



The Nicholas Hamond Academy 'Home Learning Policy'

Date of Policy Introduction: **March 2014**

Date of Policy Review: **March 2016**

Date of Next Review: **March 2018**

Signed Principal

Signed Chair of Governors

Date.....

Member of staff responsible: Ms. M. Baines

The Nicholas Hamond Academy is committed to ensuring that students achieve their full potential and become... 'The best that they can be'.

We recognise the crucial role that parents have in realising the potential of our students, and as such, promote a partnership between the Academy and parents/carers in delivering quality, measurable and worthwhile home learning.

We identify 'homework' as 'home learning'; this is because all homework should be an extension to the learning that happens whilst at school, and will never be set for the sake of completing additional work without due purpose or reason.

The rationale for Home Learning:

Regular and consistent home learning ensures that students can become the best that they can be; it:

- Provides opportunities for all students to achieve their potential
- Promotes independent learning through individually suitable home learning activities
- Encourages learning beyond the Academy day as an essential part of good education
- Promotes a positive ethos and culture in which learning and achievement can flourish, excel and be rewarded
- Promotes and develops organisational and time management skills
- Prepares students for life, so that they can confidently take their place in a rapidly changing society as motivated citizens with creative and enquiring minds

To assist students in organising their learning they are issued with a teamNHA planner, which is much more than just a home learning diary. It contains a great deal of important information about The Nicholas Hamond Academy and students should have their planners in the academy at all times. Parents are encouraged to make comments, if appropriate, and to use the planner as a method of communication with the Academy. Students will have their planners checked every Friday during 'Prep time' where effective use of the planner is monitored and developed.

Furthermore, Homelearning is recorded electronically by all teachers on Show my Homework. There is a link to Show my Homework on the school website which shows all homelearning set by teachers. Each student and parent has their own log in details to enable them to access further detail for each homelearning task set. Students are expected to record homelearning in their planner to ensure any student that does not have internet access outside of school can still complete the homelearning activities. A homelearning club is also run every Wednesday after school to enable student access to computers and internet if they do not have access.

Why do we set home learning?

- To consolidate and reinforce skills learned in the classroom.
- To support our mission in creating self-disciplined, motivated, and independent learners who can undertake enquiry and investigation tasks with confidence
- To allow research and the pursuit of work in more depth.
- To improve pupils' reflective study and revision skills.
- To prepare students the next step in each of their key stages

What type of activities might a pupil be set for home learning?

- A project lasting several weeks – where this is set, students are expected to work on this per week, and not leave the project until days before the deadline
- An extended piece of writing
- In Maths students will usually be set practice questions
- Learning key words or concepts
- Revising for a test – making use of websites such as: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/> , <http://www.mymaths.co.uk/> and <http://www.mangahigh.com/en-gb/>
- Brainstorming ideas to prepare for the next lesson
- Creating mood boards
- Researching topics
- Discussing issues with family members or friends
- Re-drafting a piece of work acting on advice given from work carried out previously
- Producing a diagram, drawing or model
- Practicing a skill, dance or performance piece
- Completing practice exam questions

How long should a child spend on home learning per night?

The time spent on home learning will vary from subject to subject. Sometimes a home learning task could last as little as ten minutes and sometimes as long as an hour. As a **rough** guide, students should spend the following time on studies at home:

Year Group	Time Allocation
Years 7 & 8	20-40 minutes a day
Year 9	45mins-1 hours a day
Years 10 & 11	1- 2 hours a day

We believe that effective organisation is important for your child to complete home learning, and still maintain a healthy school work/life balance. As such, we have provided students with a timetable that is intended to be a guide (not a compulsory schedule). The timetable may need to be flexible.

The Nicholas Hamond Academy leadership will ensure that:

- Home learning is coordinated to be manageable for students on a daily basis and a venue is provided on site for home learning to be completed if needed. The academy offers a variety of after school clubs and clinics where students can access support. Students can also take full advantage of the excellent service offered by the LRC at lunchtimes across both lunch sittings.
- Students and parents are given a timetable for home learning at the start of each academic year.

