

Horizon Community College Home Learning Policy



Amended:
May 2020
Ratified:
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Section 1 Aims of the Home Learning Strategy

The College has a home learning strategy that is designed to develop independent learners. The aims of the strategy are to:

- Develop habits of learning across all students in all years
- Create a sense of personal responsibility in all students to learn and remember the content of the curricula they study
- Enable teaching to strike the right balance between activating new knowledge and the application of knowledge and skills.

Signed

(Executive Principal/Principal)

Date:

Signed:

(Chairperson of the Governing Body)

Date:

Section 2 Types of Home Learning

Retrieval Practice – students will use a range of techniques to revise information from their subject knowledge organisers. This is the primary means of home learning for all subjects, with the exception of Mathematics:

- Per term, students will be given the knowledge organisers for each of their subjects for that term
- Each week, the subject teacher will identify the section of a knowledge organiser that will need to be studied for home learning
- Students will use one of the suggested retrieval strategies for the section identified by their teacher. This will be done through practice such as self-testing, mind-mapping or recalling from memory
- The subject teacher will check that the home learning has taken place at the next appropriate time
- Successful recall of the information will be identified through the use of low-stakes quizzing in future lesson(s)

Mathematics – students will use the online home learning package Hegarty Maths to practise skills and understanding in Mathematics. This is the primary means of home learning for Mathematics.

- The class teacher will set 2-3 tasks per week (as appropriate) for students to complete online
- For each task, students will need to watch the video attached, then attempt the task
- Successful completion of the task will be indicated by the student result 'going green' when the answers are submitted
- Students can supplement their home learning through the use of the 'Fix Up 5' tool

Other – there may be other opportunities for students to supplement their learning or prepare for assessments through the means of:

- Exam-style questions
- Research for project work
- Preparatory reading

These methods should be secondary to the retrieval practice and use of Hegarty Maths identified above.

Section 3 Home Learning Responsibilities

Student responsibility:

- To have a complete set of knowledge organisers for each subject they study
- To listen to home learning instructions in class
- To ensure all instructions are recorded in their college planner
- To ensure all home learning is completed to the best of their ability and submitted on time
- To inform the class teacher before the lesson, not at the start, if there are any issues with the home learning set
- To seek support to ensure that they are able to complete tasks set for home learning

Parent responsibility:

- Ensure regular opportunities for home learning are created throughout the week
- Ensure their child has the correct equipment needed to complete home learning
- Stay in touch with the college should there be any issues with the completion of home learning tasks
- Monitor when examinations and coursework need to be completed
- Check their child's planner for home learning deadlines
- Encourage their child to develop good study habits
- Checking presentation and quality of all home learning being returned to school
- Talk with school should problems arise

Teacher responsibility:

- Class teachers should issue and monitor home learning in accordance with College policy outlined above. Home learning must be issued and recorded in the student planner, with instructions and a deadline clearly stated. Retrieval practice should be modelled and explained to support students to effectively carry out techniques
- Teaching staff should reward effort in home learning in accordance with college rewards policy. This will include:

- Achievement Points
 - Communication with home
 - Praise postcards
 - School team acknowledgement
- Teaching staff must monitor and record home learning and issue appropriate sanctions for non-completion:
 - Where a student has no evidence of home learning for that lesson, the class teacher will log this on SIMS. Five logs for non-completion will lead to a one-hour detention
 - Continued non-completion of home learning should be discussed with subject leadership and school teams (if necessary) in order to follow-up and provide support where needed