



TOLWORTH GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM
HOMEWORK / INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICY

Reviewed: April 2018
Approved: June 2018
Next Review: June 2020

Homework / independent study is any work or activity which students are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with parents or carers.

Homework should not prevent students from participating in after school activities such as sport, music or clubs. Time must be planned to allow completion of homework and other activities.

1 The Purpose of Homework / Independent Study:

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- To foster intellectual curiosity.
- To promote a love of learning.
- To enable students to devote extended time to particular tasks.
- To support the home/school relationship.

2 The Amount of Homework

- Students need to learn to manage their own time so that they do some homework / independent study each evening. Teachers do not usually set homework to be completed for the next day. The time devoted to homework should increase as the student progresses through the school.
- Students in Lower School can expect at least two homework tasks per fortnight for English, mathematics and science. Subjects that teach fewer lessons per fortnight; technology, humanities, modern foreign languages and the arts, also set homework, but less frequently. In the case of

practical subjects; such as ICT, technology and arts, homework will be set when appropriate to their current project.

- Students in Upper School can expect between an hour and a half and two hours on average per subject, per fortnight.
- Senior students are expected to spend one hour on homework for every hour taught. Students are encouraged in addition, to read as widely as possible around their chosen subjects to broaden their knowledge.
- Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take into account individual needs.

3 Types of Homework / Independent Study

- Homework might include such things as:
 - Writing assignments.
 - Consolidating learning assignments; learning keywords, memorising key information.
 - Preparing an oral presentation.
 - Structured revision tasks.
 - Response to Comment Action Response (CAR) feedback, completing polishing pages.
 - Flipped learning tasks, in preparation for a lesson.
 - Researching and reflecting upon a project or watching a performance or programme.
 - Creative tasks; designing and making.
- It is important that students should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners.

4 Organisation of Homework / Independent Study

- All homework and relevant materials should be published on Show My Homework. This will support all students in the organisation and completion of homework tasks, including students who were absent.

5 Non-Completion of Homework

- When homework has not been completed, appropriate action will be taken by the department. This could include a break-time, lunchtime or an after-school detention. See [Behaviour policy](#).

6 The Academy's Responsibilities

- The subject teacher is responsible for regularly setting appropriate homework and monitoring and recording its completion. The subject teacher does not need to mark all homework and may use peer and self-assessment as a valid means of feedback. See *marking policy*.
- Teachers will report students' homework scores on a termly basis. This score will contribute to a student's ATL score.

- The teacher must allow sufficient time in lesson to set and explain homework tasks. The teacher must publish homework on Show My Homework in accordance with the homework timetable.
- Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their department are regularly setting appropriate homework and monitoring and recording results. This should be checked half-termly as part of the departmental quality assurance process.