

Northampton School *for Boys*
Homework Policy
(Including 2025-26 KS3 Timetables)



NSB Homework Policy

What is the purpose of homework?

Homework is an essential part of our overall delivery of the curriculum – deliberate and well-planned homework tasks make for more motivated students who are more likely to understand the content, develop subject-specific skills and consolidate the core knowledge needed to be successful.

Homework is also intended to encourage students to develop independent study skills, organisational habits, effective time management and self-discipline – helping to raise attainment levels and further challenge and extend the in-class content.

All students are expected to use homework to consolidate, revisit and reinforce the learning they do in classrooms. At NSB, homework is designed by curriculum teams and teachers to give students the opportunity to complete purposeful and meaningful tasks:

- Revisit and retrieve knowledge
- Check and test understanding
- Apply and practise skills
- Reinforce skills by applying them to new contexts
- Deepen knowledge through further research and wider reading

What does the evidence say about the impact of homework?

Educational research indicates a positive correlation between completing regular homework tasks and student progress and achievement. According to the Education Endowment Fund, carefully designed homework tasks can accelerate a student’s progress by up to 5 months across an academic year.

In particular, homework tasks that are linked explicitly to classroom work and the curriculum tend to be more effective and lead to a greater impact on students’ learning and progress.

What might homework look like?

Homework can take a variety of forms and these will vary according to which approaches suit individual subjects:

- Recall of key definitions/vocabulary
- Use of online platforms such as Sparx Maths, Sparx Science, Seneca or Quizlet to consolidate understanding and apply knowledge to different questions.
- Use resources provided by teachers to prepare for a test or assessment.
- Complete pre-reading ahead of discussion in class e.g. read an article, watch a video, make notes, etc.
- Review key knowledge and concepts from a particular topic.
- Practise and apply the skills learned during the lesson.
- Draft and redraft specific pieces of work.
- Complete research tasks to extend and deepen understanding of topics.
- Prepare a presentation to deliver in lessons.

Regardless of the format, homework is most beneficial when it reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates core knowledge and skills. When setting homework, curriculum teams will be mindful of

these guiding principles and use them to set purposeful tasks that students recognise as meaningful and motivational.

Where will homework be set?

All homework tasks are set using assignments on Microsoft Teams. **Students and parents will be able to check all tasks that have been set via EduLink One.** If you haven't yet signed up to the EduLink platform, please follow the relevant onboarding links which have been sent to all parents via email.

Students will be given homework in the form of Microsoft Teams 'assignments' that they can complete on devices at home or during Homework Club in school.

Where students are set a 'quiz' on MS Teams, these will be marked automatically and provide students with an immediate score and indication of possible topics/areas to revisit and revise further to support key knowledge. Teachers can monitor the answers for all students and determine if additional explanations are needed in class to secure understanding.

When will homework be set and how long should it take?

Following research of similarly high performing schools across the country and in response to parental feedback, we have developed a homework timetable for each year group which indicates the week when homework is set for individual subjects, when this is due and approximately how long homework tasks will take to complete.

For all students, we have not insisted on a particular day when homework is set by subjects. This is to ensure that all tasks are purposeful and that subjects have the autonomy to set homework each week in line with the curriculum coverage in lessons. i.e. Students in Year 7 will have English, Maths and Science homework every week. However, the specific day on which this is set may change depending on when teachers have completed particular topics/units.

Homework must always be meaningful with a specific task that we know will actively promote learning and can be effectively carried out at home.

Research tells us that providing students and families with this homework timetable will help to embed effective study routines and improve students' mental health and wellbeing; students will know their homework schedule in advance and can plan their subsequent time accordingly to allow them to also participate in the extensive extra-curricular programme that we offer at NSB.

How do we use homework to support a culture of reading at NSB?

