

12th March 2021

Homework

Dear Student, Parents and Guardians,

From Monday 15th March, we will be reintroducing homework for students in Years 9 - 11. Homework at Plympton Academy is based on retrieval practice. This helps students to develop their long term memory and ability to recall information when they need it. It also helps to develop independent learning and revision skills, which students will need when they prepare for their GCSE and A Level exams.

Students will have two styles of homework:

Online homework tasks	Self Quizzing / Retrieval using the homework exercise book and knowledge organisers.
Bedrock (Literacy - Year 9 only) Computer Science (option groups only) Hegarty (Maths) Language Gym (Spanish - option groups only) Seneca (Science)	English Religious Studies (Years 9 and 10 only) Option Subjects

For homework tasks in their exercise books, students should either self-quiz or complete a retrieval practice activity. For more information about the research behind our homework system, along with a guides from Mr Strachan and the Learning Scientists on how to self-quiz and complete a retrieval practice activity, alongside instructions on how to access the Hegarty and Seneca platforms, please visit our website: <https://www.plympton.academy/page/?title=Homework&pid=64>

Students should check ClassCharts each day, which will show the allocated subject(s) for that day, Class teachers may use the 'announcements' section of ClassCharts to give a specific topic for students to focus on as part of their homework. For Art, BTEC subjects and Photography, students may be asked to work on their assignments or portfolios, and should focus their allocated time on these activities rather than a retrieval based activity. Students should spend no more than 20 minutes completing a subject's homework, and, if needed, should use a timer to ensure they don't spend too long on a task.

Online homework tasks will be checked by their subject teacher with the self quizzing tasks checked by form tutors during afternoon registration. These homework tasks will be referred to during subject lessons, and class teachers will refer to them whilst teaching. If a student has a genuine reason as to why a homework task was not completed, they should speak to their form tutor in the first instance.

If you have any questions about homework procedure, then please contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year in the first instance, or, for the online homework tasks, your child's subject teacher.

We thank you for your support in this vital aspect of your child's learning.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ian Hartley
Assistant Principal