

Key Stage 5 Home Learning and Independent Study Policy Kineton High School 2025

1. Purpose of the Policy

At Key Stage 5, homework and independent study are essential components of students' academic development and preparation for post-18 pathways, including higher education, apprenticeships, and employment. This policy sets out the school's expectations for homework and independent study to ensure that all students develop effective study habits, subject mastery, independence, and resilience.

2. Range and Nature of Tasks

There should be a wide range of tasks set across subjects to reflect the demands of post-16 study. Homework will typically fall into two broad categories:

a) Consolidatory Learning

Consolidatory tasks are closely linked to lesson content.

Examples of consolidatory tasks include:

- Completing guided questions linked to lesson content
- Creating revision materials such as summaries, mind maps, flashcards, or keyword lists
- Reviewing lesson notes and refining understanding
- Accessing subject-specific online platforms

b) Exploratory Learning

Exploratory tasks allow students to broaden and deepen their understanding beyond the specification and encourage intellectual curiosity. Examples include:

- Wider reading and research
- Independent investigation of subject-related topics
- Preparation for extended writing tasks or coursework
- Research for presentations or debates

Exploratory learning tasks can form part of a flipped learning approach. Flipped learning involves students reading ahead or engaging with material prior to lessons, enabling lesson time to be used for deeper exploration, discussion, and application.

c) Exam Practice and Assessment Preparation

There is a clear expectation that exam and assessment practice is a regular feature of KS5 homework. This may include:

- Past examination questions
- Timed exam-style responses
- Engagement with mark schemes to support self-assessment
- The setting and ongoing completion of coursework components, for subjects which have coursework components

A number of subjects will make use of Power Hour activities. A Power Hour consists of:

- 20 minutes revising a specific topic
- 20 minutes completing an exam question on that topic
- 20 minutes self-assessing using the mark scheme

Students may then ask their teacher to review their work and provide further guidance.

3. Frequency of Homework

Students will be set at least two pieces of homework per subject per week, although some subjects may set work every lesson.

Homework may be completed at home and during independent study periods within the school day.

Year 13 students should expect at least one exam-based piece of homework per subject per week.

Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet deadlines across all subjects.

4. Independent Study Expectations

In addition to set homework, students are expected to use their independent study periods productively. This may include:

- Completing or reviewing homework tasks
- Revising previous topics
- Practising exam questions
- Catching up on missed work
- Engaging in wider reading or research

Independent study is a core component of KS5 study and is monitored by subject teachers and form tutors.

5. Marking, Checking, and Feedback

Every piece of homework will be checked, but not every piece will be formally marked. Teachers will use professional judgement to determine which pieces of work are most appropriate for detailed marking and written feedback.

Feedback may be provided in a variety of ways, including written comments, verbal feedback, whole-class feedback, self-assessment, or peer review.

Teachers will monitor and track the quality, completion, and punctuality of homework and independent study. This information will inform students' homework scores on interim reports sent home.

6. Setting and Recording Homework

Homework will be recorded on Class Charts, which is the central platform for setting and tracking homework. Where homework is signposted to other platforms (e.g. online learning tools) or set verbally, this must also be recorded clearly on Class Charts.

Students are responsible for checking Class Charts regularly and ensuring they are aware of deadlines and expectations. Parents and guardians also have access to Class Charts.

7. Expectations of Students

Students are expected to:

- Complete homework to the best of their ability and meet deadlines
- Seek support proactively and punctually if they are struggling with workload or understanding
- Act on feedback to improve future work
- Use independent study time effectively
- Take increasing responsibility for their own learning

8. Expectations of Staff

Teachers are expected to:

- Set purposeful, appropriately challenging homework
- Ensure clarity of instructions and deadlines
- Monitor completion and quality consistently
- Provide timely and meaningful feedback where appropriate
- Record homework accurately on Class Charts

9. Support, Intervention, and Non-Completion

Where homework is not completed or is persistently of poor quality, subject teachers will follow the school's KS5 intervention procedures.

This may include discussions with the student, parental contact, involvement of form tutors or heads of sixth form, and the setting of additional support or after school catch-up sessions.

The aim of intervention is to support students in developing effective study habits and meeting KS5 expectations.

10. Inclusion and SEND

Homework tasks will be set with consideration for students with SEND or specific learning needs. Reasonable adjustments will be made where appropriate, in line with student passports and individual support plans, while maintaining high expectations for all students.