



Parents Briefing 10

School is Not Simply 8.20am to 3.05pm

For students to make the most of their learning, they need to put in more time than fits into the school teaching day. We are not suggesting life should be all work; far from it. Recreation, relaxation, sport and, for older students, part time work can all be achieved but school work must also fit into this time if a student is to achieve their best.

Homework fits into this category and it is a very important part of learning. The traditional pattern of homework (30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours per subject) does not fit all subject areas nor lead to improved learning. Therefore, as a School, we are moving more towards advanced homework.

We are setting a range of activities called advanced homework which should be completed, in general, over a half term period. Most of these activities can be found on the school website, so you, as parents, can monitor progress.

Students will need to organise their time so as to manage the work load over the time given. We believe this is more in line with coursework demands in the upper school and how it will be in the world of work.

A few subjects, including Mathematics, will still continue to set a more traditional style of homework (as will all subjects on occasions) which will support the work directly in a lesson. We will no longer be issuing a formal homework timetable, setting two or three subjects per night. Planners and the school website will need to be used to ensure all advanced homework tasks are completed.

Finally, I want to re-assure parents that they can respond to the line, "I have no homework" with the answer "There is always homework". If no formal homework is set, students, as good practice, should review the learning that has taken place during the day. This ensures students have both understood and learnt from their lessons. Revision is part of homework, as is coursework (some of which may be done at school but more is needed at home). Students should always be encouraged to read.

If you are concerned about homework please, initially, contact the subject teacher.

Ian Clayton
Principal