

# **Lanark Grammar School**



## **Homework Information**

**S1-S3**

**August 2013**

Homework is an important bridge between school and home and is a vital part of the learning process for all our pupils. This booklet sets out what you can expect your daughter/son to be working on while at home and highlights each Department's focus on homework.

Through carrying out homework in a committed and systematic fashion pupils can demonstrate independence in their learning and continue their development of knowledge, processes and skills which will help to raise their attainment. It is also important that our pupils learn time management skills and the capacity to meet set deadlines. Work completed at home supports tasks undertaken in school and is a useful source of information for teachers on pupils' learning, progress, attainment and commitment to courses. It can also be helpful in informing next steps in a pupil's learning.

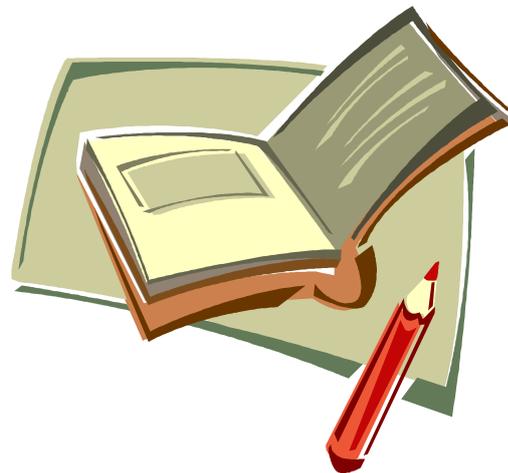
Supporting your child's learning at home is beneficial for many reasons: it enables you to gain an understanding of the focus of work carried out in school; to support learning through sharing information, discussing knowledge, skills and processes to be taken forward; offering guidance and support; and to share in the successes of your child/children. Showing an interest in homework has a considerable impact on children's learning and helps them to get into the homework 'habit'.

At the start of each session, all our pupils are issued with a Diary Planner in which they should note all homework which is issued and when it is due to be handed in. It will be helpful for you to see the Diary as a source of communication about homework and a stimulus for discussion with your daughter/son. It will be worthwhile setting time aside each evening to check what homework has been issued, when the deadline has been set for return, what it is your daughter/son is expected to do, and how they are to go about completing the work which has been set.

As stated earlier, homework is designed to enhance and consolidate skills, knowledge and processes learned in class and it is helpful to discuss with your daughter/son what they think these skills, knowledge and processes are even where you may not be too familiar with subject content. Simply talking with your daughter/son about the tasks set will be helpful and provide them with an opportunity to explain their learning to you.

Curriculum for Excellence has as one of its main principles the development of successful learners. Learning at home, independent of teacher support, is a major aspect of this aspiration.

Mark Sherry  
Head Teacher



While variations will be found between and within departments in the frequency and nature of homework, it offers opportunities for:

- reinforcement and review of class work
- development of study skills and self discipline
- promotion of independent study
- supporting areas of need
- developing strengths
- strengthening the liaison between home and school
- preparing pupils for the work pattern of further study beyond school and throughout life

Period allocations for each subject are shown below. The combination of subjects studied by each pupil in S2 and S3 is dependent on individual choice.

Subject	S1	S2	S3
Art and Design	1	2	2
Biology	0	1	2
Chemistry	0	1	2
Classical Studies	0	1	2
Drama	1	2	2
English	4	4	4
Foreign Languages	3	3	3
Geography	1	1	2
History	1	1	2
Home Economics	2	1	2
Information and Communications Technology	2	3	2
Mathematics	4	4	4
Modern Studies	1	1	2
Music	1	2	2
Personal and Social Education	2	1	1
Physical Education	3	3	3
Physics	0	1	2
Religious and Moral Education	1	1	1
Science	4	1	2
Technical	1	2	2

## Art & Design

In first, second and third year pupils have a structured homework regime throughout the year. Homework is issued every 2 weeks and is to reinforce understanding from class work, practice of particular skills and research information in preparation for class work. It consists of workbooks and thematic worksheets for a variety of design and expressive tasks to stimulate the imagination and build base skills.

Throughout the homework course, an emphasis is given to the understanding of the visual elements of Colour, Shape, Form, Texture, Pattern, Line and Tone.

## Classical Studies

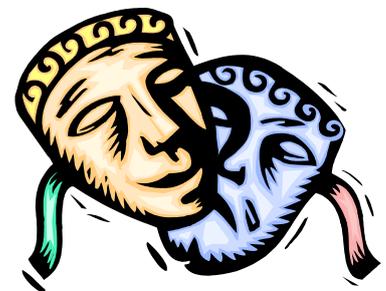
In S2 pupils choose the format of an independent investigation on an aspect of the Classical Greek or Roman world. Other smaller tasks are set on a more regular basis and typically involve reading or answering questions, taking 10-15 minutes.

