

Coombeshead Academy



Homework Policy

2025-2026

Version:	1.0
Date:	September 2025
Review Date:	September 2026
Author Initials	TGR



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The purpose of homework

Homework plays a crucial role in reinforcing what students learn in the classroom, helping them develop a deeper understanding of the material. It encourages independent learning, time management, and responsibility: skills that are essential for success both in school and in life. By practicing concepts outside of class, students can identify areas where they need more help, allowing teachers to provide targeted support. Moreover, homework fosters a strong work ethic and a sense of discipline, preparing students for future academic and professional challenges. In essence, homework is not just about completing tasks, it is about building lifelong learning habits. Learning is defined as a change in the long-term memory. Our students attend 5 hours of lessons per day, which equates to a lot of new information being taken in. Without additional opportunities to practise remembering, much of that information would be quickly forgotten.

Homework expectations: Year 7-9

In Years 7-9 we expect every student to complete 1 hour of homework a day, 4 days a week in the following subjects: English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, French/Spanish and RPE using the following timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week A	English Maths Science	English Maths Science	English Maths Science	History Geography	No homework
Week B	English Maths Science	English Maths Science	English Maths Science	French or Spanish RPE	No homework

Whilst homework is not formally set weekly/fortnightly in other subjects, they may still be provided with tasks to help further their learning, which we would strongly encourage students to complete. Students are also provided with a Knowledge Organiser each cycle, which contains the core knowledge for

the cycle. As well as being used for homework for History, Geography, Languages and RPE, the Knowledge Organisers are to be used by students for revision for assessments and regular review.

In Year 7-9 there are two different homework platforms as summarised below:

Platform	Subject	What to do	Reason	How checked
Sparx	Sparx Maths	Homework is completed online. Complete the maths questions set weekly. Each student is set around 1 hour of questions per week. Book work codes must be written down in homework books.	Sparx Maths provides additional practice on topics that have been recently covered in class. This allows students to revisit and help embed mathematical procedures that may otherwise be forgotten.	Weekly check by teacher using online platform. Parents kept informed of progress by email.
	Sparx Reader (English)	Homework is completed online. Students read a book of their choice in sections and are asked comprehension questions at the end of each section. Students must earn a set number of Sparx Reader Points (SPR) to complete the homework. This should usually take around 1 hour per week.	We know that reading is essential for students to be able to access the curriculum, yet 1 in 4 students come to us in Year 7 at least one year below their chronological reading age. Sparx Reader encourages students to build positive reading habits and strengthen fluency and comprehension.	
	Sparx Science	Homework is completed online. Complete the science questions set weekly. Each student is set around 1 hour of questions per week.	Sparx Science provides questions to ensure students regularly revisit the key concepts that are required in Science.	
Knowledge Organisers	History Geography RPE French/Spanish	Using the Knowledge Organiser, complete the questions for the relevant subjects set according to the date	The Knowledge Organisers contain questions that directly relate to the content that students have learned in lessons. Regular review ensures that students embed the learning in the long-term memory. In French/Spanish students will practise learning and using key vocabulary.	Fortnightly check by teacher in lessons. Teachers will check the blue homework exercise books for completion of the questions.

Homework Expectations: Year 10-11

In Year 10 and 11, students have selected their GCSE subjects and so in addition to the core subjects, homework is also set in these. Students will do homework for 2 subjects per day for 30 minutes per subject (1 hour total in the week for English , Maths and Science). We expect students to complete 1 hour of homework per day, 5 days per week according to the schedule below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Subject 1	Science	Geog/History	Maths	Option Block F	Maths
Subject 2	English	Option Block E	English	Science	Option Block G

Maths and Science continue to use Sparx for homework but English set alternative homework and students are no longer required to do Sparx Reader, although we strongly encourage them to continue reading in their own time.

Knowledge Organisers are still provided for each subject and some subjects may still use these for homework alongside other revision platforms such as Seneca and paper-based tasks. At Key Stage 4 homework is set on Class Charts and teachers monitor this weekly and update, ensuring parents are kept informed.

Homework Expectations: Year 12-13

Homework is set weekly by each subject. There is no standard format, due to the different demands of courses. All homework is recorded and tracked on Class Charts

How can parents support their child with homework?

