



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HOMEWORK POLICY

The purpose of homework at Callington Community College

- * Homework is a valuable aid in building lifelong learning skills such as self discipline, task commitment, time management, responsibility, independence, literacy, numeracy initiative and problem-solving.
- * Homework reinforces work covered in college and allows for the completion of demands such as GCSE coursework and syllabus coverage.
- * Homework encourages students to realise that learning takes place in a variety of settings.
- * Homework encourages a partnership between parents, students and the college.

What is homework?

Homework is the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned activities to practice, reinforce or apply newly acquired skills and knowledge and to learn necessary skills of independent study.

The nature of homework

There are four specific types of homework:

- a) ***Creative*** - this is inventive and resourceful using student-initiated ideas.
- b) ***Extension*** - this guides students so they expand on concepts that were taught in class.
- c) ***Practice*** - this provides students with the needed review and reinforcement about material or skills covered in a previous lesson.
- d) ***Preparation*** - this helps students inform themselves about the next days lesson.

In Years 7 to 9 homework is a learning process and takes many forms - it will not always be writing, other activities are equally valuable in developing skills and knowledge. Such activities may include - research tasks (using computers, internet or books), playing sport, reading, playing a musical instrument, artwork, drama and technology designing and building.

The value of homework is in the quality of the activity and not in the amount of time allocated or spent on it.

From Year 10 onwards homework is an essential part of examination courses, particularly including coursework.

How to make sure homework is effective

Homework is linked to programme of study and a joint responsibility between the student, teacher and parent(s)/guardian.

Classroom teachers will:

- * Assign homework regularly.
- * Ensure homework has particular learning objectives.
- * Give clear instructions.
- * Record completion of homework.
- * Mark homework.
- * Give constructive feedback and appropriate awards.
- * Involve parents where appropriate.

Students should:

- * Note homework in their planners.
- * Make sure they understand what needs to be done (ask the teacher if necessary)
- * Set aside a regular time for homework.
- * Complete all homework to the best of his/her ability.
- * Meet deadlines for homework.

Parents should:

- * Provide a regular place for study.
- * Encourage a regular study time each day.
- * Encourage their child to organise school materials and equipment.
- * Monitor the student planner and contact the college if necessary.
- * Be supportive and encourage their child to find the answer rather than doing the work just to get it done.

How much time should be spent on homework?

As stated earlier, homework may take many different forms and may be differentiated according to individual students needs. There is no rigid daily timetable in any stage but:

In Years 7 and 8 a student can expect to receive 3 to 7.5 hours of homework a week.

In Year 9: 5 to 10 hours a week.

In Years 10 and 11: 8 to 12 hours a week.

In Years 12 and 13: 5 hours per option block (15-20 hours a week).

Due to the nature of the subject and the teaching time allocated to a subject the amount of homework given will vary. The following is a guide.

In Years 7 - 9

Humanities)
English)
Mathematics)
Science)
Languages)

Year 7

History)
Geography)
RE)
Technology)
Art)
Drama)
Music)
ICT)
PE)
PSE)

Special Needs homework (those students who are extracted for a subject or subjects) will be matched to the individual student's needs and capabilities and should reflect the specific targets outlined in the Individual Education Programme. Regular communication with parents will be essential to ensure full support.

In Years 10-11

Core subjects and options will have the equivalent of approximately 60-90 minutes per subject per week.

PE, RE and PSHE will have homework every other week.

Much homework at this level takes the form of coursework which is often to be completed in both college and home over a period of time (could be as long as a term).

In Years 12 and 13

There is an expectation of five hours per option block. Similar requirements to Years 10 and 11 apply with regard to coursework (Post- 16 regular external modular assessment - careful planning to maintain all subject areas is important).

Homework Procedure

- Teachers will set homework clearly stating the objectives. (This will usually be set at the start of the lesson).
- Teachers will ensure that the homework is written either on a board or on a worksheet.
- Students will ensure the homework is noted in their journals.
- Marking and feedback will be completed within a period often working days.
- Information about homework themes and objectives for each subject will be provided for students and parents each term.
- The college homework policy will be sent home to all parents each year.
- Homework will be discussed at the Year 7 Parents Evening about Porthpean and the Year 10 Target Setting Evening.

Rewards and Sanctions

The benefits of consistently completed homework are great. It is important for students to be encouraged to complete all homework; a system of incentives should help achieve this.

If a student fails to complete homework a range of sanctions will come into operation ranging from a detention to contact with parents.

Expectations

All staff should work within the college/department policy setting homework and homework should be an integral part of all schemes of work. Each subject area will publish main themes/objectives of homework for each term to parents and students.

Staff should give feedback to students and parents within a reasonable time scale - work should be marked against clear criteria which is communicated to students and parents.

Incentives

We need to encourage students to fully engage in homework activity throughout their college life. Incentives do help encourage students. Commendations are our main form of reward. Departments may wish to give points leading to a commendation for students who do their homework and hand it in on time. It is up to each department to decide on how best to use incentives, although all departments are expected to make use of them to encourage homework throughout Years 7- 11.

Sanctions

At all stages an individual student's circumstances must be taken into consideration.

- Stage 1** Failure to do a homework:
- noted in mark book;
 - teacher action (this is at the discretion of the teacher but may range from a warning to lunchtime detention or telephone home).
- Stage 2** Second failure to do a homework:
- same as Stage 1 but also noted in Student Journal and targets for improvement discussed with student.
- Stage 3** Three failures as Stage 1 and 2 and teacher gives student a homework red card which teacher sends direct to tutor (tutor notes this on record sheet) - if two or more red cards tutor contacts parents (tutor passes red card onto admin staff and letter automatically sent home (red card filed in student file).
- Stage 4** Homework is still not completed Head of Department interviews student. Parents informed of agreed targets from meeting and asked to respond.
- Stage 5** Problem continues.
HOY/HOS informed by HOD.
Interview arranged with parent/student.
Action plan put in place.
- Stage 6** Deputy Head involved.