

October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

At Longsands Academy, we firmly believe that learning outside of lesson time is essential to long term academic success. It allows our students to extend their learning and to reinforce what has been learnt in class.

Please find overleaf the Academy guidelines on Homework, throughout Years 7-13.

Please can I also take this opportunity to remind you that Longsands uses 'Doddle' as an online platform to record the setting of homework. Parents can access this through Doddle Parent. The Doddle app can be downloaded by both students and parents/carers on the Google Play store and the iOS App store. To find it, simply search for 'Doddle Learn' and download the app free of charge. When downloaded, students and parents/carers use their existing logins to access the app. You need only log in once, meaning no more forgotten passwords. The app will send daily notifications allowing students and parents/carers to stay up to date with upcoming and due homework.

With Doddle Parent, you can:

- View all homework tasks your child has been set, including when homework tasks are due;
- Access any resources your child has to complete for homework;
- See all homework that has been handed in, including scores received for Doddle quizzes;
- Encourage independent learning so you know exactly what your child needs to work on;
- Have meaningful conversations about what your child has been learning at the Academy.

At home, please support your child by ensuring that they have a quiet environment to do their homework. It is important that your child gets into positive and effective study habits now so that they can fulfil their learning potential.

If you have any questions regarding your child's homework then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mr N D Owen
Vice Principal: Academic

Aims of Homework

Homework is regarded as an essential means of reinforcing and extending work done in class, as well as encouraging students to develop self-discipline and excellent study habits.

Recording Homework

All homework tasks must be recorded, by teachers, on Doodle where they can be accessed by parents/carers as well as students. Here teachers will record homework instructions, attach resources to support the homework tasks (if necessary) and set clear deadlines by which the homework needs to be completed. Students should have more than 24 hours' notice to complete a homework set.

Homework will be acknowledged by teachers in a variety of ways, either through simply checking homework during the lesson, requiring students to use their homework to make a contribution to the following lesson(s), asking students to self or peer assess their homework or by the teacher review marking it.

It is a student's responsibility to complete all homework, to do it to the best of their ability and to ensure that it is handed in on time. If a student fails to complete the homework set, or fail to submit homework by the deadline, the teacher will record C2 on SIMS: a centralised detention will then take place.

Homework in Key Stage 3

Students can expect to receive regular homework; this will be weekly for English, Maths, Science, MFL, Geography and History and set twice a half term in other subject areas. Students in Key Stage 3 should expect to spend approximately 30 minutes completing homework tasks for each subject.

Homework in Key Stage 4

Students can expect to receive regular homework; this will be weekly for all of their subjects. Students in Key Stage 4 should expect to spend approximately 60 minutes completing homework tasks for each subject per week.

Homework in the Sixth Form

Students can expect a mixture of regular smaller 'prep' tasks to be done before a sequence of lessons (such as reading through class notes, or preparing to contribute to the lesson) and longer research tasks such as planning an extended essay answer or working through a past examination paper. Sixth Form students typically have 10 to 13 study periods per week and the expectation is that they will be used each week for this purpose. In addition there will be regular homework tasks to complete for each subject. This should equate to 4 to 5 hours of work per subject, each week.

Supporting Homework

Students experiencing difficulties with a piece of homework should seek help from the relevant subject teacher in advance of any completion deadline. We encourage students to make use of the Academy Library at break and lunchtimes to complete homework tasks. Each evening the Academy runs a Homework Club where students have access to ICT facilities and can complete homework tasks under supervision. Sixth Form students can use the facilities in the Sixth Form block until 4.30 pm each evening.