

'Homework' Protocol 2020-21

Rationale – why is homework important?

At CODA we believe that completing work outside of lessons can help students develop independence, self-discipline and resilience. These attributes will help students to achieve academic success and prepare them for lifelong learning, and are therefore important in realising the school vision of 'improving life chances for all students'.

Homework can provide **students** with opportunities to:

- Practice and consolidate what they have learned in lessons
- Revise and prepare for assessments and examinations

Homework can provide **parents/carers** with opportunities to:

- Help their child make progress by discussing and reviewing what they have learned

What do we mean by 'homework'?

Homework involves any extra learning activity that takes place outside of timetabled lessons, so homework doesn't need to happen at home! When not in lockdown, catch up sessions are available from 2:30 to 3:00 every day for interested students.

The main focus of homework at CODA is **revision and memorisation**.

To be successful in examinations, students have to learn and remember a huge amount of information. We therefore believe that homework should involve the regular learning and revision of key facts, definitions, ideas, formulae, etc. from Year 7 all the way through to Year 11. This takes away the need for 'cramming' before examinations.

Some *examples* of homework tasks are:

- Reading subject/topic fact sheets
- Using checklists to plan and target revision
- Completing online tests and quizzes
- Active revision strategies such as:
 - 'Read, Cover, Say/Write' (self-quizzing)
 - Drawing 'mind maps'
 - Creating posters or 'flash cards'
 - Answering timed, exam-style questions from memory

What are CODA's homework expectations?

CODA does not have a formal homework timetable, but that does not mean that students don't have the opportunity to complete extra work in their own time.

The curriculum sections on the website provide information about each subject and the topics studied during the entire year. Furthermore, resources are available on Microsoft Teams (there is more information about remote learning on the website).

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and use the information provided to revise.

Sometimes, homework tasks *will* be set by teachers, and students would be expected to complete these tasks by the deadline provided. Teachers will also direct students to revise and prepare for tests and assessments throughout the year.

When students do complete homework tasks they are rewarded with extra 'Class Charts' points. These points help students to achieve their '95% positive ratio' and allow them to participate in the 'Activity Days' that happen at the end of every term.

How can parents/carers help their child with their homework?

Research suggests that talking to your child about what they are learning e.g. asking them what they know, or asking them to explain or demonstrate things helps them to remember more and make progress.

Parents/carers can also encourage their child to use revision techniques such 'Read, Cover, Write' or creating posters and flash cards.

What is my child studying at the moment? What do they need to learn to make progress?

To help parents/carers support their child's learning, subject information is available on the school's website, including what is taught every term by year group.

This subject information will continue to be developed and will eventually include some or all of the following:

- An overview of the topics taught every term in each subject in Year 7-11
- A summary of what students are studying within each topic
- Key words and definitions
- Fact sheets – detailed information that students need to learn and remember
- Knowledge organisers / topics on a page
- Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs) – detailed information about what students need to know, understand and be able to do to be successful
- Exam-style questions and model answers

For further details about each subject's curriculum please visit:

www.cityofderbyacademy.org/information/curriculum

For further details about what students study in different year groups and Microsoft Teams please visit:

www.cityofderbyacademy.org/students/remote-learning

If you have any questions or concerns about homework please email Mr. Harding (Deputy Headteacher) at:

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