



Birchwood High School Homework Policy

At Birchwood, we place strong emphasis upon the importance of homework throughout all years within the school. We see homework 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. Homework is seen as an important way in which student achievement can be raised.

The underlying principles of the Birchwood High homework 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 homework 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. Homework is not restricted to certain subject areas and must reflect the breadth and balance of the curriculum.

At Birchwood, we aim to provide:

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

Homework 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 homework – 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 homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged. Homework 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 Homework 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 homework, 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 homework in good time and certainly before the due date.

Students are responsible for completion of homework to the best of their ability and on time. It is the student's responsibility to catch up with homework missed due to absence. All homework tasks can be accessed on the homework area of our school website without a login.

Students who do not complete their homework 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 homework has a powerful influence on achievement. Parents/ carers can help students succeed with homework by providing clear messages about the importance of homework, such as:

- *Homework is an important part of school:* parents/carers should expect students to complete homework and hand it in when it is due. Holding students accountable for homework builds responsibility and time management skills. Parents/carers should support the school behaviour system when their child has failed to meet expectations around homework.
- *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/carer nearby while they work.
- *Parents/carers will not do homework 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 homework 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 homework. Teachers are also responsible for ensuring that homework tasks are available on the school's chosen online platform. Homework 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 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 homework is a crucial aspect of learning and can take many forms. It is not always appropriate for all homework tasks to be marked by the teacher but there should always be some appropriate feedback. Some homework may be peer assessed to enhance pupil understanding and encourage discussion. Teachers must allow students time to respond to homework marking comments as part of the assessment process – this is best done at the start of the lesson where homework 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 non completion of Homework by 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 homework.

Form Tutors' role

Students should be encouraged to plan their approach to completing homework across each week, to ensure that their workload is as evenly spread as possible. The personalised area of our chosen online platform can assist students with this.

It is also the Form Tutor's responsibility to monitor homework indicators on our online platform, and address any concerns, liaising with their Head of Year.

Homework Subject Overview

Expectations for Homework

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 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 | 2 lessons of Bedrock per week | 2 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week | 1 per week |
| Maths | Preparation for fortnightly CA | Preparation for fortnightly CA | Preparation for fortnightly CA | Preparation for fortnightly CA | Preparation for fortnightly CA | Min1 per week |
| Sci | 1 per 4 weeks (revision booklet) | 1 per 4 weeks (revision booklet) | 1 per 4 weeks (revision booklet) | 1 per 4 weeks (revision booklet) | 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 | 1 per week | 1 per week | 1 per week | 1 per week | 2 per week |
| Hist | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | Min 1 per week |
| Geog | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per lesson |
| RS | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 1 per fortnight | 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



Birchwood High School
your dreams, your future, our challenge

Home Learning Timetable 2019/2020

Year 7 Home Learning Timetable 2019 / 2020

| Day | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 |
|-----------|--------|-------------------|
| Monday | | |
| Tuesday | 7y MFL | |
| Wednesday | | 7y Tech |
| Thursday | | 7x Tech 7y MFL |
| Friday | 7x MFL | 7x MFL |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 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 Science, pupils will receive homework from each teacher equating to one piece per week. The type of homework will vary from examination style questions to research tasks. All homework will be verbally given to students as well as uploaded to <i>Show My Homework</i> in line with the school policy. 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 Art | Two extended pieces per half term |
| Year 7 Drama/Music | One extended piece per half term |
| Year 7 History/Geography/RS | Once per fortnight |
| Year 7 Technology | Students rotate between the 5 different Technology subject areas across the whole year. There will be two subject-specific HL tasks per rotation. |

Year 8 Home Learning Timetable 2019 / 2020

| Day | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 |
|-----------|--------|--------------------|
| Monday | | 8x Tech 8y Tech |
| Tuesday | 8x MFL | |
| Wednesday | 8y MFL | 8y MFL 8x MFL |
| Thursday | | |
| 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 Science, pupils will receive homework from each teacher equating to one piece per week. The type of homework will vary from examination style questions to research tasks. All homework will be verbally given to students as well as uploaded to Show My Homework in line with the school policy. 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 7 Art | Two extended pieces per half term |
| Year 8 Drama/Music | One extended piece each half term |
| Year 8 Technology | Students rotate between the 5 different Technology subject areas across the whole year. There will be two subject-specific HL tasks per rotation. |

Year 9 Home Learning Timetable 2019 / 2020

| Day | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 |
|------------------|---|--|
| Monday | 9B Tech Music 9A PE (ABT) 9B PE (JCT) MFL Option B (French) | Music MFL Option B (French) 9A PE (ABT) 9B PE (JCT) |
| Tuesday | 9A Tech Dance | Dance |
| Wednesday | 9D Tech MFL Option D (French/German/Spanish) | MFL Option D (French/German/Spanish) |
| Thursday | 9C Tech | |
| Friday | | |

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Year 9 English | Students will be set HL that builds on the work they are completing in lessons. They will be set a range of tasks to develop the skills necessary for English at GCSE. |
| 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 Science, pupils will receive homework from each teacher equating to one piece per week. The type of homework will vary from examination style questions to research tasks. All homework will be verbally given to students as well as uploaded to <i>Show My Homework</i> in line with the school policy. 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 | Two extended pieces each half term |
| Year 9 Art/Dance | One piece per week |
| Year 9 Media | One piece per week |
| Year 9 PE | One piece per week |

Year 10 Home Learning Timetable 2019 / 2020

| Day | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 |
|------------------|--|--|
| Monday | 10A Tech 10C Tech MFL Option C (French/Spanish) 10A PE (CSO) | Dance MFL Option C (French/Spanish) 10A PE (CTE) |
| Tuesday | 10B Tech Health and Social Care Music MFL Option A (German) 10C PE (RNT) | MFL Option A (German) 10C PE (RNT) Music |
| Wednesday | 10B PE (ARE) Dance | 10B PE (ARE) Dance |
| Thursday | 10D Tech MFL Option D (French) | MFL Option D (French) |
| Friday | | |

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| Year 10 English | Students will be set a range of HL tasks to consolidate and extend work covered in class, or to prepare for new learning activities. |
| 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 Science, pupils will receive homework from each teacher equating to one piece per week. The type of homework will vary from examination style questions to research tasks. All homework will be verbally given to students as well as uploaded to <i>Show My Homework</i> in line with the school policy. 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 Media | One piece per week |
| Year 10 PE | One piece per week |

Year 11 Home Learning Timetable 2019/ 2020

| Day | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 |
|------------------|--|--|
| Monday | 11A Tech MFL Option B (French/Spanish) 11B PE (LPT) Dance | MFL Option B (French/Spanish) 11B PE (LPT) Dance |
| Tuesday | Health and Social Care MFL Option A (French) 11A PE (DJS) | MFL Option A (French) 11A PE (DJS) |
| Wednesday | 11D Tech 11C Tech Music MFL Option C (German) 11D PE (DJS) 11D PE (ITE) | Music MFL Option C (German) 11D PE (DJS) 11D PE (ITE) |
| Thursday | | MFL Option B (French) |
| Friday | 11B Tech | |

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| Year 11 English | Students are expected to use HL time to undertake personal revision for their exams. Their teacher will direct them to 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 Science, pupils will receive homework from each teacher equating to one piece per week. The type of homework will vary from examination style questions to research tasks. All homework will be verbally given to students as well as uploaded to <i>Show My Homework</i> in line with the school policy. 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/Drama | Once piece per week |
| Year 11 Media | One piece per week |
| Year 11 PE | One piece per week |

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.