

## Faculty Homework Policy

### Faculty name: English

In the English Department, we believe homework should be **purposeful, manageable** and **meaningful**. It is designed to support what students are learning in lessons and help them grow in confidence as readers, writers and communicators.

Homework in English helps students to:

- Practise and secure key skills in reading and writing
- Build vocabulary and subject knowledge
- Develop independent study habits
- Prepare effectively for assessments and examinations
- Foster a curiosity towards literature and language

We aim to set homework that is:

- **Clear** – students understand exactly what is expected
- **Relevant** – directly linked to classroom learning
- **Balanced** – manageable alongside other subjects
- **Challenging** – encouraging students to think deeply and critically

We also believe homework is an important partnership between school and home. Parents and carers can support by asking questions about homework and how it links to the English curriculum, encouraging regular reading, helping students to plan and organise their time, and providing a quiet space for study where possible.

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### **Rationale for homework at KS3:**

At KS3, the rationale for homework in English is twofold, linking to promoting a reading culture that values reading and also to the specifics of the English curriculum. We use Reading Plus, an adaptive literacy program, to encourage students to read a range of fiction and nonfiction texts and to monitor close reading skills and comprehension. This program is monitored by classroom teachers and used formatively to identify areas that a student may need to target and inform specific reading strategies used in lesson and the structured reading intervention that takes place during the fortnightly Library lessons in year 7.

Specific to our curriculum and key curriculum knowledge, each unit in English is accompanied by a 'Key knowledge' document that identifies key knowledge and vocabulary. After an initial period of establishing a Reading Plus routine, English staff use Satchel:One to set homework that is intended to consolidate learning and provide opportunities to revisit and enhance learning within the English classroom.

### **The types of homework tasks that will be set and frequency:**

Reading Plus is set every week for year 7 and year 8. Students are asked to complete a 'Combo' (2 comprehension passes at 80%+ on a bespoke level suited to ability). Each SR task takes 12 – 18 minutes so **most students complete this in approx. 30 minutes**. Students who do not complete this program are set a reading challenge as an alternative form of reading.

There are 5 main types of KS3 homework tasks in English:

- Spell it
- Retrieve it
- Practise it
- Read it
- Apply it

The tasks focus on key skills within English such as:

- Vocabulary work on 'Powerful words'
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Sentence building & composition
- Reading retrieval
- Key knowledge recap
- Wider reading/research

Tasks take a variety of formats:

- Satchel:One quizzes (MCQs and spellings)
- Self-quizzing

- Worksheets
- Reading retrieval grids
- Online reading (text and/or video)

English staff expect students to take between 10 – 30 minutes on these tasks; however, the time varies depending on the task. Staff may use a combination of tasks to ensure that students are sufficiently challenged and supported.

In addition to formally set work, KS3 students also have the option to enrich their experience of the curriculum with wider reading recommendations of fiction and non-fiction texts that supplement the focus of each unit of work. Access to these texts/extracts is available in the Library.

### **Rationale for homework at KS4:**

At KS4, homework plays a vital role in preparing students for the demands of GCSE English Language and English Literature.

The courses require students to read perceptively, write fluently under timed conditions, and retain detailed knowledge of set texts. Regular, well-designed homework ensures students build the independence, discipline and depth of understanding needed for success, making them the owners of their own learning.

### **The types of homework tasks that will be set and frequency:**

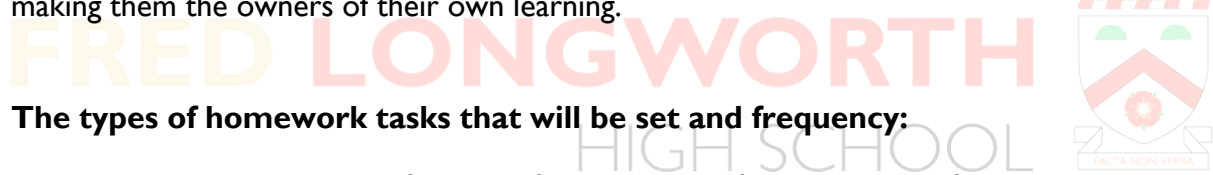
Homework is set every week for year 10 and year 11. A combination of tasks may be set but will **not exceed an hour**. In addition to homework set on Satchel:One, students are also actively encouraged to complete wider reading and, especially in year 11, revision prior to timed assessments. This revision is supported by the resources available on the English Virtual Classroom.

There are 5 main types of homework tasks in English:

- Retrieve it
- Apply it
- Read it
- Pod it
- Self-Direct it

The tasks focus on developing students' ability to build extended responses in both English Literature and English Language and focus on key skills such as:

- Composition
- Reading retrieval
- Embedding Key knowledge



- Wider reading/research
- Exam practice

Tasks take a variety of formats:

- Satchel:One quizzes (MCQs)
- GCSEPod
- Worksheets
- Writing challenges
- Reading retrieval grids
- Online revision (Mr Bruff; BBC Bitesize, etc)
- Past papers
- Exemplar responses from Exampro
- Masterclass videos on specific topics/questions produced by the faculty

In addition to formally set work, KS4 students also have the option to enrich their experience of the curriculum with the resources available in the 'Self Directed study Hub'. Access to these resources is via the school web page.

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