Feedback on your child's Home Learning

Pupils will always be given feedback in a way that lets your child know how well they have done, and how they could do better along with what to do next.

Form Tutors will:

- Check that students have a planner (or temporary replacement if it is lost) every Friday during 'Prep Time' *
- Check and sign home learning diaries every week and ensure students are recording their work.

** 'Prep time' occurs every Friday for twenty minutes at the end of the day. It offers an opportunity for students to organise themselves for the week ahead and make a start on home learning in a quiet and structured environment.*

It is expected that parents/carers will:

- Check and sign planners every week and assist their child with planning and organising their home learning.
- Provide their child with a suitable learning environment in which to complete their home learning.
- Look at their child's exercise books and support their child's learning by helping them to act on the comments and targets from staff.
- Encourage and monitor home learning and inform their child's teacher if an issue arises.

1.) Give your child lots of praise and encouragement

- As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence and confidence is vital to learning.
- Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than... "You're clever!"

2.) Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.

- The Government encourages parents and carers to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves for at least 20 minutes a day.

3.) Make use of your local library. Look out for special events and services for children and young people.

A link to your local library can be found here:

http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Libraries/Your_local_library/NCC007517

4.) Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting.

- Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.

5.) Try to set time aside to do homework and encourage a routine

6.) Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for homework (or help them to get to other places where homework can be done).

Non-Completion of Home Learning

- It is a teacher's clear responsibility to set regular home Learning. It is also a parent's or carer's clear responsibility to ensure that the homework is completed.

The standard sanction for failure to complete home learning will be result in a detention. If a student continues to fail to complete home learning, teachers are expected to contact parents/Carers and in some case arrange a meeting to discuss how the student can be supported further.

- When home learning is not completed by the deadline, a 24 hour extension will normally be granted at the teacher's discretion. It will not apply where the student has repeatedly failed to meet previous deadlines.

INFORMATION FOR STAFF

Practical Advice and Guidance

- Pupils should take out their planners at the start of all lessons to facilitate the setting of home learning in class and re-enforce the use of the planners.
- Home learning needs to be planned and in the scheme of work.
- Home learning tasks must have a strong link to class work.
- Differentiated tasks should be offered whenever possible particularly in mixed ability classes.
- Extension tasks should be set where relevant.
- Home learning should have a high profile as an integral part of pupil assessment.
- Pupils need regular praise and rewards for completing good quality home learning.
- Home learning tasks need to be varied and imaginative – home learning can be fun.
- Allow time within lessons, where needed, to log Homelearning on the Show my Homework website
- Allow time in lessons for pupils to write home learning tasks in their planner and supervise this activity closely.
- All home learning tasks should be recorded on the Home Learning tracker.
- Home learning missed due to absence on the set date does not normally have to be completed. If home learning forms an integral part of class notes, then it should be completed by a mutually agreed time.
- Students should check Show My Homework when absent to ensure that they can keep up with any work set, to ensure they are aware of up coming assessments etc.
- Allow time to explain home learning tasks with clear learning objectives.
- We expect completed home learning to be given in on time.
- Ensure pupils have access to the resources they need such as the Internet, books etc. Remind students that they have access to clinics and to the LRC.
- Plan when to mark home learning tasks – do not take in several classes' work all to be marked for the next day.
- Sample and moderate home learning in faculty time.
- Give pupils regular individual and whole class feedback on ways to improve.
- Tell pupils about home learning clubs and encourage them to attend.
- Each subject should offer specific advice on how to revise for these short tests.
- In Key Stage 3, subjects should consider setting home learning modelled on the coursework tasks set in Key Stage 4. These may be tasks extended over several weeks. If an extended homework is set, it should be written in full in the planner for the first week with a short note added to each week it will cover.
- Reward and celebrate positive behaviours with phone calls home and positive entries on eportal.

Pupils with a special educational need

Where children are identified as having a special educational needs tasks should:

- Have a very clear focus and time guidelines
- Tasks should be differentiated and where needed use strategies such as writing frames etc.
- Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed
- Encourage social as well as other skills
- Be varied