

Our Ref: BSN/KON

January 2017

ALL PARENTS

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: School Improvement Priority - Homework

As you will be aware from the letter I sent to you before Christmas, one of the areas that we will be focusing on this year will be homework. I am a strong believer in the value of homework because when it is set properly it can help to secure and deepen learning which leads to pupils making faster progress. It is also crucial in helping teachers to plan effective lessons for their classes. Homework can provide a great opportunity for a teacher to see what a child can do independently and what they need to work on next.

It is for this reason that we are sharpening our policies and procedures regarding homework. Over the next few weeks we will be speaking to all staff and pupils to explain how our new system will work and what is expected of us all.

At the moment, I believe that as a school we set good homework and that it is completed to a decent or better standard by most pupils. However, if we are to make our school great rather than good this needs to go up a level. There are a number of ways that I believe that things could be improved. They are listed below:

- making sure that all homework set either re-enforces, deepens or prepares pupils for their learning;
- ensuring that all pupils understand what is expected of them and record what they need to do and for when;
- helping parents/carers to understand what is expected so that they know what their child needs to do, for when, and how they can help;
- dealing more effectively when issues arise surrounding homework.

Obviously, parents and carers will want to know how they can help. Firstly, ask to see your child's planner every night to see what they need to do. If your child tells you they have no homework please monitor the situation and if this continues over the course of a week or so contact your child's Head of House so that we can investigate and rectify any problems. We would also ask parents to check when homework is completed, its quality, and provide a quiet place for study.

In school we will be monitoring homework closely in terms of the quality of work set and its completion. We will do this through our monitoring systems and by asking pupils about what is most useful and what is not. If it is not what we want, we will provide advice and support on how to improve to our staff.

Improving homework is a crucial next step in helping us to improve the school for all our pupils. It ticks many boxes in terms of developing self-reliance and organisational skills as well as accelerating learning. I am confident that if we can make this area better it will have a big impact on the whole school.

I will write to you again later in the year to see how we are getting on.

Thank you as always for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr B A Stitchman
Head Teacher