



March 2021

Key Stage 4 Homework Changes

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the recent changes/updates to our Key Stage 4 (year 9, 10 & 11) homework policy. Our updated homework policy and information (Jan 2021) can be found on our academy website (parents tab - homework).

Homework makes a difference to progress within every subject. You wouldn't expect to excel in music or sport without practice, and homework is that opportunity to develop skills across the portfolio of subjects in Year 9, 10 and 11.

At Ormiston Victory Academy, the expectation is that homework is set from all subjects, with most subjects setting weekly or fortnightly homework tasks.

All of your child's homework is set on Class Charts, a system which students and parents/carers have become familiar with using during the period of remote learning. It is vital that you support your child in managing and completing their homework and it is good practice for students to tick off when they have completed their homework.

Homework will tend to link with the curriculum for each year group. To find out more about what is studied across the curriculum for each subject, please click on the subject area on the website (under the curriculum section of the website).

We have two forms of homework which will be set for your child in Key Stage 4:

- 1) Learning/revision of key knowledge from Knowledge Organisers for each subject in preparation for the end of half term assessments.
- 2) Additional homework tasks set by subjects that have a purpose and are valued.

It is also essential that your child is undertaking regular reading at home, that challenges and improves their levels of literacy. The new, reformed GCSE exams now require students to have literacy levels that enable the student to interpret and process the question that is being asked. We have strong evidence that high literacy levels, including reading scores, correlate to higher achievement/outcomes in GCSEs.

We have crystallised our expectations in the following statements which are our interpretation of the Outstanding lesson guidance from Ofsted.

Staff	Students	Parents
To set homework (knowledge organiser & additional homework tasks) on Class Charts with clear instructions & deadlines.	To take responsibility to complete the homework by the set deadline.	To support their child in completing their homework.

To make the homework worthwhile. Homework needs to have a purpose & is valued.	To take pride in the quality of the homework which they produce.	To ensure their child completes tasks to the best of their ability.
To reward students that complete their homework.	To organise their time effectively and maintain a school/home balance.	To ensure their child has a healthy school/home balance.
To log if a student does not complete their homework on class charts.	To speak to their teachers if they need support with completing their homework.	To praise your child when they complete their homework and are rewarded by their teachers.
To track homework submissions on class charts.	To attend homework support clubs if they find it easier to complete homework in school.	To support the school in ensuring your child attends afterschool homework support sessions.
Optional: to offer homework support clubs within the department.	To tick off their homework when it is completed on class charts.	To help their child manage and organise their class charts account.

The focus of our updated policy is primarily focused on rewarding our students as well as increasing our communication and support for students and parents/carers. We do not feel that setting detentions and escalation of detentions are an effective strategy in engaging students in their home learning. Instead, we want to work together to ensure that we support our students in completing their homework to the best of their ability and where there are barriers, we will do our best to remove them in order for our students to make excellent progress.

In simple terms, if your child completes their homework they will be rewarded and if your child is not completing their homework this will be tracked, communicated to parents/carers and the academy will be in touch to see how we can work together to support your child.

These changes will take effect from after the Easter holidays – Monday 12th April.

Thank you for your continued support.

Oliver Willis - Assistant Principal for Student Outcomes

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