

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Home Learning timetable

St Aldhelm’s Academy is dedicated to supporting your child and providing the best education possible. We believe that high expectations lead to high achievers. This ethos not only applies to students when they are working within school but also when they are working at home. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation shows that *‘the impact of homework on learning is consistently positive (leading to on average five months’ additional progress)’*.

Homework for KS3 is set once a week for the core subjects of **English, Maths and Science.** Students will be given one week to complete their home learning. Home learning will be set once a fortnight for all other subjects and students will be given the full two weeks to complete it.

The timetable for year 7 home learning:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Mathematics** | **English** *(set on Bedrock)* | **Science** |
| 7A | Tuesday | Tuesday | Monday |
| 7B | Friday | Tuesday | Friday |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Rotation subjects** | **Humanities and MFL** | **Other Subjects** |
| 7A and  7B | Week B | Week A | These subjects vary per class across the two weeks.  The teacher will provide the homework schedule |

(Due to the fact that different groups are on at different times over the two-week period, this timetable will only specify the week in which the homework will be set for non-core subjects. More information will be given in lessons)

The table below identifies the subjects within the relevant block from the table above (your child will be studying at least one of these but not all. Please discuss this with your child)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rotation Subjects** | **Humanities and MFL** | **Other Subjects** |
| Catering; Engineering; Computing; Design Technology; Graphics | Spanish, Geography, History, RS | Art, PSHE |

Your child’s teachers will reward them with stars when they complete their homework on time and complete it to a high standard. Although our emphasis is on encouraging students to complete home learning through praise and rewards, we want to do everything we can to make sure all students benefit from regularly completing it. If a student fails to complete home learning, parents will be notified by text message. Students may be put on to a home learning report card, either in one subject or across multiple subjects, if they persistently miss deadlines. They may also be offered additional or one-to-one support to help them with their organisation. Furthermore, students may be directed to attend a catch-up session or home learning club if they repeatedly and persistently fail to miss deadlines. Please work with your child and together we can make the difference.

If your child needs any more information or you have any questions regarding home learning, please speak with your child’s tutor in the first instance. The following page contains our top ten tips for helping with home learning. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Phillip Taylor: Teaching and Learning Lead

**TOP 10 TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH HOME LEARNING**

The majority of our students have produced excellent homework historically and we know that parents provide a lot of support at home to help students organise their time to complete it to a high standard. In order to support parents, further we have listed 10 top tips:

**1. Discuss home learning:** Give your child a chance to talk about their school work if they want to. Even if you know nothing about a particular subject, you can still help just by talking and listening and helping them to find their own answers.

**2. Encourage:** Help your child take responsibility for organising and doing their home learning and never forget to praise them for their hard work or their improved concentration, handwriting or presentation.

**3. Use the planner:** Ensure that your child is writing down their home learning in their planner and check it regularly.

**4. Help your child to keep to a routine:** Some children prefer to do home learning straight after school, whereas others prefer to ‘unwind’ first or have their meal then do home learning later. Let your child decide – but ensure they stick to it.

**5. Establish a study zone:** It’s very important to try to create a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, ideally somewhere with a clear work surface, good lighting and no interruptions. Try to teach younger brothers and sisters not to interrupt when home learning is being done.

**6. Allow for differences**: Children are all different and have different learning styles. Some prefer to study alone, whereas others like to study with friends or family. It’s worth remembering that some children like to work with music on to keep them company, too.

**7. Use resources:** If there isn’t suitable space in your home for working, try a local library or a home learning club (We will be running our home learning club on Mondays and Tuesdays from 15:00 to 16:00).

**8. Get Tech Savvy**: The internet can be great for looking things up and finding out more so encourage your child to become an independent learner and to go the 'extra mile' with their studies.

**9. Read together**: As a parent you are your child’s first teacher and one really practical way to help your child to learn is to read together, particularly when your child first starts school. But even as children get older they still love to be read to. Remember to share storytelling duties between both parents, as dads are powerful role models and have a strong influence on their sons’ attitudes to reading. Let them see you and older children reading yourselves, too.

**10. Offer rewards**: Make home learning rewarding by setting up some treats like staying up 10 minutes later, spending 10 minutes extra on the computer or having a friend round. It can help to keep your child motivated if they need that little extra encouragement from time to time.