

## Homework Forum

Many thanks to Parents who took time out from their busy schedules to share with us their thoughts about homework. Having run the timetables that existed in the school for a half term, we were able to discuss both the purpose and your concerns with the current system and your recommendations. Below is a summary from the meeting.

You believed the purpose of homework involved some or all of the following:

- To support their development towards independent learning.
- To explore and understand how they learn? When, where? Under pressure, systematised? Am, Pm, Week nights, Weekends?
- To continue to share their learning with you and to encourage you to model resilience when things get difficult.
- To continue their learning through consolidation, extension, enrichment, reflection and to stimulate curiosity.
- To prepare for new learning.

You raised the following concerns about the current system and I have explained what we are doing about this in red:

- The amount of homework that all year groups are receiving is significant and can be up to 2 hours a night sometimes. **This feels at the borders of too much for KS2 and excessive for KS3. Subject Leders have discussed and we will have a solution next week.**
- You have noticed a decline in students reading, when they have so much homework to do, their reading suffers. **We need to amend this in our new homework policy asap. Daily reading is essential for students to succeed.**
- Research is the biggest problem, as it can take hours to find a website appropriate and then translate it into a level that students can read. You said that often you ended up doing this type of homework for the child. You asked that if we continue with it, we give the pupils specific websites. **We hear you, and are reviewing this week with our Subject Leaders and will confirm how we solve this asap**
- Students still struggle to understand some homework and asked that this could be written on the board at the start of the lesson in order for them to complete. **Yes we will move to this as of next week.**
- You hate homework on paper, and know students have files but believe it still looks scrappy, and you don't get to their books. **We hear you and don't like it either, however the "send books home half term" is evidence that a small but significant number of homes are not returning books. Please remember the books support us to make judgements about your child's progress.**
- You are worried where this homework goes and is it ever marked as you don't see the paper returned. **We are now considering how we move to a book system of some sort that comes in and out of school so you can see the marking. Remember your child sees several teachers, so the logistics is different from primary. Back next week with a solution!**
- You recommended less was set, particularly lower down the school and that two pieces a night seemed appropriate. **We agree for lower down the school but know that in Year 8 we need to prepare them for the start of their GCSE and significant increase in workload.**

- You would like to encourage homework that strengthens reading. **We agree that our new policy will support this.**
- You asked if pupils are struggling can parents explain and put a note in the planner is this acceptable? **This is absolutely acceptable.**
- If you are setting homework that requires a computer can they please have access to a space to print out. **Yes highly appropriate we will talk to ICT about when and how.**
- Don't set homework that is over night. **We will abide by this from next week.**
- Writing that doesn't require a computer would encourage them to write properly and to edit. **Mmm... we can see pro's and con's but are looking at how to increase the opportunity for students to handwrite.**
- Can't always see the purpose or meaning. **In some cases we agree, and believe this has to be at the heart of the new policy.**