



HOMEWORK POLICY

April 2007

INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared primarily for parents and guardians and outlines the policy of Chelsea Independent College on homework, how it is organized and managed, and the important role that parents and guardians have in helping the College to achieve and maintain high academic standards.

Assigning homework serves various educational needs. It serves as an intellectual discipline, establishes study habits, eases time constraints on the amount of curricular material that can be covered in class, and supplements and reinforces work done in College. In addition, it fosters student initiative, independence, and responsibility.

DEFINITION OF HOMEWORK

Homework is defined as out-of-class tasks assigned to students as an extension or elaboration of classroom work, and can be of one of three different types: practice, preparation and extension.

Practice assignments reinforce newly acquired skills. For example, students who have just learned a new method of solving a mathematical problem may be given sample problems to complete on their own. Preparation assignments help students prepare for future activities that will occur during normal class time. Students may, for example, be required to do background research or reading on a topic to be discussed in class. Extension assignments are frequently long-term continuing projects that parallel class work. Students are normally required to apply previous learning to complete these assignments.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Chelsea Independent College believes that homework:

1. Requires the co-operation of parents/guardians
2. Should be firmly rooted in current curriculum work
3. Should be marked and assessed by teachers like any other work completed in College
4. Should gradually increase in complexity and quantity as students progress through their programme of study
5. Is more about quality than quantity

PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK

1. To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study
2. To help students to develop perseverance, self-discipline and organization skills
3. To actively involve parents and other adults in students' work and keep them informed about the work of their children
4. To consolidate and reinforce work taught in timetabled classes
5. To allow practice where it is needed of skills learned in class time
6. To facilitate the efficient delivery of work in class time
7. To help ensure students make adequate progress with their learning
8. To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not always accessible within College
9. To help manage the demands of GCSE and A-Level coursework

ORGANISATION OF HOMEWORK

To ensure that students gain the most benefit from homework, staff will:

1. Set aside time during class time to make sure that homework has been completed

2. Give encouragement and praise for genuine effort
3. Make allowances for differing abilities and speeds of working
4. Ensure that the work produced is of an appropriate standard in relation to the subject and level being studied
5. Ensure that appropriate sanctions are imposed where students either fail to complete set homework or where it is completed to an inappropriate standard
6. Actively encourage parents and other adults to be involved in homework

RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers

It is the responsibility of teachers to set regular homework in accordance with the learning requirements of the academic programme which a student is undertaking, to ensure that homework is related to current curriculum work, to ensure parents receive an update through the termly academic progress reports on performance in homework tasks, to effectively mark homework and to ensure that students receive adequate and regular feedback on homework.

Student

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that homework is completed neatly, on time and returned to the teacher by the specified submission deadline. It is the student's responsibility to maintain a record of homework tasks set by his/her teachers.

Parent

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to support the College's aims in respect of setting homework, and to support the College's policy by offering guidance and support to their children.

QUANTITY OF HOMEWORK

The following is intended as a guide to the number of hours of homework set per subject per week for GCSE, AS, A2, 1 year A-Level and University Foundation Year Students. The number of hours a student is required to spend completing homework in subjects may vary depending upon the requirements of individual subjects throughout the academic year.

Academic Programme	Hours of Homework per Subject per Week
GCSE	2 hours
AS	2 hours
A2	3 hours
1 year A-Level	6 hours

Parents or guardians who feel that there is a problem with the amount or difficulty of homework given to their child should contact the College for advice.