

Penrice Academy Homework Policy

The Importance of Homework

Homework is an important part of learning. Students in Penrice who do homework achieve more highly than those who don't. We expect all students to complete their homework on time.

We understand that students have a range of commitments during the week and so homework is always set with a minimum of 48 hours for students to complete the work.

All students are given a planner so they can organize their homework tasks and deadlines. All homework must be recorded in the planner.

Where possible, homework is set on the same day each week. Teachers may alter this routine to fit in with their learning plans.

It is difficult to set a time guide for completing work, however in Year 7 students are given approximately 30 minutes of homework per subject each week. In Year 8, this increases to 40 minutes per subject, each week. In Years 9,10 and 11 homework tasks are likely to take around an hour or longer.

All students get Maths, Science, and English homework at least once a week. Students who study a Language also have a weekly homework activity. History, Geography and Art set homework at least once a fortnight in Years 7 and 8. In Years 9, 10 and 11, option subjects also set a weekly homework. Other subjects set homework occasionally.

Variety of Homework

Homework assignments vary. The type of tasks students are asked to do include:

Researching from the internet*; revision exercises; on-line learning e.g. BBC Bitesize; mymaths.co.uk; resources on the Academy web site; essays, assignments and written work; creative work e.g. drawing, designing, making; preparing for next lesson e.g. learning vocabulary; exercises to consolidate learning; revising for test; examination questions; coursework preparation; independent learning booklets, questionnaires.

Teachers are asked **not** to set 'finish classwork' and to plan instead, a proper activity for students to complete.

Homework may require access to the internet. If a student does not have home access they will have priority access to the IT facilities in The Core. Lack of IT facilities at home does not prevent students from completing homework as there is always an alternative way to learn.

Completing homework on time.

Homework of a high quality, handed in by the deadline, is rewarded with merits. Completing homework is a valuable part of learning. Homework helps students to achieve their potential. Often homework is used in the lesson and therefore lack of homework can significantly affect learning.

If a student does not complete the homework on time, the teacher will record this in the student's Planner. The teacher will ask for the work to be handed in during the following lesson or at break time the following day. On the second occasion that homework is missed, the student will have a 10 minute detention at the end of the lesson. More than 2 missed homeworks will result in an afterschool detention. This will also mean that the maximum effort in that subject will be recorded as 'Poor' in the termly written report.

From September 2014, students who regularly miss homework in more than one subject will be helped through afterschool homework support sessions which run in The Core from 3.00-4.00pm.

Where a student has spent the appropriate amount of time on a piece of homework, but not managed to complete it, parents are asked to provide a note in the student's planner to let the teacher know. If there are exceptional circumstances which mean a student has been unable to complete the homework, parents are asked to write a note in the child's planner.

Marking Homework

Some homework will be marked by the teacher. Students may also be asked to mark their own work in class, or to 'peer assess' the homework of another student.

Tutor and Parent monitoring

Tutors sign student Planners each week. Parents are also asked to sign the Planner each week. Where teachers have recorded that homework has not been handed in, tutors and parents will ask why this is and support the student to manage their time and meet deadlines.

**Academy ICT facilities in The Core, are available until 4.00 Monday to Thursday, every morning from 8.00-8.30am and at break and lunchtimes.*

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