

# Granville Academy Homework – Parent/Carer Guide



**WORK HARD,  
BE KIND,  
CHOOSE WISELY.**



## What does the research tell us about homework?

At Granville Academy, we subscribe to Sherrington's (2019) belief that the learning journey does not only take place during lessons. Lessons are building blocks. Successful students do not stop thinking when the bell goes; lessons are just part of the flow: building schemas, exploring and practising ideas. Teachers have an important role in setting up activities for students so this 'between lessons' time is used as constructively as possible.

Research suggests that at secondary school level homework has been proven to benefit students academically, and when homework is well planned and linked directly to classroom learning it has been shown to increase student progress by up to five months and have an 'excellent' effect on the students' attainment. With this sound body of evidence, we place value on homework and seek to integrate it effectively to maximise academic progress for our students.

## Overall aims of homework at Granville Academy

- To provide opportunities for practising and developing knowledge and skills that have been learned in class.
- To develop students' capacity for independent learning.
- To promote self-confidence and self-reliance.
- To involve parents/carers in the learning process.

## Types of homework

Students will be set two types of homework, which will alternate each week:

### **Type A**

Practice and consolidation of knowledge; predominantly using knowledge organisers.

### **Type B**

Homework tasks set by the class teacher that build on the content taught in lessons and are mapped out as part of the curriculum. These will require open ended responses from students, allowing them to develop their critical thinking and creativity skills.

## Knowledge Organisers

Granville Academy has a knowledge based curriculum and for knowledge to 'stick' it must be learned and tested regularly. Our students have Knowledge Organisers that detail the core knowledge that a student will need to know, understand and be able to recall to be successful in each subject that they study.

- How to use a Knowledge Organiser effectively - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r966HWW4vgQ>
- Granville Academy / The de Ferrers Trust Knowledge Organisers - <http://www.deferrerstrust.com/knowledgeorganisers>

## Why self-quizzing homework?

- Self-testing has been shown to be the most effective learning technique and a habit of successful learners'
- To prevent students from forgetting previous learning, as they will continually revisit and retrieve prior learning from their memories
- To reduce exam-related anxiety by adopting a homework strategy that focuses on revision throughout the curriculum, rather than cramming

### Role of Learner:

- Check SIMS Student App & school email for homework that has been set and plan to meet homework deadlines.
- Work hard to complete all homework tasks on time and to the best of their ability.
- Ask their teachers in lesson or via email if they are unsure how to complete their homework.
- If homework is not completed the student will attend a Homework Club Detention where they can complete the work.
- Students can voluntarily attend the Homework Clubs for 30 minutes after school (Tuesday - Friday) where they can receive support from staff.

### Role of Teaching Staff:

- Use the SIMS App to set homework.
- Track and monitor homework task completion.
- Follow up incomplete homework using the academy policy, contact parents/carers and log on SIMS.
- Highlight examples of excellent homework and celebrate this success with students and parents/carers.

### Role of Directors of Learning:

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of homework within their faculty.
- Support teachers/students and parents/carers with homework concerns.
- Ensure that the academy policy is put into practice.

### Role of Tutor, Head of Year (Progress Leaders) and Academic Mentors:

- Inform subject teachers of any circumstances that might be affecting a student's ability to complete homework tasks.
- Work with students and families who are having difficulty using the SIMs Parent app or completing homework tasks.

### Role of Parents/Carers:

- Speak with their child regularly about their learning and discuss the importance of completing homework tasks.
- Login to SIMS Parent app regularly, to monitor the homework that has been set for their child.
- Familiarise themselves with their child's knowledge organiser and take an active role in talking to the child about the knowledge they need to retain.
- Provide a suitable environment in which learning can be completed.
- Contact the academy if their child is having difficulties with homework or if there are extenuating circumstances that would prevent the completion of work at home.
- If their child is absent, ensure that they catch up with any incomplete classwork.
- Respond to any communication they receive regarding their child's failure to complete work outside of the classroom.

#### **KEY STAGE 3 (Years 7, 8, 9)**

<b>Homework</b>	We expect students to spend a <b>minimum</b> of 30 minutes doing homework tasks for each subject each week.
<b>Reading</b>	We expect students in Year 7 and Year 8 to spend a <b>minimum</b> of 15 minutes reading per day as part of their Accelerated Reader programme and would expect Year 9 to read for a similar amount of time with wider reading.

#### **KEY STAGE 4 (Years 10, 11)**

<b>Homework</b>	We expect students to spend a <b>minimum</b> of 1 hour doing homework tasks for each subject each week.
<b>Reading</b>	We expect students to spend a <b>minimum</b> of 30 minutes reading per day through wider reading.