

Horizon Community College Home Learning Policy



Amended:
June 2022
Ratified:
June 2022

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 subjects they study
- Enable teaching to develop a balance between activating new knowledge and the application of knowledge and skills.

Section 2 Types of Home Learning

The primary means of home learning is **Retrieval Practice** – students use a range of techniques to retrieve information from their subject knowledge organisers.

- At the beginning of the academic year students will be given the knowledge organisers for each of their subjects.
- Each week (or as appropriate for subjects students study fortnightly/on a rotation basis), subject teachers will identify the section of a knowledge organiser that students need to be studying 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-quizzing, mind-mapping, or using techniques such as look, cover, write, check (guidance around these techniques is in the school planner).
- Successful recall of the information is identified by using low-stakes quizzing accessed remotely via Microsoft Teams.
- The following week, subject teachers will ask students to present evidence of their retrieval practice. Students will receive a positive achievement point for evidencing high quality retrieval practice.

Maths and English use bespoke programmes for setting home learning.

Maths use the online home learning package [Hegarty Maths](#). This online platform provides students with targeted self-marking, skill-based questions, each with a supporting video to enable them to work independently and receive instant feedback on their progress.

English use [Bedrock](#) at KS3 and [Seneca](#) at KS4 to practise skills in each of these subjects. Bedrock is an online platform that is designed to develop student's vocabulary and teaches students the

language they need to be successful in school. Seneca is an online platform that provides students with focused GCSE content revision for both Language and Literature and is used to support and reinforce content from lessons in both Year 10 and Year 11.

- The class teacher will set 2-3 tasks per week (as appropriate) for students to complete online.
- The platforms indicate the level of success for each task once submitted by the students.
- Students will receive a positive achievement point for completing all tasks set for the week.

Additional home learning tasks – in all subjects teacher may set alternative home learning for students as an alternative to retrieval practice or to supplement it. This is through the means of:

- Exam-style questions
- Research for project work and coursework
- Preparatory reading
- Practical tasks

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 before the deadline

Parental 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 liaise with college should concerns arise

Teacher responsibility:

- Class teachers should issue and monitor home learning in accordance with college policy. 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 the college rewards policy. This will include:
 - Achievement Points
 - Positive phone calls home
 - Praise postcards
 - Celebration assemblies
- Teaching staff should monitor and record the completion of quizzing:
 - Continued non-completion of home learning should be discussed with parents/carers, subject leaders and school teams to ensure appropriate follow-up and support provided where it's needed.