



MACMILLAN POST 16

Independent Study and Homework Policy

Introduction: In Post 16, we know that homework plays a crucial role in reinforcing classroom learning, fostering independent study skills, and promoting student responsibility which is essential for their future. It is essential to the performance and progress of all students, and makes a significant contribution to the outcomes at the end of Year 13. The purpose of this policy is to outline our expectations, guidelines, and procedures regarding homework assignments and independent study time for our students in Post 16.

Goals of Homework: Homework in Post 16 serves several important purposes:

- **Consolidation:** Reinforcing and practicing concepts covered in class.
- **Preparation:** Preparing students for upcoming lessons or discussions.
- **Extension:** Encouraging deeper exploration and independent research.
- **Time Management:** Developing effective time management and organisational skills.
- **Independent Study:** Promoting self-directed learning and critical thinking.

Guidelines:

Frequency and Duration:

- Homework will be assigned on a regular basis, taking into consideration the complexity of the subject matter and the students' workload.
- Sixth Form students can expect approximately 5 hours of homework per subject per week, matching what they learn in lessons.

Communication:

- Teachers will clearly communicate homework assignments, deadlines, and expectations to students both verbally and through Teams.

Variety of Assignments:

- Homework tasks may include reading assignments, research projects, problem-solving exercises, essays, presentations, and more.
- Assignments will be designed to align with learning objectives and challenge students appropriately.

Time Management:

- Students are encouraged to create a study schedule that allocates time for homework, revision, and other extracurricular activities.
- The Post 16 Library is available to students from 8am - 4pm every day.
- Long-term assignments will be broken down into manageable segments with intermediate deadlines.

Quality Over Quantity:

- Emphasis will be placed on the quality of work rather than the quantity of assignments.
- Teachers will provide constructive feedback on completed homework to support continuous improvement.

Extensions and Absences:

- Students are expected to submit homework assignments by the designated deadline.
- In cases of legitimate absences or extenuating circumstances, students should communicate with the Post 16 team/teacher as soon as possible to discuss potential extensions via email.

Assessment and Feedback:

Assessment Weighting:

- Homework assignments may contribute to the overall assessment of a student's progress, but their weight will be reasonable and reflect their purpose.

Timely Feedback:

- Teachers will provide timely feedback on homework assignments to help students understand their strengths and areas for improvement.
- Feedback may be given through written comments, discussions in class, or one-on-one consultations.

Support:

Resources:

- Students will have access to relevant resources, such as textbooks, online materials, learning platforms and library resources, to assist them in completing homework assignments.

Subject Support Sessions:

- Teachers will offer designated support sessions to provide additional help and clarification on homework tasks.

Responsibilities:

Students:

- Students are responsible for completing and submitting homework assignments on time.

- If they encounter difficulties or need clarification, they are encouraged to seek help from teachers in a timely manner.

Teachers:

- Teachers will assign meaningful and purposeful homework tasks that align with the curriculum and promote extension of learning.
- They will provide clear instructions, expectations, and support for students to successfully complete their assignments.

Conclusion: In Post 16, we value the partnership between teachers, students, and parents in supporting the educational journey. This policy aims to create a balanced and productive approach to homework, fostering a culture of independent learning, responsibility, and academic growth among our sixth form students