All students in Year 7 and 8 have one 'Library lesson' per week as part of the curriculum to support reading comprehension skills. These lessons also develop independent study skills, support vocabulary expansion, foster exposure to a wide range of themes and topics, build cultural experiences through reading, and will hopefully support a lifelong appreciation of non-fiction and fiction texts.

All students in Year 7 and 8 are expected to **read for at least 20 minutes per day** to build effective reading habits as part of their homework routine.

How long will my child have to complete their homework?

Students in Key Stage 3 will always have a minimum of 1 week to complete their homework. In some cases, and for certain subjects where homework is set every fortnight, students may have longer.

Students and parents can check when homework tasks are due on MS Teams and via EduLink.

Where can I access the homework timetable for my child?

The individual timetables for students in Key Stage 3 can be accessed on the website under the 'Assessment and Homework' section for Parents and are available in this policy:

Year 7	Pages 8-9
Year 8	Pages 10-11
Year 9	Pages 12-13
Years 10/11	Page 14
Years 12/13	Pages 15-16 *There is no specific timetable for homework in the Sixth Form but general guidance to students about the expectations of self-study.

Can students complete their homework in school?

We recognise that some students may find homework more challenging to complete and therefore offer in-school support to help foster effective study habits:

Access to Homework Club

The Homework Zone aims to provide a supportive environment to help students with their homework. Staff are available to supervise, check homework and can provide some support if needed.

The Homework Zone is based in MF7 and is open to students during lunchtimes, before school (**8:20-8:40**) and after school (**15:35-16:30**).

This is open to all students, including those with SEND. There may be times where, working in partnership with parents, the Homework Zone forms a period 8 for some students. This would be agreed with parents and one of the SENDCos.

Access to the Library

Students can access the Library every morning from 8am, during breaktime (classes permitting), during lunchtime, and after-school from Monday through to Friday until 4pm. During this time, they are welcome to read, quiz and return/borrow books.

What happens if students fail to complete their homework?

Whilst students are fully supported to complete homework, there is also a consequence for non-completion.

In line with the School Behaviour Policy, if a student fails to submit 1 piece of homework, this is recorded on the Behaviour Platform as a Low-Level incident with a curriculum-based sanction as determined by the teacher e.g. break detention/returning to complete the work at lunch/community service/additional homework set to be completed the following day.

A persistent lack of homework (consecutive homework missed or recurring lack of homework) constitutes a Mid-Level incident. All Mid-Level incidents are reported on the Behaviour Platform and sanctioned with an SLT Lunchtime detention. In line with the Behaviour Policy, persistent lack of homework is re-set to zero after an SLT Lunchtime detention is issued.

Where a Mid-Level incident occurs due to persistent lack of homework, the relevant subject teacher will contact home to discuss their concerns, explore potential barriers and seek to offer additional support where possible.

How will feedback be given to students on homework?

Homework will be acknowledged and sampled by teachers to analyse any common mistakes and misconceptions. This helps to ensure that feedback from homework tasks is used to 'feed-forward' into future lesson planning and teaching.

Some homework tasks may be assessed to monitor individual progress and to provide personalised feedback.

How do teachers report on homework during the year?

When students receive their reports throughout the year, they will receive a Homework grade for each individual subject:

1	Outstanding	All homework tasks are completed on time and to a consistently high standard that is reflective of the student producing homework equal to or above their aspirational target (TAG). Homework tasks demonstrate the student's ambitious commitment to academic excellence.
2	Good	All homework tasks are completed on time and to the appropriate standard reflective of the student producing homework at least equal to their minimum target (MAG).
3	Requires improvement	Some homework tasks are incomplete and/or missing. The quality of homework tasks is inconsistent and reflects work that is below the student's minimum target and expected standard.
4	Cause for concern	Homework is frequently incomplete and/or missing and leading to persistent gaps in knowledge and skills.

If a student receives a Grade 3 or lower, parents should already be aware of these concerns through conversations with individual teachers. A Grade 3 or lower will be in response to Mid-Level incidents of persistent non-completion.

How can I support my child with their homework?

