

17 November 2015

Dear Year 10 Parent/Carer

Introduction of a Homework Policy and C4 for missed homework – Year 9

Following on from the Homework Policy Meeting for parents on the 7 September and my series of assemblies to the whole student body afterwards, I write to all Year 9 parents to clarify our approach to homework that begins on Monday 23 November for Year 9 students. The new homework policy has already been in operation with Year 11 and 10, and will continue to roll out to other year groups over the next few weeks and months, but I will write to relevant parents to make them aware as each year group comes on board.

After the outstanding GCSE results this summer, we remain determined that all students are supported to achieve the very best that they are capable of. An effective approach to homework will be critical in ensuring all our students leave with examinations that secure their post-16 courses and apprenticeships.

The following outlines our belief about homework at Outwood Academy Bydales:

- Homework can make all the difference to secure the best qualifications and grades.
- Homework prepares students for the rigours of GCSE and post-16 study.
- Homework should not be a 'bolt on' to lessons for the sake of it.
- Homework should be relevant to the lesson being taught, or the lesson that follows.
- Homework will be routinely set in subjects, but may not be set every week.
- Homework will always be marked, by the teacher, or the student, or a peer.
- A smaller amount of homework, but more often, can also aid memory and confidence.
- Homework is effective when it involves practising subject skills or typical questions.
- Homework may often be used as a starter or in the body of the following lesson.

To support our approach to homework the following applies:

- Students will be given time at the end of a lesson to record homework tasks carefully in Planners.
- Teachers will continue to be available to help with homework, when asked by students.
- Students can continue to access homework club and other subject Enrichment sessions.
- Students should complete homework in good time, so any help required is before a deadline.
- If students are absent when homework is set, they should endeavour to catch up.
- Homework deadlines will always be set for a future lesson in the subject, rather than at other times.

As you will appreciate, if we are serious about the impact homework has, there must be consequences where students fail to bring it to a lesson by a required deadline. For any homework set from Monday 23 November, any Year 9 who does not bring it completed to the deadline lesson will receive a Subject C4 Detention. Failure to attend the detention will result in a C5.

The vast majority of our students regularly complete homework, and the impact it is having is obvious. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support as we help students to achieve their very best.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat
Principal