

## **SCIENCE FACULTY HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **September 2017**

**(to be read in conjunction with the whole school 'Homework Policy' document)**

Homework is an integral part of the Science curriculum. It enhances learning, develops students' study skills and improves achievement. This additional study is essential to help students achieve or exceed their target level or grade in Science. Assessment of homework helps teachers make a judgement about a student's level of knowledge, understanding, skills, progress and attainment in Science.

Science teachers regularly set homework to extend learning outside the classroom. Students usually complete their homework at home but they can attend the Science Clinic sessions in T3, the Science computer room, on Wednesdays from 3 - 4pm, to use resources e.g. books, equipment, computers and software to complete tasks, with teacher support, should they need it. Sixth form students complete homework at home or in school.

#### **Homework enables students to:**

- develop a real interest in Science
- take ownership and responsibility for learning
- work independently and reflect upon learning
- reinforce and consolidate work covered in lessons
- extend scientific knowledge and understanding
- practise and develop research and scientific skills
- prepare for new learning activities or assessments
- prepare for school and public examinations

#### **Homework tasks should:**

- have clear learning outcomes, which are understood by students
- be differentiated according to student ability
- encourage a wide range of activities and skills
- provide the opportunity for students to extend the task e.g. to research to find out additional facts/ information/ use ICT
- be able to be completed within the timescale set and resources available

#### **Types of Homework**

Homework should be varied in terms of tasks and relevant, challenging and rewarding for students. Homework should not be finishing off classwork. It will include reading, writing and comprehension tasks. They will complete worksheet questions, levelled assessments, experimental write-ups and produce other homework from examples in appendix 1.

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#### **The frequency of homework**

The following time allocations should be regarded as guidelines. The time spent on homework will depend upon the nature of the task and the student's level of ability. The quality of the homework is more important than the quantity of work produced.

Science homework should be set at least once every fortnight for each class which should enable the teacher to give appropriate feedback in accordance with the marking policy. The time that students spend on homework will naturally vary depending upon both the nature of the task and the ability of the student, but the departmental guidelines are:

Year 7	Year 8 & 9	Years 10 - 13
30 – 45 minutes	45 – 60 minutes	60 – 90 minutes

In weeks where a homework task is not set, it is vital, particularly at GCSE and A-level that we set the expectation that students will be using revision guides or the Quizlet website to review and consolidate work done in class. On occasion, it may be appropriate to set them some questions which can be peer/self-assessed in class the following lesson.

#### **Responsibilities**

##### **The student will:**

- listen to homework instructions in the Science lesson
- write instructions for the HW task and the deadline date into their planner
- attempt all parts of the homework to the best of their ability
- whenever possible inform their Science teacher of any difficulties regarding homework, in advance of the deadline
- ensure that homework is fully completed and handed in to meet the deadline

##### **The Science teacher will:**

- allocate time to setting homework in lesson.
- set regular homework according to the Science Homework Policy
- provide the relevant stimulus materials for the Science homework
- give full and comprehensive instructions to students
- set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met
- provide students with help and support for homework
- assess, give constructive feedback and return homework to students in line with the Science Faculty and whole school assessment policies
- reward students appropriately, in line with whole school policy, when they produce high quality homework
- sanction students appropriately, in line with whole school policy, for lack of homework, incomplete or poor quality homework
- inform the relevant Science manager if a student continues to present problems relating to homework so further action can be taken

## **Appendix 1**

### **Homework types**

**Practice exercises – providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills e.g.**

- labelling scientific diagrams
- learning spellings/definitions of key scientific terms
- writing chemical formulae and equations
- practising calculations
- presenting data in tables, bar charts, graphs

**Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a topic so that they are better prepared for future lessons e.g.**

- making a model
- conducting a survey or interview
- planning and producing a presentation
- choosing a scientific youtube clip to share and talk about in class
- researching and preparing for a new topic that will be covered in class
- producing an information poster or leaflet on a particular topic

**Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively e.g.**

- carrying out fieldwork
- conducting an investigation
- producing a quality longer-term project
- completing Applied Science assignments

**Preparation for GCSE or GCE Examination and Assessments homework – providing opportunities for students to complete tasks specific to the forthcoming assessment**

- producing concept maps and revision cards for topics
- completing practice examination questions
- revising information for topic/module tests or examinations
- researching and producing secondary evidence
- analysing and evaluating data