

Homework at PCS 2020-2021

Guidance for parents and carers

Why homework?

Regular homework helps students to work on their own, plan their own time, develop research skills and take responsibility for their progress. These are all vital life skills. If students can develop these skills, it will reduce anxiety in exam situations and help them succeed. Research indicates that students who complete homework throughout secondary school are more likely to have higher outcomes. Homework also encourages home-school dialogue, which we value at PCS.

How much homework?

The amount of homework set and the time it will take will gradually increase as students move up through the school. As a general guide, students in Year 7 should expect to spend 30 minutes each school evening on homework, increasing to a maximum of two hours per school night in 11. Each curriculum area sets homework as follows:

*Students in the Access groups build up the amount of homework they are expected to do as they progress through the school.

Year 7 will gradually build up homework, so up until October half term, they will only be set English, Maths and Science, with other subjects introduced after the October half term. Any year 7 student who wishes to undertake additional, optional independent work outside of the classroom will be encouraged and supported to do so.

Key Stage 3 – See Homework tasks set on Show My Homework					
Time per week			Time per fortnight		
Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Subject	Year 7	Year 8
English	30 mins*	30 mins*	Art	30 mins	30 mins
			Geography	30 mins*	30 mins*
Maths	30 mins*	30 mins*	History	30 mins	30 mins
Science	30 mins*	30 mins*	MFL	30 mins*	30 mins

Key Stage 4 – See Homework tasks set on Show My Homework			
Time per week			
Subject	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	45 mins	60 mins	60 mins
Maths	45 mins	60 mins	60 mins
Science	45 mins	60 mins	60 mins
Option Subjects	1 X 45 mins	60 mins	60 mins

Organisation

Students have homework timetables to help them spread their work throughout the week. Homework does not have to be completed at home. PCS offers homework clubs where students have access to staff support and all the resources they need to complete homework to a high standard. The local library is also a good space to work.

Show My Homework (SMH) is an online homework calendar that allows students and parents to access the homework teachers have set from any computer. Students can access the homework without a password by using the link on the school website (www.phcs.org.uk) or go to Show My Homework <https://peacehaven.satchelone.com/school/home> and then click on login with Google. They will be directed to Google Classroom where all instructions and resources can be found. All students have access to a Google Classroom for every subject. They have been shown in school how to return work to their teachers online. Where students do not have online access at home, they will be given paper copies of homework to complete.

All of the information on how to access SMHW and Google Classroom can be found on the powerpoint below.

Parental Support

Parental support is extremely important. Students are much more likely to get into good habits and to regularly complete homework where this is something that parents reinforce. You can do this by asking to see completed work, reading and giving comments and by challenging your child if reports indicate that homework is not being completed.

- Log on each evening after school together to see what homework has been set (If your son or daughter is absent you should still log on and see their homework)
- Check your child knows how to get on to our website – ask them to show you
- Ask your child to show you what is in their Google Classrooms
- Set up a regular routine of when homework will be done (e.g. 4-5pm)
- Provide a table, chair and quiet place to work – we know this can be difficult in homes with young children. If this is the case, please encourage your child to attend after school clubs
- Check your child has the correct equipment to complete homework – again this is all available at after school clubs
- Check your child is presenting their work carefully – guidance is regularly given by the class teacher
- Show an interest in what your child is doing – there will be times when they won't want you to do this, but persevere!
- Check your child does not spend too little or too long on tasks
- Contact your child's tutor/subject teacher if you have any concerns about homework
- Check your child is getting teacher feedback on their homework – if you have any concerns, please contact the Head of Department who will follow up for you