As students move through their secondary education, increasing emphasis is placed upon their ability to be independent and self-disciplined with their study habits. Your role is crucially important in helping to ensure that:

- You show an interest in your child's learning and emphasise the value and importance of regular homework.
- Your child organises their time effectively to manage their homework.
- Your child doesn't spend unnecessary and excess time completing homework tasks that may have a negative impact on their mental health and well-being.
- Where possible, you help to provide your child with a suitable quiet space to complete their homework. Where this is challenging, you support your child to attend the Homework Club at school.
- Homework tasks are completed by the due date.

If your child needs help, offer assistance and understanding. This can include reminding them to seek out support from their subject teacher or form tutor at an appropriate time before the homework is due.

Many tasks will require students to review, revise and revisit their learning, often using 'knowledge quizzes' to check their understanding and retention. It is very helpful to quiz your child on their learning on a regular basis, especially in those subjects that they find more challenging. The simple act of recalling a topic will support their ability to use and apply that knowledge in the future.

Homework Timetables

Key Stage 3

2025-26



Year 7 Homework Timetable

Students in Year 7 should expect to **typically receive homework from up to 6 subjects per week**. Each subject will typically set homework tasks that take between around 30 minutes resulting in up around **2.5 – 3 hours per week**.

There may be certain weeks where subjects set less homework depending on where students are in the curriculum. However, **subjects will endeavour to never exceed this amount of homework during each week**.

Students are also **expected to spend slightly more time on homework each week in the lead-up to termly assessments and end of year examinations**. Departments will always ensure that homework tasks in these weeks direct students to specific resources and revision materials.

Note that students will receive homework from **EITHER Drama (Dr) or Dance (Da)** in any given Term as these are taught on rotation (3 half-terms on each).

Term 1							
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
None set	None set	English Maths Science History	English Maths DT	English Maths RE Geography History	English Maths Music Art DT	English Maths Drama	Students will not receive any homework in week 8 of term 1 due to Personal Development Week.

Term 2						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Drama History	English Maths Science Drama	English Maths RE Music History	English Maths Art DT	English Maths Geography	English Maths DT Music	None set

Term 3					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths History	English Maths	English Maths Science MFL Music History	English Maths RE Geography Art DT	English Maths Drama MFL DT	None set

Term 4				
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
English Maths Science Art History	English Maths Science MFL	English Maths Science Music Geography History	English Maths Science MFL RE DT	None set

Term 5					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science Drama History MFL Geography	English Maths Science Drama Music DT	English Maths Science History MFL RE	English Maths History Art Music	None set as students conclude their End of Year Assessment window.	None set

*Students may receive slightly more homework at the start of term 5 in the form of revision tasks that are designed to prepare them for end of year examinations.

Term 6						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths History	English Maths RE MFL DT	English Maths MFL Science Geography	English Maths Music Art DT	English Maths Drama	English Maths	None set

*Students will not receive any homework in week 7 of term 6 as this will not leave enough time for students to complete tasks before the end of the academic year.

How will students receive homework for Science?

Students receive weekly SPARX Science revision of approximately 30 mins. Each term they will also receive one revision homework for their termly assessment. To prepare effectively for the End of Year Assessments in the summer term, students receive a bespoke Revision Programme which will replace their SPARX homework. This programme will be set by the student's teacher, and they will be directed to revision materials on SharePoint.

How will students receive homework for Computing?

At the start of each half-term, students are assigned a different project to complete for homework and submit in the final week. Students are expected to dedicate around 10-20 minutes per week on the project, depending on the task.

How will students receive homework for Dance and Drama?

During the 3 terms when students have Dance and Drama (taught on a rotation), students may receive occasional homework tasks that ask them to rehearse ahead of in-class performances or learn lines ahead of performance-based assessments.

In the third term of the rotation, they are required to design a circuit warm-up in Dance. In Drama, they are asked to prepare for a practical and written assessment. Details will be shared during the lesson.

