

# Bodmin College Homework Policy

Updated January 2025

Date of next review January 2026

## Introduction

We want our learners to have well-developed independent study skills, to take pride in and responsibility for their learning and have the resilience and resourcefulness to overcome problems so that they are successful and aspirant learners.

## Purpose

Homework is an invaluable opportunity for pupils to continue their learning outside the timetabled curriculum. When homework tasks are set and completed effectively, it becomes a crucial way of raising standards in achievement (up to 5 additional months of progress according to EEF research) and encouraging our students to develop a positive attitude to their learning that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. In addition, homework helps to improve students' long-term memory and better prepares them for the demands of public examinations.

## Procedure

### Setting homework

For all students in the College, homework will always be set via [Class Charts](#) and communicated by teachers during lessons with students too.

### Years 7-9

Depending on the subject, homework will be set once a week or once a fortnight, allowing at least a week for completion before the scheduled hand-in deadline. Homework schedules can be found in the front of students' homework booklets and indicate the frequency and the amount of time that should be spent on homework tasks. This increases gradually from Year 7 to Year 9. The schedule offers students a timetable to manage their homework across the week/fortnight. It is not an indicator of when homework will be set/due for each subject as this will vary according to student timetables.

### Year 10

In Year 10, homework will be set once a week for all subjects. Homework schedules can be found in the front of students' homework booklets and indicate the frequency and the amount of time that should be spent on homework tasks. There may be times in Year 10 where it is appropriate for teaching staff to set homework tasks which vary from using the Knowledge Organiser/Homework booklet alone e.g. exam or coursework preparation, research etc. related to qualifications, revision etc.

## Year 11

Students will be set a minimum of one homework task per week per subject. These tasks will include exam style questions, coursework preparation or directed revision.

In GCSE classes, the nature and spread of homework changes throughout the year depending on when controlled assessments and extended pieces of work are being completed. It is important that students with the support of parents/carers and staff manage their time to ensure that all work is completed thoroughly. It is equally important that we try to avoid overload so any parents/carers who have concerns over this should contact the College immediately so that the matter can be resolved; the person to contact in the first instance is the Year Manager.

## Years 12-13

Post-16 students will be required to manage their own time and will be issued deadlines within which to complete their work. They will be responsible for their own workload and will be expected to apportion their own time to complete tasks to or ahead of deadlines. Homework tasks should total two hours per week per subject. In addition, for every hour taught, students should complete up to an hour of independent study. This can be directed by teaching staff as appropriate.

## Resources

### Knowledge Organisers

In Years 7-10, each student is given a '[Knowledge Organiser](#)' booklet that contains the core knowledge for every subject they study. They will also be given a homework booklet where they will complete their homework (with the exception of Maths, and, where relevant, Art). Students will be asked by their subject teacher to focus on a specific week of content and to use a self-quizzing strategy to consolidate that knowledge. This is then completed by students in the homework booklet. The front of students' homework booklets contains some strategies to help them do this.

### Sparx Maths

Sparx Maths is an innovative online platform designed to enhance students' understanding of mathematics through personalised, engaging homework tasks. It provides a comprehensive range of questions tailored to the curriculum, ensuring that learners can practice and improve at their own pace. The platform promotes accountability by requiring students to complete tasks to a high standard, often including explanations or worked examples. Additionally, Sparx Maths supports teachers by tracking progress and identifying areas where students may need additional help.

Sparx Maths will be set and due on a Tuesday each week for all year groups. Students complete tasks by accessing the Sparx Maths online platform. They will also be issued a Maths workbook to record their workings for each question.

### **Curriculum Leaders and Teachers will:**

- Plan homework so that it is an integral part of their curriculum planning
- Set appropriate self-quizzing tasks using Class Charts to share information and deadlines with students and parents, in accordance with the Homework Schedule
- Give clearly defined instructions and information needed for the homework to be completed
- Support pupils and ultimately hold students to account if homework is not submitted on time using the whole school behaviour policy
- Ensure that students have the appropriate resources required to complete their homework
- Reward students where appropriate for effort, attainment and consistent meeting of deadlines (in accordance with College Rewards and Behaviour Policies)
- Check homework on the deadline agreed and maintain a homework completion record using Class Charts.

### **Students will be expected to:**

- Actively monitor the homework tasks that have been set on Class Charts
- Ask for help if it is not clear to them what to do
- Approach their homework showing effort, diligence and pride
- Submit their homework on time

### **The Role of Parents and Carers**

We recognise that getting the best out of every student is a joint effort between the College and home. Many parents/carers ask what they can do to help support their child's homework. Below are a few suggestions of what parents/carers can do to help their child:

- Check they are organised for school and homework
- Provide a reasonable peaceful, suitable place where their child can do their homework (alone, or with the support of an adult)
- Make it clear that homework is valuable and support the College in explaining how it can support learning
- Encourage and praise their child as they complete their homework and check that homework has been completed.
- Encourage their child to attend Homework Club if they struggle at home
- Check Class Charts regularly
- Use Class Charts to check that homework has been completed

## **Sanctions**

In accordance with the CELT Behaviour policy, students will receive 1pt and 3pt sanctions for non-completion of homework tasks. If a student does not submit a homework task when it is due, this should be recorded as a '1Pt - Insufficient Homework' using Class Charts and a conversation held with the teacher at the end of the lesson to agree an extension. The teacher may use their discretion where there is any context that mitigates the student from not completing their homework. Where students do not meet the extension, this will be recorded on Class Charts as a '3Pt - Continued insufficient homework' and students will be issued with a centrally run afterschool detention.

## **Rewards and Recognition**

Students will be recognised and rewarded for putting high levels of effort into homework tasks through:

- Work being displayed and shared as an example of excellence
- Positive comments and feedback
- Awarding 'Excellence' merits on Class Charts
- Nominations for 'Proud to be Bodmin' awards
- Phone calls/ communication with parents/carers where appropriate

## **Accountability**

Students who regularly and persistently do not hand in their homework will be supported through both academic and pastoral College systems. Teachers will use Class Charts to record both the completion and non-completion of homework tasks, so that effective monitoring can take place.

Curriculum Leaders will monitor the setting and completion of homework within their department and work with teachers to identify students who may be struggling to access their homework (such as students with SEND or students identified as in receipt of Pupil Premium.)

In the first instance, the class teacher will discuss homework with the student and offer support. Contact with home may be made. It may also be appropriate for a class teacher to pass on their concern to the SENDCo and or Head of Year, who may also have conversations with the student and parent/carers.

## **Inclusion**

All students should be able to access and benefit from homework.

Subject teachers are expected to know their students and how to meet their individual needs by using their individual student profiles. They should work closely with colleagues in the SEND Department and with parents where appropriate to develop tasks and routines which support students and to ensure that students with SEND are successful. Reasonable adjustments may be applied in individual cases, if appropriate, and agreed with the SEND Department, Directors of Key Stage and parents/carers.

Homework Club will be available to support students with SEND in their completion of homework tasks and lunchtime support is available each day in HH21. Students are welcome to attend any session or may be directed to attend sessions during the week to support their learning and develop their organisational skills and their independence.