Parents and carers can support their child with homework by doing the following:

- Making sure that your child has a suitable space to complete work in
- Ensuring that time is built into your evening routine to complete homework
- Take an interest in the homework they are doing
- Ask questions and quiz your child on the sections they are learning to improve their recall of knowledge
- Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes per day
- Support and work with the school to ensure that homework is completed on time

Non completion of homework

To support students with homework we run an after-school club, Monday to Thursday in the Library. It is staffed so that students can get help with homework if needed. Students attend on a voluntary basis and we strongly encourage students to make use of this facility.

Teachers will check homework completion in class on a weekly or fortnightly basis according to the homework schedule and students will know which lesson the homework is checked. We expect all students to complete the homework set and meet the deadlines. We understand that mistakes can happen and students may on the odd occasion forget their homework and so we have a clear system that encourages students to complete homework first before sanctions are issued.

Issue	Stage	Action/Consequence
Student has not completed homework when teacher does agreed check in lesson	Stage 1 Classroom Teacher	If a student has not completed the homework, they will be given an initial chance to complete the work and a new deadline arranged between the student and the teacher. The teacher may keep the student back to complete at the end of the lesson or ask them to return at a different break time or to hand in the following day.
Student does not meet the extended deadline. Homework has not been completed or handed in to the teacher.	Stage 2 Departmental Intervention	Teacher issues a behaviour point in Class Charts: 'Incomplete Home Learning'. Teacher refers to departmental intervention (stage 2) and uses the announcement feature in Class Charts to inform parents and the students where/when to go (template available). If the homework is subsequently handed in to the teacher prior to the Departmental referral, the referral is cancelled by the teacher, but the behaviour point remains in order to track missed homework. Departments offer a range of interventions at stage 2, for example a weekly referral session during a break time or a room that students can attend at break time to catch up on missed homework. The CTL (or designated team member) has ownership of these and monitors and tracks attendance. Only the CTL can escalate this to stage 3 using a 'Missed Department Homework intervention' button on Class Charts. Should the student subsequently hand in the homework prior to stage 3 intervention, the detention should be cancelled.
Student has not attended the department intervention as requested and the	Stage 3 Whole School Intervention	If the student fails to resolve the issue following the department intervention, the CTL will refer the student to an after school homework detention for the following day. This is a 30 minute (1510 to 1540) detention staffed by teachers on a rota and takes place in the library. Students are expected to complete the missing homework in this detention. Should the student subsequently hand in the homework prior to stage 3 intervention, the

homework is still not completed		detention should be cancelled by the CTL, but the original behaviour point for incomplete home learning remains. Due to period 6, Year 11 students will be placed in the Friday detention that week.
Student does not attend the after school detention	Stage 4 SLT Detention	If the homework has still not been completed and the student has failed to attend any department or whole school intervention. They will be escalated to an SLT Detention that takes place every Friday in the library and lasts 1 hour (1510 – 1610). SLT staff this on a rota. TGR will manage the escalations. They will be collected by the SSO team during period 5 and will complete the homework after school. If the student refuses to attend this on a Friday they will be collected period 4 the following Monday and remain in the Bridge for Break 2, Period 5 and then complete a 60 minute after school detention. Failure to do this is likely to lead to a suspension.

Alongside the interventions/sanctions, we use intelligence events in Class Charts to track and monitor non-completion of homework. If a student repeatedly fails to complete homework, Class Charts will alert the relevant staff and the actions are as follows:

Number of missed homework cumulatively over the year	Action	Person responsible for action
5	Email home from the tutor to inform parents (scripted email). Identify any barriers to homework completion. Offer support in the form of attending homework support when needed. Tutor continues to monitor Class Charts for missed homework	Tutor
10	Phone call home from Year Leader to inform parents of level of missed homework. Identify and address any existing barriers. Reiterate the importance of homework completion. Feedback to tutor. Suggest mandatory attendance at homework support for a period of time. Tutor and Year Leader continue to monitor Class Charts for missed homework	Year Leader

15	Meeting with parent and student in school. Address any existing barriers and work with parent to ensure that the student is attending homework support daily to complete homework under supervision.	Link SLT and Year Leader
20	Meeting with parent and student in school. Address any existing barriers and work with parent to ensure that the student is attending homework support daily to complete homework under supervision. Compulsory amendment to student timetable to attend school until 1610 every day to ensure homework is completed.	Deputy Headteacher