In S3 pupils will undertake homework activities which will help them to build on their knowledge and understanding and skills development from class work. Some of these tasks will take on a more investigative theme in preparation for the project work in National courses.

## Drama

In order to develop skills and knowledge pupils will be asked to carry out certain tasks in their own time:

- Personal research – seeking the opinions of family and friends for class discussions.
- Collaborating with peers outside of the classroom as they prepare for group presentations.
- Reflecting on their own experiences outside of the classroom and providing feedback.



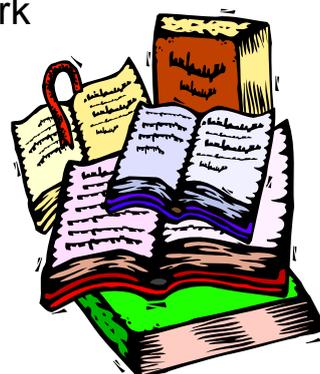
## English

Pupils will be expected to spend approximately 50 minutes on English homework per week.

Pupils have regular, timetabled access to the school library as part of their S1 – S3 English course and should always, therefore, have personal reading material for use at home. Regular personal reading is extremely important for the development of pupils' writing, including vocabulary and knowledge of writer's craft.

In addition to this, pupils can expect to receive homework assignments in:

- Language work
- Research/preparation for extended writing
- Occasional redrafting/word-processing of essays/stories



## Foreign Languages – Core

Pupils need to learn and review vocabulary and grammar (using the materials provided) on a regular basis to ensure success. We recommend 3 x 10 minute sessions each week. Vocabulary is tested regularly in class.

Pupils are given reading or writing exercises to be completed most weeks. These exercises link directly into the work being done in class and should take 20 - 30 minutes in S1 and S2, 30 - 40 minutes in S3. Written preparation for Speaking/Writing assessments or extended vocabulary practice for Reading/Listening assessments form homework when appropriate.

In the autumn term, S1 pupils carry out a research project on a French speaker of their choice. They are given a detailed brief and have 3-4 weeks to complete the project. S3 pupils will be required to carry out research work at home towards the end of the academic year.

## **Second Foreign Language**

The regular learning of vocabulary and grammar (using the materials provided) continues to be key. Reading or writing tasks are issued most weeks. Pupils taking Latin in S3 are issued with background reading texts (in English) to be studied at home roughly every 3 weeks, immediately prior to moving on to a new topic. They are also often asked to finish off exercises from class.

You can help by encouraging regular study of vocabulary and grammar, by practising your daughter/son's words with them, by helping them manage their research and by ensuring that they use their vocabulary lists when completing all homework tasks.

## **Geography**

S1 pupils complete one extended project, taking around 2 weeks, and 2 shorter answer homework tasks, taking one week each, in each of the 2 rotations.

In S2 pupils complete one large project lasting several weeks and one shorter response assignment for each of two units of work.

In S3 pupils will undertake homework activities which will help them to build on their knowledge and understanding and skills development from class work. Some of these tasks will take on a more investigative theme in preparation for the project work in National courses.

Project work is expected to take up to 2-3 hours work but the shorter response assignments should only occupy 15-20 minutes.



## **History**

Homework takes the form of task sheets as a follow-up to class work. These are set on a regular weekly basis and should take around 10-15 minutes.



Investigations form the basis of some class work on certain topics and can be continued if pupils wish.

In S3 pupils will undertake homework activities which will help them to build on their knowledge and understanding and skills development from class work. Some of these tasks will take on a more investigative theme in preparation for the project work in National courses.

## **Home Economics**

Written Homework pertaining to each unit of work is given during the unit, usually twice. This can be in the form of adapting recipes, or matching exercises, or finding information.

Practical Homework: pupils are given one week's notice of all practical work and write in their homework diaries the type of dish, container and amount of money needed on the date it is needed for.

## **Information and Communications Technology**

There are 2 to 4 homework exercises which have been integrated into each unit of work in the S1/S2 ICT course. These exercises consist of worksheets with questions on a topic or planning sheets for a practical project and are completed at relevant times during the course of the unit. Parents are encouraged to give assistance if required.

While it is realised that not all pupils have access to a computer at home, pupils are encouraged to practise the skills they learn at home and use these skills to help in the completion of homework tasks for other subjects.

In S3, pupils will study one period per week of Computing and one period of Business with IT. Homework will be issued on a regular basis.

