



KS3 HOMEWORK: THE BENEFITS





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

At Chailey School we believe that homework gives students important life lessons, such as how to take responsibility and how to communicate with others, that they will use as an adult. Homework also teaches students how to 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.



How Can Parents Help With Homework?

1. Ask your child questions

e.g. What did you learn in school today? How could you have learned better?

2. Create Space

- set up a consistent space for your child to do their homework
- this doesn't have to be a whole room to themselves
- 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

3. Make it Positive

- help by all means, but let them make mistakes—this really helps the teacher
- use questions to help your child get as close to an answer as possible

4. Be Realistic

- give them time to complete work, but if they have been struggling and have completed the set amount of time, it is helpful that you write on the homework that they have tried their best
- give some downtime from homework

5. Praise

- if your child has tried their best, praise the effort not the finished piece of work. Share with them their Rewards on Edulink

6. Be informed

- Use your own PIN number to see what is being set on SMHW.
Set yourself up on Bedrock (see next page)



English KS3

In KS3, students will have a combination of homework: explicitly learning vocabulary as well as creative tasks. Vocabulary will be learnt through an online programme (Bedrock) each week and the creative tasks will be set over a half term as a project.



'Successful reading relies on a reader's capacity to understand both a large number of words as well as the subtleties and nuances of those words, even when words change their meaning according to the setting.'
Doug Lemov *Reading Reconsidered* (2016)

Supporting your child with Bedrock learning

Bedrock is an online programme which explicitly teaches vocabulary through reading. Evidence shows that there is a direct link between students' vocabulary size and their attainment in GCSEs. The expectation is that all students complete a minimum of two online lessons per week. These will need to be 24 hours apart to ensure that word knowledge is fully embedded and will give your child the best chance of remembering the words.

You can support Bedrock learning by encouraging your child to plan ahead for their two lessons for the week and by discussing with them the new words they have added to their vocabulary. Your parent login will allow you to track activity and view all added words easily.

Other ways to support vocabulary growth

Make language a discussion focus in your home. Ask your child about words or idioms that appear in TV shows, films, songs, books and articles. Look up words together to find their origin and the different ways they can be used—ask Alexa, Siri or Google!

- Step 1: Visit <http://app.bedrocklearning.org/>
- Step 2: Click on the 'Parent/Teacher' tab
- Step 3: Select 'Parent sign-up' at the bottom of the screen
- Step 4: Enter the code provided to you by the school and create an account. If you have more than one child, just enter one for now and you can add your other child during Step 6.
- Step 5: Check your email for your password, and then log in. Be sure to check your junk folder if no email arrives.
- Step 6 (if you have more than one child): Use the 'Add child' button on the left hand column to add an additional access code so that you can monitor all your children through one login.



How you could get involved with your child's learning

The English faculty requests that your child does not read their class texts at home but that you encourage them to read texts linked to their class texts.

Ask your child: How is it similar or different to your class reader? Which is your favourite part/character and why?

Further reading and discussion topics to support English at KS3:

In Year 7 we study **'The Lie Tree' by Frances Hardinge**. The book examines the way women were viewed in Victorian England. Similar themes appear in 'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott and 'The Tenant of Wildfell' Hall by Anne Bronte. **'The Bone Sparrow' by Zana Fraillon** is set in a refugee camp and **'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne** centres on the events of the Second World War. Reading non-fiction articles and watching documentaries on these topics would encourage a deeper understanding of context.

In Year 8 we start the year with **Philip Reeve's futuristic thriller 'Railhead'**. Reading or watching other science fiction texts together—like 'Ready Player One' by Ernest Cline or Reeve's 'Mortal Engines'—is a great way to extend knowledge of the genre. We then go on to read **'Now is the Time for Running' by Michael Williams** set in Mugabe's Zimbabwe. We also study **Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing'** with themes around romance and gender roles in Elizabethan Britain.

Another Shakespeare text which explores gender is 'Twelfth Night' - or even the Hollywood teen movie remake 'She's the Man'.

In Year 9, students study **'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck** set in Depression era America. Steinbeck's 'The Grapes of Wrath' has similar characters. Students then study **'Animal Farm' by George Orwell** and **'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding** as a pair examining the different ways the authors responded to societal fears and created dystopian worlds. 'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry' by Mildred Taylor and 'Gone' by Michael Grant explore similar themes respectively. Super texts to pair with Shakespeare's **'Romeo and Juliet'** - with its themes of forbidden love and tragedy—are 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman and 'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green.



Mathematics KS3

Homework

In KS3, we will use wither mymaths or mathswatch for setting homework. Your child will be given their individual user names and passwords by their class teacher (this information is also printed on the front of this booklet). If you have further queries, please email their class teacher.

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

<https://bit.ly/2LeYb1l> guide to using mathswatch.



Things you could do with your child at home

The website "family maths toolkit" is full of ideas for activities that you could do at home to help improve your child's mathematics. These include books, films, games and discussions you could have about the mathematics you are doing in day to day life. This website also has a section that explains the methods we are currently teaching. Please follow the link, or use the QR code, to access the toolkit.



<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>

- When we study probability, students will need to be familiar with a standard pack of cards. Play card games as a family to learn the cards, improve number fluency and to spend time together.
- Play games that have numbers involved, including money, to increase number fluency. For example, Monopoly, Mobi and Yahtzee.
- Practise multiplication tables up to the twelve times table. Become familiar with square numbers up to 16^2 and their roots, and cube numbers up to 6^3 and their roots. Even if your child was fantastic at their tables in primary school, they still need to be practising them in secondary school. This includes inverse calculations such as $56 \div 7$
- Ensure students can tell the time on both a digital and analogue clock.
Point out the mathematics in everyday life and discuss it as positively and naturally as possible. This could include: measuring ingredients; calculating what time you should leave the house; estimating the cost of the weekly shop; spotting error in supermarket offers. Read books such as the 'Murderous Maths' series by Kjartan Poskitt, 'The Planet of Puzzles' by David Glover or 'Maths is everywhere: What are the chances?' by Rob Colson.