



WESTON FAVELL ACADEMY

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 WestonFavellGAT

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We know parents are always very keen to support their children at home and we hope this letter will be helpful in supporting you to do this. One of the best ways to do this is simply talking with your child about their day and their learning experiences. One of our whole school priorities is to develop the effectiveness of homework that is set to ensure that it remains meaningful, manageable, and motivating for all pupils as well as effective in supporting in class learning.

At Weston Favell Academy, we believe that homework is important in ensuring that children make as much progress as possible in their education: it allows them to practise key knowledge and skills, committing them to long-term memory, while developing habits of independent study that will be essential as they get older. We know that, now more than ever, this is vital given that pupils have experienced so much disruption to their learning in previous academic years.

Research has shown that the setting of homework for Secondary School pupils is a benefit to their learning. According to the Education Endowment Foundation, homework can have a positive impact of increasing learning by over 5 months when done effectively. Evidence also suggests that relating homework to learning in normal school time is important. In the most effective examples homework was an integral part of learning, rather than an add-on.

At Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9), homework will be set weekly in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. Tasks set will be linked to pupils' learning in lessons and will take no longer than 60 minutes to complete each week (3hrs a week maximum for each student). This is a guide for subject staff, although it is clearly difficult to judge how long it will take every member of the class to complete the work; teachers should inform their classes how long they believe the task should take. If the teacher knows that a task will take longer than their allocated time, then they should make this clear to the pupils.

In English, the homework is based around reading and vocabulary acquisition and will be set through the Reading Progress Programme on MS Teams or on Bedrock Learning. Reading is scientifically proven to improve cognitive development, confidence, and mental health, and is pivotal in ensuring pupils can be successful at school and in wider life. Homework will be set weekly on a **Monday** and pupils will have 1 week to complete the task.

In Maths, homework will be set on MathsWatch and tasks will be an extension of the learning completed in lessons. The aim of MathsWatch is to provide a high-quality home learning platform for all students and to help students not only become better mathematicians but more independent learners. Homework will be set weekly on a **Friday** and students will have one week to complete the tasks set.

In Science, homework will be set on Seneca Learning and tasks will be an extension of the learning completed in lessons. Seneca is an adaptive learning platform written by experts and academically proven to improve pupils' outcomes. Using this resource will help give your child the best opportunity to get the highest grades in their exams, even if they currently seem a long way away.

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Each assignment is adjusted to each pupil to optimise their learning and provide their class teacher with detailed information about their progress. Homework will be set weekly on a **Friday** and students will have one week to complete the assignment.

To support students in completing their homework, there are spaces for students to use before and after school. The library is open before school from 8am and open after school until 4pm and there is a computer suite available until 4pm every day.

How can I support my child?

Check-in with your child every day to see what homework they have been set and encourage them to complete it. You can also check this on ClassCharts. We will be monitoring completion of homework through positive points and rewards.

- Ensure your child completes their homework at least 3 days in advance of the due date so that they can seek help from their teacher if they struggle with the task.
- Encourage your child to put away their mobile phone and other distractions when completing their homework to ensure that they focus fully on the task.
- Try and set up a quiet work area for your child if possible. If you don't have the space, consider setting aside routine 'quiet time'.
- Encourage your child to use the available space at school to complete their homework.

If your child needs support in accessing the online platforms, please ask them to speak to their class teacher in the first instance. If you have any concerns about the homework for each subject, please contact the Assistant Principal in that faculty:

English:

Miss W Howard – whoward@westonfavellacademy.org

Maths:

Mr C Makris – cmakris@westonfavellacademy.org

Science:

Mr J Barker – jbarker@westonfavellacademy.org

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Miss J Pearson
Senior Assistant Principals – T&L

Mrs V Davies

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