## Mathematics

As homework is essential to maintaining course progress and improving long term retention in Mathematics, pupils in S1 to S3 will most likely be asked to complete written homework four times per week. This will usually be in the form of the continuation of an exercise started in class. Pupils should spend approximately 15 minutes completing homework, showing all working and must use the answers provided to check their work, correcting mistakes and noting areas which require help from their class teacher. Pupils have a responsibility to form good study habits as early as possible in their school career. Our S1, S2 and S3 pupils should be aiming to spend 20 minutes per week, over and above their homework, revising work covered earlier in the year. To revise effectively they must attempt questions from the text book and seek help when required from their class teacher and/or the lunchtime classes on offer.



## Modern Studies

In S1 pupils will be set 3 homework activities in each of the 2 rotations. These tasks should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete and will involve pupils answering questions from information presented to them in a variety of forms as well as researching information related to the topics under study in class.

In S2 pupils studying Modern Studies will continue to be set approximately 3 activities per unit of study throughout the year. Again these activities should take between 20-30 minutes to complete well and will follow skills and content which pupils will have covered in class as a form of consolidation and an opportunity to show development and progress.

In S3 pupils will undertake homework activities which will help them to build on their knowledge and understanding and skills development from class work. Some of these tasks will take on a more investigative theme in preparation for the project work in National courses.

## Music

In first, second and third year pupils have a structured homework regime to reinforce understanding from class work, practice of particular skills and researching information in preparation for class work. This is given out on a two week basis.

The homework consists of Practical rehearsal, theory workbooks, concept worksheets and Invention. By building and developing our pupils' co-ordination skills on various instruments, each pupil is given the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to play the instruments that they want to learn at home if resources allow. Pupils are given the opportunity to be creative, and many pupils enjoy the experience of 'inventing' or composing their own songs and music at home.

Throughout the homework course, the emphasis is quite simply to promote Music as a life enhancing activity, through Performing, Inventing and Listening.



## Personal and Social Education

Pupils are taught Personal and Social Education by their Pupil Support teacher one period a week from S1 to S3. Although there is no formal homework requirement in this subject, pupils are developing skills and knowledge to prepare them for the future. In order to develop skills and knowledge pupils will be asked to carry out certain tasks in their own time:

- Investigate further a topic discussed in class
- Seek out opinions from parents/carers/relatives to enhance classroom discussion
- Monitor their lifestyles over a period of time and report back their findings in class
- Discuss with parents/carers what they have been doing in class and provide feedback to their Pupil Support teacher

Pupil Support staff value the opinions of parents and pupils which they use to plan and develop future programmes of work.

## Physical Education

Throughout their broad general education, pupils will participate in a variety of activities. While developing their practical performance pupils will also study the following topics;

Movement Skills  
Fitness & Wellbeing  
Strategies and Creativity  
Observing and Analysing Performance  
Competition & Co-operation



Pupils will be expected to complete homework on a weekly basis to reinforce knowledge and understanding covered in class.

Homework booklets will be issued at the start of each practical block and pupils will be expected to spend approx 15 minutes per week completing tasks.

To ensure pupils reach their full potential a full change of PE kit is necessary for every lesson.

## Religious and Moral Education

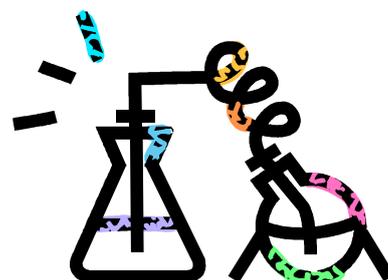
Each unit of work in RME has an accompanying homework booklet. Pupils are given exercises from the booklet, on average, every 2 weeks. These exercises link directly to the work being completed in class and should take 15 – 20 minutes to complete. The tasks may involve some research and will help pupils develop their own thinking on the topics.

Revision and preparation for assessments will form part of the homework as appropriate. You can help by encouraging your daughter/son to talk about issues discussed in RME and by helping her/him manage the research tasks.

## Science (including discrete options)

Homework exercises are included in each unit of work taught and are used at the discretion of the teacher in response to pupil needs.

It is expected that all pupils prepare themselves fully for the upcoming work of the unit by reading over their notes between lessons to ensure understanding of that which is already covered.



## Technical

Each unit of work in Technical includes several homework tasks designed to reinforce the concepts being taught. Time to complete these tasks will vary from 10 to 50 minutes depending on the task. Some of the tasks will address understanding of processes and others will involve the development of a graphical concept - parents are encouraged to work in partnership with their child to develop their initial ideas.



If you would like further information or clarification, please contact your child's Pupil Support teacher in the first instance.

Braxfield  
Hyndford  
Jerviswood  
Lockhart  
Wallace

Mr Munogee  
Mr Robson  
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Mrs Ewing  
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