



# Beamont Collegiate Academy

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Date approved by the LGB	13.03.17
Signature of Chair to the C&L committee	G Porter
Signature of Executive Principal	A Moorcroft
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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At Beamont Collegiate Academy we believe homework is 'Essential Learning' that plays a vital role in raising the standards of achievement of pupils of all ages and it is an essential part of the way in which the Academy prepares pupils for both examinations and lifelong learning.
- 1.2 All pupils will be set homework in accordance with their homework timetable and the amount set will increase as they progress through the Academy.

## **2. Definition of Homework**

- 2.1 Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside normal school working hours, be it at home or in school.
- 2.2 Homework should not prevent pupils from participating in activities after school such as sport, music or clubs of any kind.
- 2.3 Homework should not impact adversely on the home life of each pupil.
- 2.4 Beamont Collegiate Academy recognises that the environment in which pupils complete homework varies significantly so will make every effort to help the home create conditions conducive to learning or to provide alternative arrangements within the Academy

## **3. The purpose of homework**

- 3.1 To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life.
- 3.2 To help them develop the independent learning skills of research, planning and self-review.
- 3.3 To consolidate and reinforce curriculum specific skills and understanding.
- 3.4 To extend Beamont Collegiate Academy learning, for example, through additional reading.
- 3.5 To enable pupils to devote time to particular demands such as coursework or project work.
- 3.6 To support the home/school relationship.

## **4. Guidelines to the amount and setting of homework**

- 4.1 All pupils are issued with a homework timetable. This indicates the day that homework will be set. Pupils are issued with a Home Learning Book at the start of each half-term that sets out the home learning activities by subject for that half-term.

- 4.2 Staff may set homework outside of this timetable but will not expect it to be completed for the next day.
- 4.3 Pupils are provided with a planner at the beginning of each Academy year in which to record their homework.
- 4.4 It is the responsibility of the pupil to ensure that homework is submitted on time. If pupils are absent when homework is set it is their responsibility to find out what they have missed and catch up.
- 4.5 The planner should be signed by parents/carers each weekend and by Tutors on a weekly basis.
- 4.6 Pupils are expected to have their planners with them in all lessons.
- 4.7 The time devoted to homework should increase as the pupil progresses through Beamont Collegiate Academy.
- 4.8 Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take into account individual needs.
- 4.9 Homework can be set using a number of different online platforms including, Mathswatch, Linguasope, Quizlet, Google Classroom.

## **5. Types of Homework**

- 5.1 At the start of each half term, each pupil will be issued with an **Essential Learning** booklet which contains all the knowledge organisers for that half term's learning. It will also contain quizzing activities that will test and develop the pupil's knowledge throughout the half term.
- 5.2 Other homework might include such things as:
- Writing assignments
  - Learning assignments
  - Preparing a presentation
  - Reading in preparation for a lesson
  - Finding out information/researching a project
- 5.3 It is important that pupils should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners.

## **6. Non-completion of Homework**

- 6.1 When homework has not been completed, appropriate action will be taken by the Academy to encourage its completion to a satisfactory standard.

6.2 Initially this could involve support sessions with staff but if repeated this could include a break time, or an after-school detention.

6.3 Parents/carers will receive at least twenty-four hours notice in writing, via their child, post or other preferred method of contact, of the after-school detention so they can make arrangements for their child to get home safely. The after-school detention will last no longer than one hour.

## **7. Special Educational Needs**

7.1 In setting homework for pupils with SEN it is important to balance the right amount so that pupils can share fully in the work of the class, including homework tasks, whilst responding to their individual learning needs, which may include consolidation and reinforcement of specific skills.

7.2 Homework tasks should be differentiated and achievable, with consideration being given to how long a task will take to complete. Involvement of parents is crucial to ensuring that pupils are meeting their agreed targets.

7.3 Teachers need to make sure that homework is recorded in planners accurately.

## **8. Responsibilities**

8.1 Pupils will:

- listen to homework instructions in class.
- copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into their Pupil Planner.
- ensure that homework is completed and handed on or before the specified deadline.
- attempt all work and give of their best.
- inform the class teacher of any difficulties in completing the homework before the deadline.
- find out what work has been missed due to absence and do their best to catch up on it. Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- take a pride in doing their best when completing all homework tasks.

8.2 Tutors will:

- see that homework is being set and recorded by their tutees in the Pupil Planner check that the planner is being signed by the parent/carer.
- note and respond to any comments written in Pupil Planners by parents.

8.3 Subject Teachers will:

- set homework according to the timetable. Ensure students are completing appropriately challenging activities from their Home Learning Books.
- give full and comprehensive instructions.
- ensure the deadlines for completed work are clear and that they are met.
- check, record and return all homework promptly.

- provide help and support.
- record in the pupil planner when homework has not been completed.
- Inform their Head of Department, Tutors and Heads of House when recurring problems arise.

#### 8.4 Heads of Department will:

- Develop effective knowledge retrieval activities that complement and support and pupils understanding as they move through the curriculum.
- Monitor and evaluate the homework policy within their curriculum area, ensuring that all teachers in their department are setting appropriate homework regularly, marking and recording it as part of the school/department QA processes.

#### 8.5 Parents/carers are asked to:

- support pupils with their homework but accept that their role will become less important as pupils become more responsible and independent.
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the Academy in explaining how it can help them to progress.
- try and provide a reasonable place where pupils can work or encourage them to make use of the Academy's facilities.
- encourage pupils to meet homework deadlines.
- check the time spent on individual tasks and if they feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the tutor who will investigate the situation.
- encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed well and on time.
- ensure that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
- sign the Pupil Planner each week.
- inform the Academy about any problems either through the Pupil Planner or by contacting the Academy directly.

## 9. Monitoring

### 9.1 Tutors

- will check and sign pupil planners each week.

### 9.2 Heads of House

- will check and countersign a sample of pupil planner every four weeks.

### 9.3 Subject Teachers

- will keep a record of homework tasks as part of lesson plan.
- will maintain a record of marks/grades given to pupils for tasks completed as homework.
- will make these records available to the Head of Department.

### 9.3 Heads of Department

- will sample teacher records related to homework.

- according to QA/SSE processes and timetables, will look at examples of homework, and talk to pupils and staff using homework monitoring criteria.

#### 9.4 Leadership Team

- will sample homework as part of cross subject scrutiny scheduled within the QA programme.
- will quality assure the home learning activities that are set out each half-term.
- will sample examples of work and talk to pupils according to QA programme.
- will review Academy policy regularly.

### **10. Evaluation**

10.1 The effectiveness of the Academy's homework policy and practices will be regularly evaluated by the designated member of the Leadership Team. The evaluation will take into account the views of parents/carers together with feedback from pupils and staff.

### **11. Review**

11.1 The Governing Body will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.