Monday	9C D&T 9C PE (RNT) MFL Option C (French/Spanish)	MFL Option C (French/Spanish) 9A PE (CSO) 9C PE (RNT)
Tuesday	9A D&T 9A PE (CTE) MFL Option A (German)	Health & Social Care MFL Option A (German)
Wednesday	Music	
Thursday	9B D&T 9D D&T 9B PE (ARE) MFL Option D (French)	MFL Option D (French) 9B PE (ARE) Music
Friday		

Year 9 English	Students are required to complete two Bedrock learning lessons, at least 48hrs apart, per week at: https://portal.bedrocklearning.org/ . Occasionally, they may be set additional HL by their teacher.
Year 9 Maths	Students in all sets are expected to use home learning time to undertake personal preparation for their next controlled assessment in class. You should be aware of this expectation and you will be given advance warning of when these controlled assessments will take place so you can prepare.
Year 9 Science	In Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students are required to complete a booklet of revision resources over a period of 4 weeks in preparation for their Controlled Assessments at the end of the four week period. Advance warning will be given to the students regarding any forthcoming assessments and so home learning time should be used in preparation for the end of topic assessments.
Year 9 History/Geography/RS	One piece per fortnight minimum
Year 9 Drama/Dance	Two extended pieces each half term
Year 9 Art	One piece per week
Year 9 Business/ICT/Construction	One piece per fortnight

Year 10 Home Learning Timetable 2018 / 2019

Day	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Monday	10B D&T	Dance
Tuesday	Health and social care 10D D&T Music	Music
Wednesday	10D PE (ITE)	10D PE (ITE)
Thursday	10A D&T 10C D&T MFL Option A (French) MFL Option C (German) 10A PE (DJS)	MFL Option A (French) MFL Option C (German) 10A PE (DJS)
Friday	MFL Option B (French/Spanish) 10B PE (LPT)	MFL Option B (French/Spanish) 10B PE (LPT)

Year 10 English	Students are required to complete two Bedrock learning lessons, at least 48hrs apart, per week at: https://portal.bedrocklearning.org/ . Occasionally, they may be set additional HL by their teacher.
Year 10 Maths	Students in all sets are expected to use home learning time to undertake personal preparation for their next controlled assessment in class. You should be aware of this expectation and you will be given advance warning of when these controlled assessments will take place so you can prepare.
Year 10 Science	In Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students are required to complete a booklet of revision resources over a period of 4 weeks in preparation for their Controlled Assessments at the end of the four week period. Advance warning will be given to the students regarding any forthcoming assessments and so home learning time should be used in preparation for the end of topic assessments.
Year 10 History/Geography/RS	One piece per fortnight minimum
Year 10 Art	Once piece per week
Year 10 Drama	Two extended pieces per half-term
Year 10 Business/ICT/Construction	One piece per fortnight

Year 11 Home Learning Timetable 2018 / 2019

Day	WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Monday	11D D&T 11B PE (ABT) Drama	Drama
Tuesday	11D PE (GPE)	11D PE (GPE)
Wednesday	Dance 11A D&T 11C D&T MFL Option A (French/Spanish/German)	Dance Music MFL Option A (French/Spanish/German) 11B PE (ABT)
Thursday	11B D&T MFL Option B (French) Music	MFL Option B (French)
Friday	Health and Social Care MFL Option C (French) 11A PE (JCT)	MFL Option C (French) 11A PE (JCT)

Year 11 English	Students are expected to use HL time to undertake personal revision for their exams. They will be provided with booklets of revision resources for this purpose.
Year 11 Maths	Students in all sets are expected to use home learning time to undertake personal preparation for their next controlled assessment in class. You should be aware of this expectation and you will be given advance warning of when these controlled assessments will take place so you can prepare.
Year 11 Science	In Biology, Chemistry and Physics, students are required to complete a booklet of revision resources over a period of 4 weeks in preparation for their Controlled Assessments at the end of the four week period. Advance warning will be given to the students regarding any forthcoming assessments and so home learning time should be used in preparation for the end of topic assessments.
Year 11 History/Geography/RS	One piece per fortnight minimum
Year 11 Art	Once piece per week
Year 11 Business/ICT/Construction	One piece per fortnight

Sixth Form

Students should be provided with home learning that deepens their understanding of their subject. They should expect this every lesson, in one form or another. A timetable as laid out for other year groups is less appropriate given the nature of the work but the subject teacher should ensure that home learning is regular, meaningful and that the same expectations for completion are adhered to as in other years. Students should expect to receive 3 to 4 hours per week per subject.

Sixth Form

Students should be provided with home learning that deepens their understanding of their subject. They should expect this every lesson, in one form or another. A timetable as laid out for other year groups is less appropriate given the nature of the work but the subject teacher should ensure that homework is regular, meaningful and that the same expectations for completion are adhered to as in other years. Students should expect to receive 3 to 4 hours per week per subject.