

Subject: KS3 Homework at Wey Valley Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share our approach to homework at Wey Valley Academy and to explain how we are making homework more consistent for students and families.

At Wey Valley, we believe that homework should support learning rather than become an additional burden. Our aim is for homework to be purposeful, manageable and clearly connected to the learning taking place in the classroom. We also want to create capacity for students, families and staff, so that homework is focused on the activities that have the greatest value rather than simply setting work for the sake of it.

What will homework look like?

At Key Stage 3, our minimum expectations are:

Subject	Homework frequency	Typical time
English, Maths and Science	Weekly	Around 30 minutes
History, Geography and MFL	Fortnightly	Around 30 minutes
All other subjects	Once per half term	Around 30 minutes

Students will be given clear and consistent routines for homework. Departments will establish regular days for setting and collecting homework wherever possible. Students will also be told about their homework in person in lessons, so that they know what they need to do, where to complete it, when it is due and approximately how long it should take.

Arbor – keeping everything in one place

All homework will be recorded by teachers on Arbor. This means that parents and carers will be able to see what has been set, when it is due and what students are expected to do through the Arbor Parent App, while students can access the information through the Arbor Student App.

The Arbor Student App is a really useful tool and we would encourage students to use it to help them take increasing responsibility for their learning. However, having the app is

Wey Valley Academy

Steve Dyer, Principal

Matt Britt, Chief Education Officer

Sir Jon Coles, Interim Chief Executive Officer

01305 817 000

www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk

veyvalley@wva.weareauthentic.education

Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5AN

not essential. Students will still be told about their homework directly by their teachers, and the information will be available through Arbor for parents and carers.

Some subjects may use other platforms, such as Sparx or Seneca, to complete the actual homework. However, all homework will still be recorded and signposted through Arbor so that there is one central place to check expectations.

Wider opportunities

We also want to encourage students to engage with opportunities beyond the core homework tasks. This might include:

- Reading books from their subject-specific reading lists
- Reading for pleasure and developing wider subject knowledge
- Attending appropriate clubs, enrichment activities or extracurricular opportunities

For subjects such as PE and Performing Arts, participation in an appropriate extracurricular or enrichment activity can form part of the homework expectation. Departments will also promote subject specific reading and develop age appropriate reading lists.

These wider opportunities are about encouraging students to develop their interests and independence rather than creating an additional workload for families.

Rewards and sanctions

We want to recognise students who consistently complete their homework and develop positive learning habits.

Students will receive +5 points for completing homework and, where appropriate, -5 points for non-completion.

We also recognise that there will be circumstances where a student may reasonably need additional time. Staff will use their professional judgement in situations such as absence, exceptional circumstances, difficulties that have been communicated to school or a reasonable request for additional time.

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Our aim

Homework is an important part of learning at Wey Valley. It gives students regular opportunities to practise and consolidate what they have learned in school, while helping them develop positive routines, greater independence and confidence.

We are also mindful of the importance of our students' wellbeing. Our aim is not to give more work for the sake of it, but to provide manageable opportunities for students to develop good learning habits without feeling overwhelmed. If your child is finding homework difficult to manage or is becoming worried or overwhelmed, please encourage them to speak to their subject teacher or contact us so that we can support them.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to develop positive learning habits, greater independence and happy, confident learners.

Yours sincerely,

 A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LB'.

Laura Bucke

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