

Homework at PCS 2021-2022

Guidance for parents and carers

Why homework?

Regular homework develops important study skills from time management and organisation to self-motivation and independent learning. Homework is at its most effective when it allows students to revise what they've learnt in class. Tasks that revisit what's been taught during lessons reinforces learnt knowledge and increases the likelihood of students remembering more.

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?

KS4 Homework Tasks

Throughout Year 10 and 11 students will be set tasks as below:

Homework will be set weekly for Core Subjects (English, maths and science) and fortnightly for Option Subjects.

Homework tasks should take no longer than **45 mins** to complete. There will be an emphasis on quality rather than quantity.

- Questions/ quizzes will be set using digital platforms, such as GCSE Pod, Seneca, My Maths, Maths Watch or Google form quizzes. Students will receive immediate feedback.
- Exam practice questions. (These will be marked by the teacher and students will have the opportunity to improve their response)
- Mind maps or flash cards

KS3 Homework Tasks

Throughout Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be set tasks as below:

Homework will be set weekly for maths, English and science and fortnightly for Humanities (history and geography) and MFL (Spanish and French). Other subjects as appropriate.

Homework tasks should take no longer than **30 mins** to complete. There will be an emphasis on quality rather than quantity.

A timetable of when the homework will be set and due in, will be published.

- Set questions/ quizzes using digital platforms.
- Set homework that explicitly involves reading and comprehension that consolidates previous learning.

Organisation

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.

All homework will be set on Google Classroom with links to the digital platform. The title will include (H/W) to indicate that it is homework with the deadline date.

All homework tasks will have one week to be completed. Therefore if set on a Monday will be due the following Monday. Students at KS4 will not have a homework timetable and should be able to self-manage their deadlines. However, if you feel that your child is becoming overwhelmed and needs support please ensure they speak to their mentor, Head of year or subject teacher.

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 to Google classroom 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 homework club
- Check your child has the correct equipment to complete homework – again this is all available at after school club
- 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 mentor/subject teacher if you have any concerns about homework