Year 8 Homework Timetable

Students in Year 8 should expect to **typically receive homework from up to 6 subjects per week**. Each subject will typically set homework tasks that take between 30 and 45 minutes resulting in up to **3 – 3.5 hours per week**.

There may be certain weeks where subjects set less homework depending on where students are in the curriculum. However, **subjects will endeavour to never exceed this amount of homework during each week**.

Students are also **expected to spend slightly more time on homework each week in the lead-up to termly assessments and end of year examinations**. Departments will always ensure that homework tasks in these weeks direct students to specific resources and revision materials.

Note that students will receive homework from **EITHER Drama (Dr) or Dance (Da)** in any given Term as these are taught on rotation (3 half-terms on each).

Term 1							
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
None set	English Maths	English Maths Music History	English Maths Science MFL Geography DT	English Maths Drama RE Art History	English Maths MFL DT	English Maths Drama	Students will not receive any homework in week 8 of term 1 due to Personal Development Week.

Term 2						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths MFL	English Maths Science History	English Maths Music MFL	English Maths History MFL Art DT	English Maths RE Geography	English Maths Drama DT	None set

Term 3					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science	English Maths Drama History RE	English Maths MFL Music	English Maths History Geography Art DT	English Maths MFL DT	None set

Term 4				
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
English Maths Science	English Maths Science History MFL Music	English Maths Science RE Geography Music	English Maths Science MFL History Art DT	None set

Term 5					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science Geography	English Maths Science Music DT	English Maths Science History MFL Art	English Maths RE Drama Music	History	None set

*Students may receive slightly more homework at the start of term 5 in the form of revision tasks that are designed to prepare them for end of year examinations.

Term 6						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths History	English Maths Science Geography Drama DT	English Maths RE MFL	English Maths Music Art DT	English Maths	English Maths RE MFL	None set

*Students will not receive any homework in week 7 of term 6 as this will not leave enough time for students to complete tasks before the end of the academic year.

How will students receive homework for Science?

Students receive weekly SPARX Science revision of approximately 30 mins. Each term they will also receive one revision homework for their termly assessment. To prepare effectively for the End of Year Assessments in the summer term, students receive a bespoke Revision Programme which will replace their SPARX homework. This programme will be set by the student's teacher, and they will be directed to revision materials on SharePoint.

How will students receive homework for Computing?

At the start of each half-term, students are assigned a different project to complete for homework and submit in the final week. Students are expected to dedicate around 10-20 minutes per week on the project, depending on the task.

How will students receive homework for Dance and Drama?

During the 3 terms when students have Dance and Drama (taught on a rotation), students may receive occasional homework tasks that ask them to rehearse ahead of in-class performances or revise and rehearse for End of Term practical assessments.

They will receive a revision homework task a few weeks before their End of Year 8 Assessment. The revision homework consolidates their learning from lessons in short PowerPoint / revision booklets that asks them to test their knowledge and then self-check their answers.

Year 9 Homework Timetable

Students in Year 9 should expect to **typically receive homework from up to 7 subjects per week**. Each subject will typically set homework tasks that take up to 30-45 minutes resulting in **3.5 - 5 hours per week**.

There may be certain weeks where subjects set less homework in line with the curriculum. However, **subjects will endeavour to never exceed this amount of homework during each week**.

Students are also **expected to spend slightly more time on homework each week in the lead-up to termly assessments and end of year examinations**. Departments will always ensure that revision homework tasks in these weeks direct students to specific resources and revision materials.

At the end of Year 8, students choose from the following options in **Expressive Arts and Performing Arts**: Music, Drama, Dance, Art and Photography. Students will only receive homework from their chosen subject options.

Term 1							
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
None set	English Maths Drama RE	English Maths History Geography MFL Art	English Maths Science Music DT	English Maths History Geography Drama MFL Art	English Maths RE DT History MFL	English Maths	Students will not receive any homework in week 8 of term 1 due to Personal Development Week.

