

## Hitchin Girls' School Homework Policy 2014

### Rationale

At Hitchin Girls' School, homework is set:

- to aid learning;
- as training for good working habits;
- to provide stretch and challenge for students;
- to allow consolidation and further practice;
- for revision;
- to encourage students to develop independence;
- to encourage students to develop organisational skills;
- to encourage students to manage their time sensibly;
- to prepare students for future learning;
- to encourage students to commit themselves to do their best.

### Frequency & organisation

- **Key Stage 3:** Up to one hour per week for English, Maths and Science; up to 30 minutes per week for other subjects. Advice should be given to students on how long they should spend on a task.
- **Key Stage 4:** No limit to homework set, but staff need to be aware of pressure points on the calendar. Advice should be given to students on how long they should spend on a task.
- **Key Stage 5:** Students should complete five hours of study per subject per week. This includes timetabled study periods.
- Homework may be set early in the lesson. It may be pre-typed or placed on Moodle.
- Students should record their homework in their planner. Tutors are expected to check on a regular basis that this is being done. Planners may also be inspected by Heads of House and Heads of Department.
- Students should indicate homework in their exercise books with 'H/W'.

## **Essentials**

- Each student should know why they are doing the homework, what they need to do to complete their homework to a good standard, and have an indication of how long they should spend on it.
- Each member of staff should know that they can set a range of homework activities, differentiated when necessary, and only if it is appropriate and relevant for learning.
- There should be a reminder for students in form time at the start of each academic year as per the reminder of Behaviour for Learning rules.

## **Good practice**

- Students should be encouraged to utilise the Learning Leader Base Room, lunchtime clubs and after school opportunities available.
- Staff provide model answers.
- Staff set a variety of homework over time. Examples include: essays, practice papers, course work, making notes, reading around the subject, reading over lesson notes, making summary notes following a lesson, reading ahead prior to the lesson.

## **Appendix: Examples of Homework that does not require marking**

- Planning for a piece of work - the actual marked work comes from that. Plans can even be peer assessed as a starter.
- Reading work with an expectation of some annotation or note-taking; a quick quiz as a starter can check understanding/comprehension. This can be made fun with prizes/house points for winners and adds an element of competition. Reading homework can be differentiated with points to look for - for less able students, but also challenge most able with more complex texts; it also gives a good chance for the most able to consider their ideas before they come to a lesson which can build confidence.
- Reading homework can also be peer assessed: ask students in the starter to devise a set of questions about their reading and test their peers.
- At a glance work - collect images; make word/image or mood boards; set them a challenge to find something (like research) but could be a single piece of text or an object based on a theme and then explain in small groups their choices
- A self assessment sheet as a starter to mark written homework (staff then just check it has been completed but can see their self assessment sheet filled out) - could be a tick list of success criteria. Students can highlight parts of their homework for success criteria as a starter. This is a visual activity which allows students to see their successes - works well with sixth form students who have to do a lot of writing!

Governing Body approval: December 2014