



8 December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

## HOMework

Over the past three years the school has worked hard to improve the quality and frequency of homework. Homework does improve students' ability and confidence when working independently, and assists teachers in establishing which aspects of a subject need further clarification and explanation. It should also challenge students of all abilities to extend and consolidate their understanding and in turn impact on progress.

Following feedback from parents and students, as well as recognising the strengths, weaknesses and outcomes of our current system, the school has decided to make a number of small changes to the structure of the homework programme.

Teachers will further develop homework tasks to ensure that they relate to current learning and are set at an appropriate level of challenge for students of all abilities. Homework will be labelled in books so that teachers are able to give developmental feedback on the tasks and ask students to improve their work and respond to feedback, marked 'Fix It'. An emphasis will be placed equally on the quality and completion of homework, as poorly completed or rushed homework has very little impact on progress.

Homework will not be set on the last week of each half term or during holidays unless it relates to qualification-linked coursework, revision or preparation for exams. This will give students time to complete all work in term-time and then have a break over the holiday. We believe this will give students a better school/home balance and they will also benefit from a rest over the holidays so they return eager to make progress.

I realise this decision may not be welcomed by all parents, however, I believe it will improve the engagement with homework during set weeks and impact positively on student progress and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

**A C McBURNIE**  
Headteacher