

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers

Homework Expectations and Information

As we settle into the second half of the Autumn Term I would like to update you regarding our homework expectations and requests for work when a student is absent.

Homework Expectations

Homework is very important and we appreciate your support in assisting your child to complete it. The Education Endowment Fund (EEF) estimate that effective homework can add 5+ months progress to a pupil.

Homework will always be set via ClassCharts. Your child has been given a log-in and parents and carers will also have their own, separate, log-in. Please contact the school office office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk if you need a reminder of this log-in code as it provides you with key information. Through ClassCharts, parents and carers can track when homework is set and when it is due. As work is submitted it will be indicated on ClassCharts, as will homework that is not submitted. ClassCharts also keeps parents and carers informed of any positive, or negative, behaviours during the school day.

Teachers will set homework in line with subject requirements which may involve consolidating current learning, reviewing previous learning, or preparing for future learning. All homework will be worthwhile, it is designed to impact learning positively.

We understand there may be a balance required between the amount of time a child spends on their homework and other factors, for example, the need to engage in clubs and hobbies, etc. Tutors will be working with their tutees to help them understand the importance of time management in terms of planning their homework each evening.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

- Pupils should set aside **up to 60 minutes** each evening in which to complete homework. Key Stage 3 homework tasks will be 20 to 30 minutes in length. This does **not** mean we are expecting 60 minutes of homework to be set and completed every evening, but this time scale sets out an achievable amount for a Key Stage 3 student.
- Using ClassCharts, a student should look at the homework they have been set and when it is due in. Using the due-in dates allows students to plan what homework they need to complete in their nightly 60 minutes of homework time.
- If a student has an evening commitment, for example, a sports club, that impacts on their ability to spend 60 minutes doing homework that evening, they should adjust other homework nights accordingly (e.g. if Wednesday night is unavailable for homework, Tuesday becomes 90 minutes and Thursday becomes 90 minutes of homework time).

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

- Pupils should set aside **up to 90 minutes** each evening in which to complete homework. Key Stage 4 subject homework tasks will be 30 to 40 minutes in length. This does **not** mean we are expecting 90 minutes of homework to be set and completed every evening, but this time scale sets out an achievable amount for a Key Stage 4 student.
- Using ClassCharts, a student should look at the homework they have been set and when it is due in. Using the due-in dates allows students to plan what homework they need to complete in their nightly 90 minutes of homework time.
- If a student has an evening commitment, for example, a sports club, that impacts on their ability to spend 90 minutes doing homework that evening, they should adjust other homework nights accordingly (e.g. if Wednesday night is unavailable for homework, Tuesday becomes 135 minutes and Thursday becomes 135 minutes of homework time).

In both Key Stages, pupils should aim to complete two to three pieces of homework a night. In most cases homework will be set for the following week, but sometimes this may not be possible if the homework is designed to support a specific lesson. There will, however, be **no homework that is due in the next day**. We hope this will allow students to identify, from ClassCharts, three pieces of homework per night, in order of due date priority, and complete them in advance of the deadline.

If no direct homework set there is always purposeful work that students should be doing if there is time; reviewing and checking class notes, reading ahead, completing Seneca tasks for topics completed so far, learning key subject vocabulary, or reading for pleasure.

We understand that, potentially, a pupil could spend an excessive amount of time on one piece of homework, but this isn't our intention. If there is an occasion where your child has spent the appropriate amount of time on a piece, in a focussed and hardworking manner, please **let the teacher know this** and the homework will be deemed complete. Letting the teacher know will also allow appropriate adaptations to be made.

If a pupil is struggling with a piece of homework they should attend the subject's department support session at lunchtime before the homework is due in.

After school Homework Club is open to all and runs on **Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30pm-4:30pm** in the library, where students have access to school computers and support.

If a piece of homework has not been completed by the due date teachers have been asked to indicate this on ClassCharts with a 'homework support' point. This means a pupil has been told to attend homework support to receive assistance in completing their homework and keeping their learning on track. In some cases, if the pupil is sure they can complete the homework themselves they may be offered an extension, and this is at the teacher's discretion. Should a pupil fail to attend homework support, or meet an agreed extension, then a detention will be indicated on ClassCharts because the pupil has failed to follow the teacher's instruction.

Homework is important to your child's learning and we appreciate your support in helping them balance their time and complete homework. If you have any **specific queries relating to homework please do contact your child's Tutor** in the first instance.

Requests for Work when a Pupil is Absent

We understand there may be times when pupils may be not be well enough to attend school and need time to rest and recover. Our target, for students to achieve a **minimum of 97% attendance**, reflects this. The NHS has issued a letter to offer guidance, that parents and carers may find useful, about when a child may be too ill to attend school [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/when-should-i-keep-my-child-at-home-when-should-i-keep-my-child-at-school/)

During the pandemic schools were required to set work remotely for pupils who were absent because of Covid, and we set in place the systems to do this. As Covid requirements have been lifted, please note that **we are no longer in a position to set work remotely for students who are missing lessons on a short-term basis** (for example, because of a cold or sickness bug).

Our teachers' focus is on preparing and delivering quality lessons 'in school' and the time spent setting on-line learning for short term absence is unsustainable. Please note that where pupils have **long term, medically certified** absence work will be set for them. If there are any issues around this, as always, please **contact your child's Tutor in the first instance**.

As a general guide, if a child is well enough, despite their cough or cold, to access work at home then they are probably well enough to be in school. If your son or daughter has had a short-term absence they should, upon their return to school, speak with their teachers about what they missed, use a friend's book to copy up any work, attend lunchtime subject support sessions where key learning will be supported, or use one of the on-line platforms such as:

Seneca <https://senecalearning.com/>
Oak National Academy [Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](https://www.thenationalacademy.com/)
My Maths [Home - MyMaths](https://www.mymaths.com/)

The school website has outlines of the topics covered each term and a list of other useful learning links.

Mr Barnes
Deputy Head