

Horizon Community College Home Learning Policy



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HOME LEARNING POLICY

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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.

Section 2 Types of Home Learning

Retrieval Practice – students will use a range of techniques to retrieve information from their subject knowledge organisers. This is the primary means of home learning, with the exception of Mathematics and a small number of subjects at KS3, where an alternative home learning strategy is deemed more appropriate, eg Art.

- 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 following week subject teachers will ask students to present evidence of their retrieval practice. Students will receive a **positive** reward for evidencing high quality retrieval practice
- Successful recall of the information will be identified through the use of low-stakes quizzing accessed remotely via Microsoft Teams

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

Additional home learning tasks – there may also be opportunities for students to supplement their home learning tasks or prepare for assessments through the means of:

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

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 and seek clarification if necessary
- 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 the retrieval practice and quizzing tasks set for home learning

Parent responsibility:

- To ensure regular opportunities for home learning are created throughout the week
- To ensure their child has the correct equipment needed to complete home learning

- To stay in touch with the college should there be any issues with the completion of home learning tasks
- To check their child's planner for home learning deadlines
- To encourage their child to develop good study habits
- To check the quality and presentation of all home learning being returned to school
- To talk with college should concerns 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 retrieval 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 should monitor and record the completion of quizzing:
 - if a student does not complete 5 low-stake quizzes they will be invited to 'additional study support' for 30 minutes after school, which will support them with future independent home learning
 - continued non-completion of home learning should be discussed with subject leaders and school teams, in order to ensure appropriate follow-up and provide support where it's needed.