

Science Year 7 and 8

As one of the three core subjects studied in the curriculum the Science faculty sets one homework a week to students in Year 7 and 8. In order to maintain levels of engagement and ensure homework relates well to the individual topics studied by each class we vary the nature of the tasks that are set. Homework and revision tasks therefore fall into four types:

- Use of the 'Century Tech' online learning platform. Students use this to work on tasks independently. Century Tech creates an individualised pathway which targets weaknesses in the original task set by staff to improve knowledge and understanding of key ideas. Century Tech is an ongoing homework which students are expected to spend a minimum of 30 minutes a week completing.
- Preparation of revision resources for one of the regular end-of-topic tests which occur as part of the Science learning pathway. These will occur four times per term and will be set in Edulink One by Science teachers.
- Use of the 'Educake' online testing site. Teachers design a set of questions linked to work in the classroom which students answer, receiving feedback as they go. Teachers can use the output of these tests to highlight areas in which further teaching is needed to close gaps in knowledge. These will be used to provide preparation exercises in advance of important 'block assessment' examinations.

Science Year 9-11

Homework in Science in Years 9-11 is set on an internal rota which tries to ensure that homework is spread out through the individual subject areas each half-term. This is considered to be beneficial in that students will rarely have multiple pieces of work from their Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons to complete for the same deadline. During each half-term a minimum of two pieces of work will be set in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics so that there is a piece of homework from a subject area in every week of most terms. Teachers have the discretion to set more where appropriate but are encouraged to consider student workload in doing so.

One of the pieces of homework will be a 'formative' piece of work for which the student will receive feedback highlighting areas for improvement and giving an opportunity to improve upon the original piece.

The other piece of work will be 'non-formative' and will seek to improve student skills in self-assessment, revision and independent learning. We make extensive use of the website 'Educake' as just one of the aspects of this style of homework and each student will be assigned a login to the site at the start of their time in school.

In the period before school-wide assessments homework will focus on revision and preparation and in the period afterward on 'closing the gap' on weaknesses identified during review of tests.

Yr 12 and 13 Biology

Students in Biology are expected to complete consolidation of work completed in school after every lesson, which should be a minimum of half an hour. This does not necessarily need to be written but should ensure that students are confident in this material before their next lesson. Best practice will see students completing revision cards and notes after every lesson in this time and making full use of text books or revision guides to read around the topics studied. This work should account for a **minimum** of two hours of homework per week.

In addition a **minimum** of two pieces of homework per teacher will be set each half term. This work will reinforce the curriculum topics taught to that point and will often be heavily based in completion of past paper questions from exams. One of these pieces will be formatively assessed and one will be summative.

In Year 13, students will additionally be given one 'long-answer' or 'six-mark' question every week focused on strengthening familiarity with Year 12 material and highlighting links to Year 13. It needs to be completed to a strict deadline and will take a minimum of half an hour.

Yr 12 and 13 Chemistry

Students in Chemistry are expected to consolidate work completed in school after every lesson, which should be a minimum of half an hour. This does not necessarily need to be written but should ensure that students are confident in this material before their next lesson. Best practice will see students completing revision cards and notes after every lesson in this time and making full use of text books or revision guides to read around the topics studied. This work should account for a **minimum** of two hours of homework per week.

In addition a **minimum** of one piece of homework will be set each week. This work will reinforce the curriculum topics taught to that point and will often be heavily based in completion of past paper questions from exams. The piece of work will be expected to take 30 to 60 minutes to complete properly.

Yr 12 and 13 Physics

Students in Physics are expected to consolidate work completed in school after every lesson, which should be a minimum of half an hour. This does not necessarily need to be written but should ensure that students are confident in this material before their next lesson. Best practice will see students completing revision cards and notes after every lesson in this time and making full use of text books or revision guides to read around the topics studied. This work should account for a **minimum** of two hours of homework per week.

In addition two pieces of homework will be set each week. This work will reinforce the curriculum topics taught to that point and will often be heavily based in completion of past paper questions from exams. One of the pieces of homework set each half term will be formatively assessed and the others will be teacher-marked with feedback give in class an important part of the learning process.