



KS4 HOMEWORK: THE BENEFITS



Why is Homework Important?

At Chailey School we believe that homework gives students important life lessons. Homework teaches students how to take responsibility, problem solve, think independently, and build an understanding and interest for the issues in our society.

We believe that we can work together to show our students/your children that homework is not a waste of time. We need to show them that there are numerous benefits of not only doing homework, but handing it in on time! If we allow students to only participate in video games or social media after all their homework is done, then homework becomes a win-win situation for parents and their children.

Create Space

- set up a consistent space for your child to do their homework
- a quiet corner in a communal space is the best option as it allows you to monitor and be involved in the homework
- give the learner some ownership of the space
- try to make sure stationery and equipment are available
- try to make the space quiet from distractions

10 Benefits of Homework

1. Homework teaches your child about time management
2. Homework teaches your child how to set priorities
3. Homework helps teachers determine how well the lessons and material are being understood by their students
4. Homework teaches your child how to problem solve
5. Homework gives your child another opportunity to review the class material
6. Homework gives parents a chance to see what their child is learning in school. It establishes a communication link between students, parents and teachers
7. Homework teaches your child that they have to do things, even when they don't want to
8. Homework teaches your child how to take responsibility for their part in their education and their future
9. Homework teaches your child how to work independently
10. Homework teaches your child the importance of planning, staying organised and taking action. It serves as practice of the school curriculum and prepares the students for school tests and exams



Revision and how you can help

Knowledge testing – the 'intense fifteen' – just one example of a technique: student focuses intensely on a small body of knowledge for five minutes, they then discuss it with you (or a friend) for five minutes, you then test them with repeated questions for five minutes

Active revision - make sure revision is active, not just re-reading copious notes e.g. use mindmaps and practice questions. The AQA English Language Workbook* should be filled in not just used for reference.

Spaced Repetition and Flash cards —see the Leitner system <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVajQPuRmk8&t=2s>

You could buy ready made flashcards e.g. York Notes AQA Rapid Revision cards

Understanding how to answer exam questions is increasingly important with current GCSEs; knowledge will only take you so far; they will get plenty of advice on how to tackle specific questions – check that they know how to apply this advice with past paper questions

Knowing the challenge ahead - know their exam timetable, and be aware of trials and practice papers they may have in preparation for the final exams, so you can understand where the pressure will be for them.

Finally, be persistent, maintain contact with your son/daughter's teachers at Chailey School and look for positive use of what might be 'dead time' to create space elsewhere e.g. downloading GCSEPod videos for a long car journey.

* See letter from English department about revision texts.



A survey of Year 11 students in June 2019 revealed that their top ways to revise were:

1. **Flashcards:** "They are easy to make using 'Essentials Sheets'" or GCSEPod and you can test yourself with them."
2. **Seneca Learning:** "Good for checking things you are unsure of" "Bad for English but good for everything else."
3. **Quizlet:** "Good for learning quotes - I made my own. " "Requires own resources to be made as others may be unreliable."
4. **Mindmaps:** "Use a variety of types of revision and then compile everything in one place either a mindmap or flashcards"
5. **Revision Guides:** "Good aid for answering exam questions."

Last year's Year 11s recommend:

"Revise early!"

"Find what works best for you."

"Take trial exams seriously— use all of your resources."

"Teacher revision is the best revision!"

"Re-read your English text and watch the films."

Teachers say:

"Students who watched 25 hours of GCSEpods (or more) made the most progress."

"Once you've made a mindmap turn it over and see if you can re-create it."

"Use flash cards for key words (definitions on the back) and check after two weeks that you can still remember them."

"Attend revision sessions that you are invited to - they will make all the difference!"



How Can Parents Get Involved With Their Child's Learning?

Read the same books as your child and discuss them.

- How is it similar or different to your GCSE text?
- Which is your favourite part and why?
- What have you learned about the context?

Further Reading to support English Literature GCSE

We study Simon Stephens' play-script, **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime**. The main character, Christopher, is neuro-diverse and although his condition is never named, it is likely that he is on the autistic spectrum.