Term 2						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Science MFL	English Maths Music Geography Art MFL	English Maths History RE Art	English Maths Drama DT	English Maths History Geography MFL	English Maths RE DT	None set

Term 3					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths RE Art	English Maths Science MFL Music Geography	English Maths Science History Drama Art	English Maths Science Geography MFL RE DT	English Maths Science History Drama DT	None set

Term 4				
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
English Maths Science Music Geography MFL	English Maths History Science Drama MFL Art	English Maths Science RE DT Art MFL	Year 9 Exams Students will not be set any additional homework during this week beyond revision tasks.	None set

Term 5					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths MFL DT	English Maths Music Geography RE Art	English Maths MFL DT	English Maths Drama RE Geography Art	MFL	None set

Term 6						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Science MFL RE Art	English Maths Drama Music Humanities DT	English Maths Humanities MFL Art	English Maths Drama Humanities DT	English Maths MFL RE	English Maths Humanities	None set

*Students will not receive any homework in week 7 of term 6 as this will not leave enough time for students to complete tasks before the end of the academic year.

How will students receive homework for Science?

Students receive weekly SPARX Science revision of approximately 30 mins. Each term they will also receive one revision homework for their termly assessment. To prepare effectively for the End of Year Examinations in the summer term, students receive a bespoke Revision Programme which will replace their SPARX homework. This programme will be set by the student's teacher and they will be directed to revision materials on SharePoint.

How will students receive homework for Computing?

At the start of each half-term, students are assigned a different project to complete for homework and submit in the final week. Students are expected to dedicate around 10-20 minutes per week on the project, depending on the task.

Students studying Dance and Drama in Y9:

Students studying Dance and Drama in Year 9 will receive a varied diet of short homework activities that are set most weeks to ensure that students have secured firm foundations ahead of GCSE study. Homework tasks may include short workbook tasks, revision activities and time to rehearse performances. In addition, students may be asked to research key theatre practitioners or write a script in response to the themes explored in lessons.

Towards the end of the year in terms 5 and 6, students will complete homework tasks that prepare them for their Studio Performance in the final term. They will be expected to dedicate time at home and/or after school to rehearse. In Drama, homework tasks will allow the students to apply their learning to a series of script and performance-based tasks that will necessarily prepare them for the next steps of their academic and creative pathway.

Year 10 and Y11 Homework Expectations

Students in Years 10 and 11 should **typically expect to receive homework from all their GCSE subjects each week**. Each subject will typically set homework tasks that take around **45-60 minutes** resulting in approximately **6.5 - 9 hours (approximately 1.5-2 hours per day)**.

Students should be aware that this amount may increase during terms when they are expected to submit work for individual subject NEA (coursework) deadlines.

There may be certain weeks where subjects set less homework depending on where students are in the curriculum. However, **subjects will endeavour to never exceed this amount of homework during each week**.

Students in Key Stage 4 will **typically have a minimum of 1 week** to complete their homework. However, there may be instances where this is shortened slightly depending on the nature of the task and in line with the curriculum plan for that term. Students and parents can always check when homework tasks are due on MS Teams and via EduLink.

As with KS3, **we do not insist on a particular day when homework is set by subjects**. This is to ensure that all tasks are purposeful and that subjects have the autonomy to set homework each week in line with the curriculum coverage in lessons. The specific day on which homework is set may change depending on when teachers have completed particular topics/units.

Subjects	Approximate length of homework tasks each week
English (English Literature and English Language)	1 - 1.5 hours
Maths	1 - 1.5 hours
Double Science	1 - 1.5 hours
Triple Science	1.5 - 2.5 hours
MFL (Languages)	1 hour per fortnight in Y10 1 hour per week in Y11
Humanities (History/Geography)	45 mins - 1 hour
Enhancement Option (Music/Dance/Drama/Art/Photo/PE/RE*)	45 mins - 1 hour
Technology Option (DT/Food and Nutrition/Computer Science)	45 mins - 1 hour

*RE may also be chosen as an additional subject which is studied during an after-school session and will require students to complete additional homework. Students who wish to undertake RE as a 'twilight' course will need to meet a set threshold in their end of Year 9 exams/end of term examinations.

