

# A PARENTS GUIDE TO...

## Helping with homework

### What every parent needs to tell their child about homework

Homework allows students to cement and enhance their understanding on a given topic. Homework can be varied and could involve creative, practical, research or written tasks. The school supports students to become independent learners and establish good organisational habits through the Homework 'Planner' provided as a diary for recording work and the Homework 'Timetable' that outlines the days on which homework is to be set.

Supporting your child with their homework is about guidance and structure, helping them develop their own effective learning methods and giving them a quiet space to work at home. In KS3 students may require parental support to structure their homework time, with them becoming more self reliant as they mature. Parents should not be doing the work for their child but can act as prompt, facilitator and enthusiastic supporter to help motivate them.

As a school we appreciate that getting the right homework/social life balance is key. Some of the suggestions below are provided to help students establish clear structures and routines to take the pain and potential ambiguity out of the homework tasks they are asked to do.

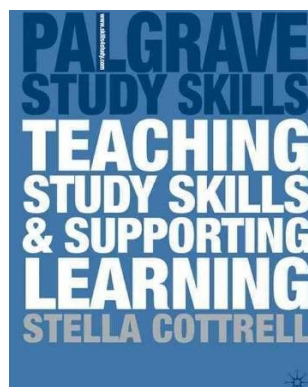
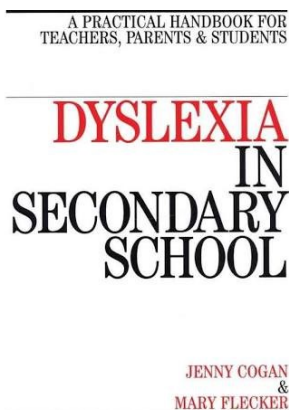
### Top tips for making homework as pain free as possible

- Use your Homework Planner. Make sure you write the homework down in your planner **on the date** it is set.
- Any **extra requirements** or help that the teacher gives you should be written down in the **back of your exercise book** where there is more room.
- Remember to **check the night before** what homework is due in the next day. To remind you, use a daily planner at home or set an alert on your mobile 'phone.
- **DON'T RELY ON KEEPING IT ALL IN YOUR HEAD - IT WON'T WORK!**
- **Try to make checking a habit** which coincides with sorting out which books/kit you need to bring in **the night before**. Asking someone to remind you at first might help, or try putting a sticky note somewhere obvious where you will see it before you leave home.
- **Look** at your homework diary before you go home to make sure that you know what needs to be done and that you have **brought home** the correct books. The general rule is to complete homework **as soon as possible**, but you need to **prioritise**. You might put it off to the next night only to find something else has been set for that night which needs to be given in.
- **Consider** where and when is best for you to work without distractions and make sure you have everything you need in front of you before you begin. Have a homework routine and stick to it. Find a time when you can work each day, this may be when you first get home or after dinner. Stick to this routine and it will become second nature over time.
- **Set** yourself time targets for a piece of work, a teacher may tell you how long to work on a task, make sure you are prepared and prompt ready to start your homework.
- **If** you don't understand something, make sure you find time to ask a teacher **before** it is due in!
- **Use** lunchtimes at school - it can save you lots of time at home! **Homework** clubs are available lunchtimes and after school ask your form tutor for more information.

## Where can I find useful information?



BBC Website



Although the title mentions dyslexia, this book includes practical ideas to support study skills for all students

## Who can I contact at the school for advice?

Your child will have a Form Tutor and Head of Year who would be happy to speak to you about homework and suggest strategies to support this if it is becoming difficult at home. The school offer a range of supported rooms for homework during the school day and after school.

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)– Mrs G Reed, [greed@thelangton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:greed@thelangton.kent.sch.uk)