These novels all include a neuro-diverse main character: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon; *Up Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer; *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion; *A Boy Made of Blocks* by Keith Stuart

We study William Shakespeare's **Macbeth** which was written for James I and is linked thematically with *Guy Fawkes* and the gunpowder plot.

Novels about the gunpowder plot: *Black Powder* by Ally Sherrick; *God's Traitors: Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England* by Jessie Childs;

An accessible biography of Shakespeare: *Shakespeare* by Bill Bryson; a novel featuring Shakespeare as a character: *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig;

Another Shakespeare play with lots of battling for the throne: *Richard III* by William Shakespeare

Each class studies a **Victorian novel**, either *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde* or *A Christmas Carol*. These books are set in or written in the Victorian times also: *Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl; *Dracula* by Bram Stoker; *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James; *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens; *Far From the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy.

We study **poems with the theme of power and conflict**.

Here are some novels that link to some of texts we study: graphic novel about Hiroshima: *Barefoot Gen* by Kaiji Nakazawa; World War 1 novels: *Stay Where You Are* and *Then Leave* by John Boyne; *Regeneration* by Pat Barker

Books about the experience of being a refugee: *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah; *Far From Home* by Cath Senker.



GCSE Science

Regular homework is set by both of your child's Science teachers throughout the year to help them consolidate and remember the topics they have covered in class. All homework tasks are designed to support learning or revision.

There are a wide range of resources available on SharePoint to help and it is worth looking at these with your child to help them find their way around the resources early. We have also included links to sites to help with topics your child is unsure about or has missed.

We will issue revision lists when the trial exams are coming up; your child should use them to carefully structure their revision. The suggested sites below may help.

Any of your child's science teachers will be happy to help if they are stuck with a certain topic.

BBC Bitesize GCSE	Revision information, quizzes and questions to answer	https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7 https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm
GCSE Pod	Podcast videos to review topics	
Seneca Learning	Tailored revision site that learns what you need to revise based on how you answer the questions	https://www.senecalearning.com/
Youtube – Malmesbury Science	Video playlist that covers the methods for all combined Science required practicals	



Mathematics GCSE

For KS4 homework, we may use the website mymaths, mathswatch or pinpoint for setting homework. Alternatively, your child may be set an exam paper to complete. Your child will be given their individual user names and passwords by their class teacher. If you require this information, please email their class teacher.

Your child will be shown how to use the websites by their class teacher. However, mathswatch provide a user guide for parents. Please follow the link, or use the QR code, to access the parent guide to using mathswatch.










<https://bit.ly/2LeYb1l>

Pinpoint learning will be used once your child has completed an exam paper. Teachers will upload information about what your Child scored for each question. Pinpoint learning then creates a paper around 5 topics that your Child got incorrect; these will be set as homework. If they log into their account, they can access the papers and videos that will recap the topics in their booklet. They can also access a matrix that shows what topics they are getting right and what topics they need to work on. The matrix will be updated each time they complete an examination paper; this means that they can see their progress as they get nearer to the final exam.

Interesting videos about Mathematics Hidden Figures and Beautiful Mind

Interesting books about Mathematics **Alex's Adventures in Numberland** by Alex Bellos,
Can you solve my problems? By Alex Bellos

Pinpoint learning	https://www.pinpointlearning.co.uk/ 	Homework website Matrix of topics, Past papers Revision booklets (nearer to the exam)
Maths genie	https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk 	Revision videos by topic Exam questions & answers by topic Past papers, Practice papers & answers with videos. Predicted papers (between the exams)
Maths bot	https://mathsbot.com/ 	Retrieval practice Exam questions by topic Practice papers
Corbett Maths	https://corbettmaths.com/ 	Revision videos by topic Practice papers & answers with videos Predicted papers (between the exams) 5-a-day practice questions A little bit of everything papers
Mr Barton	http://www.mrbartonmaths.com 	Revision by topic, Past & Practice questions, Videos
onmaths	https://www.onmaths.com/ 	Online papers, marked online.
Dr Frost	https://bit.ly/2LIFdGx 	Predicted papers (between the exams) “Full Coverage” GCSE questions by topic