Sixth Form Study and Homework Expectations

Sixth Form students must strive to become increasingly autonomous learners who can manage their time, solve problems independently, and demonstrate higher order thinking skills to meet new challenges. These skills are absolutely crucial, not only for A level study, but in order to make the successful transition to Higher Education or the world of employment.

Overview:

A level courses are intensive, and students cannot expect to fulfil their potential without devoting a considerable number of hours each week to self-study and homework. Sixth Form students are given the responsibility for organising and managing their own time so that all subjects deadlines are met, and they are expected to develop strong independent work and study skills.

As a rough guide, every hour spent in the classroom should be matched by another hour spent in self-study.

Self-study time and homework tasks encourage students to develop independent practices, reinforce knowledge and skills learned in class, enable teachers to assess students' progress and identify possible areas for improvement, and give students the opportunity to read more widely around their subjects and pursue their academic interests. Students are also expected to use homework and self-study time to complete any actions and reflection tasks arising from staff feedback on their work.

NEA (Coursework):

Several subjects at A level, especially more practical subjects and BTEC courses, require students to complete coursework assignments or NEA portfolios which contribute to the final grades awarded. To access the higher grades, students must spend many hours researching, planning, developing and producing their coursework with ever increasing autonomy and independence, guided by their subject teachers. This is what makes A level coursework very different from that done at GCSE.

For those students intending to move on to Higher Education, developing these effective working habits and research skills in the Sixth Form are critical. Potential university students need to demonstrate these skills and schools are asked to comment on a student's independent work and study skills in the academic reference.

What can students expect from Sixth Form study at NSB?

Taking a subject at A level involves 4.5 hours per week of teaching time. During lessons teachers will cover the required examination content detailed in the specification and will set homework and extension tasks on a regular basis over and above this time allocation. Sometimes teachers will arrange extra after-school lessons/revision classes or lunch-time workshops to ensure that students are fully prepared for examinations and NEA components; students are expected to take full advantage of these sessions.

Assignments and tasks set for homework in Years 12 and 13 will be many and varied. Not all will be written tasks; not all will be formally marked or assessed. Students must realise that non-written assignments/research tasks and pre-prepared presentations are just as essential and valuable to their academic progress as a piece of writing or essay that receives formal written feedback and a mark/grade. Wider reading and note-taking is crucial and in some subjects, there will be a heavy essay commitment. If students fail to complete homework, they are jeopardising their own chances of examination success and can expect to receive sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

How much homework will students receive in the Sixth Form?

Students should expect **around 4 hours homework per subject per week**, although some practical subjects may have slightly different demands.

When teachers set homework/independent study assignments/planning tasks/reading etc. they take into account the fact that students have self-study time in school.

There is no set homework timetable in the Sixth Form as students need to become more flexible in their work and study routines. **Teachers will ensure sufficient time is given to complete homework (this may be less than a week depending on the nature of the task) and to support students in planning and managing their time effectively.** However, students must recognise and accept that at certain times of the year there may be additional pressures, especially if they take several subjects that demand coursework and particularly around the Trial Examination season in January (Year 13) and May (Year 12).

Students are expected to use their self-study time each week productively and efficiently to meet the requirements for their particular subjects.

How much wider reading are students expected to complete?

There should never be an occasion when a student says that all their work is done. Reading around each subject increases understanding and both broadens and deepens students' knowledge and which often generates a particular interest in a subject which in turn increases motivation. For those students planning on moving to Higher Education, wider reading is crucial as many universities will expect them to write in some depth about their subject interests on the UCAS application form, showing how they have widened the scope of their academic reading beyond that required for the examination.