

CBC HOMEWORK POLICY

The following is a set of guidelines advising how students may maximise the benefits of their homework. It is the responsibility of each student to keep up to date with all homework. These guidelines are designed to support students as they do this.

Why Homework?

Homework can:

- < Be a valuable reminder to students of material which has been covered in class.
- < Provide additional practice for students allowing more rapid movement through relevant course material.
- < Be useful to teachers for monitoring student progress
- < Help students to increase their personal responsibility in taking charge of their studies.
- < Help parents to become aware of student learning.
- < Revise material done in class
- < Prepare for the next class

Research has shown that revision of a topic/skill covered in class through homework ensures a much higher rate of retention and comprehension. Not only is the material remembered but the rate of loss afterwards is much less than without homework revision. The moral of this is **doing your homework the night you get it!**

How can parents help their sons?

At **Junior Cycle** parents can:

- < Keep a copy of your son's timetable
- < Every night check homework to be done with him.
- < Ask him what homework he has got in each class.
- < Ensure that he spends time in a quiet well lit room free of distractions. It is very important that the room is free of distraction.
- < A regular daily pattern of study with regular times each day is vital. Students in 1st year should spend about 1½ hours a day, 5 days a week rising to about 3 hours a day, 5 days a week in 3rd year. Don't accept any excuse, for example "I have no homework or we had a free class today". There is always learning and revision to be done.
- < Ask your son to show you the homework they have done. You could also encourage them by asking to test them on learning homework.

At **Senior Cycle** parents can:

- < Provide the same physical conditions for students to do their homework in peace.
- < Note that a minimum of 20 to 25 hours homework a week is required in 5th and 6th year.
- < At this stage students have more individual responsibility and the close monitoring in junior cycle may no longer be necessary. However, if teachers contact you indicating that homework has not been done, your trust may be misplaced and you may have to check that your son is doing his homework.

It is useful for parents to also note that when you ask your son about homework there can be three types:

- # Written homework
- # Learning homework. Learning homework is absolutely essential as revision of what has been done in class.
- # Revision at regular intervals to revise the work already done.

Your son's school homework journal is a vital tool. Please ensure that he has it in school every day, records all homework in it and keeps it in good order. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact his Tutor.

Please note that this is a broad policy for general information of teachers, students and parents. More detailed policies concerning homework in various subject areas are developed by the individual subject departments. The need for more detailed policies is because of the varying requirements of subjects; some subjects are timetabled every day and a little homework is given every night while other subjects have less frequent timetabling and therefore longer term or project based homework may be given. Individual subject departments develop policies to take account of the particular homework needs of the subject areas.

Homework is monitored and corrected using a variety of methods appropriate to the material being taught at any given time.

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