



The Gordon Schools: Homework and Revision

In The Gordon Schools we believe that an organised approach to regular homework and revision is vital to academic progress. Although different subjects have different methods and requirements, it is important that parents and pupils should have some general guidelines on the amount and nature of homework and revision expected of pupils at the various stages of their school career. Specific homework tasks and regular revision both help pupils to deepen their understanding of subjects. They help improve on work done in class. They develop and reinforce important habits of self-discipline and self-study. Working on our own is something we all have to do. Generally, the amount of time required for homework and revision will build up as pupils move through school, but for all pupils some weeks will be busier than others, as they revise for tests or study for national examinations.

An after-school homework club operates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and is supervised by members of staff. A wide range of departments also organise lunchtime advice sessions for pupils, to help them with their coursework and assignments. The school Library is open every day at intervals and lunchtimes and for seniors at study time.

Homework can take a number of forms:

- completion of exercises or projects begun in class
- special assignments such as note-taking, essays, reports or interviews
- preparation for forthcoming lessons
- private visits to museums, libraries, events and performances.
- revision of work done in class
- long term projects
- background reading

A good piece of homework is one that pupils have:

- given their full attention to
- done to the best of their ability
- checked for careless errors
- presented well
- handed in on time

How can parents help?

It is vital that parents help their son or daughter to develop good study habits. School planners are given to all pupils to help them to plan their study. In the planner, diary pages are laid out in a weekly, double-page format. Pupils are given a school calendar showing key dates. They are also provided with a range of information leaflets, for example the extra-curricular activities leaflet which sets out days dates and times of activities. At home, a warm, quiet part of the house should be made available, if possible, for homework and revision, where youngsters can study without interference or interruption. Care should be taken to ensure that time is balanced between work set for the following day and more extensive assignments set for a week or more later. There should be encouragement to keep notes in good order, to store books and jotters carefully and to check timetables the evening before, to see that appropriate books, materials and equipment are packed ready for the following day. Always remember, even when your son or daughter does not have a specific homework task to complete there is always a need for revision of work carried out that day or week. Encouraging your son or daughter to follow a regular plan of revision will prove invaluable in maximising performance in classwork and will also go a long way to ensuring success in examinations.

Advice given to pupils about using study planners

The study planner is a most important aid to schoolwork. There is ample space for writing up homework and revision.

Pupils are expected to carry their planner each day and to use it in each lesson. It has proved to be invaluable for study leading to examinations. Parents are asked to check this planner, to see that it is up-to-date and being used regularly. Pupils are given the following advice about using planners:

- Bring the planner to school every day.
- Write down the homework under the day you have to hand it in.
- Check your planner every night.
- Tick the homework after you have done it.
- Get someone at home to check your homework with you.
- Get an adult to sign your planner once a week.