

Lanark Grammar School



Homework Information

S4

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

Each subject is allocated 5 periods per week. The subjects and levels offered are shown below:

Subject	N2	N3	N4	N5
Accounting				✓
Administration and IT		✓	✓	✓
Art and Design		✓	✓	✓
Biology		✓	✓	✓
Business/Business Management		✓	✓	✓
Chemistry		✓	✓	✓
Classical Studies		✓	✓	✓
Computing Science		✓	✓	✓
Creative Arts	✓	✓		
Design and Manufacture			✓	✓
Drama		✓	✓	✓
English	✓	✓	✓	✓
French		✓	✓	✓
Geography		✓	✓	✓
German		✓	✓	✓
Graphic Communication		✓	✓	✓
History	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hospitality		✓	✓	✓
Latin		✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modern Studies		✓	✓	✓
Music: Performing		✓	✓	✓
Music: Technology		✓	✓	✓
Physical Education			✓	✓
Physics		✓	✓	✓
Practical Craft Skills	✓	✓		
Spanish	✓	✓		

Accounting

There will be homework tasks associated with each of the units undertaken as part of this course. The number and complexity of homework activities will be dependent on the specific topic/subject area being studied. Pupils will be issued with homework jotters and will have to hand all appropriate resources: written notes; core notes booklets and hand-outs to enable them to attempt all homework tasks. The nature of tasks will be varied and, on occasion, specific tasks to develop core skills and knowledge and understanding relevant to the course will be set. When no formal homework is set it is recommended that pupils read over notes on the content covered that day.

Administration & IT

Homework will be issued on a regular basis and will enhance pupil learning, improve achievement and develop pupils' study skills. It will relate to the particular unit of work being studied and should take approximately 20 – 30 minutes to complete.

Homework can be:

- Consolidation of work in class
- Research
- Reading
- Online tasks
- Revision

Pupils are expected to manage their time effectively so that homework tasks are handed in on time.

Art & Design



Art and Design pupils will have an expressive and design folio to complete. All Art and Design pupils have to be aware that in order to complete their expressive and design folios they will be expected to take items from class home to work on regularly.

Pupils will be given homework and short-term deadlines to complete areas of practical work and this will always relate to the work in the class and includes research into artists and designers and their work, and essay writing, as well as drawing and colour studies.

The Art & Design Studies area is partly formally taught, partly self-study. Revision and practice is both needed and expected in all areas of the course.

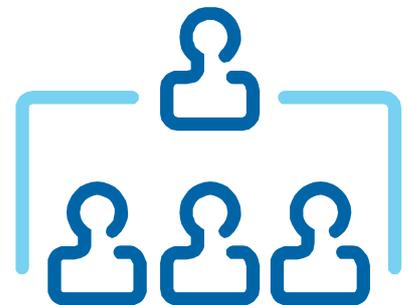
Biology

Formal written homework exercises are available at appropriate levels for each of the 3 units of work in National Level Biology. These exercises are issued wholly or in part by the class teacher in response to the strengths or development needs of the individual pupil, as and when required.

Parent's can encourage pupils to revise from summary notes and worked classroom examples on a regular basis.

Business/Business Management

Pupils will be given homework tasks associated with each of the units undertaken as part of this course. The complexity and nature of homework will vary according to the course being followed. Homework will be related to the work covered in class but also at times will include revision or research into local businesses and their practice. Pupils will be issued with homework jotters and will have all appropriate resources: written notes, core notes booklets (all available on Glow) to enable them to answer all tasks.



When no formal homework is set, it is recommended that pupils read over notes on the content covered in class.

Chemistry

Formal written homework exercises are available at appropriate levels for each of the 3 units of work in National Level Chemistry. These exercises are issued wholly or in part by the class teacher in response to the strengths or development needs of the individual pupil, as and when required.

Parents can encourage pupils to revise from summary notes and worked classroom examples on a regular basis.

Classical Studies

Pupils receive regular homework assignments including reading textbooks for class work and as preparation for their Investigating element, but mainly involves the completion of past paper questions. The reading activities take place on a weekly basis and should take up to 30 minutes but the past paper work requires certain topics to be covered in class first and so may be less frequent.

Computing Science

Pupils will receive regular homework tasks covering each topic being taught in class. These homework tasks will consist of: formal, written exercises which should take about 20 to 25 minutes to complete; reading over notes prior to assessment or class discussions; independent research on current issues affecting Computing Science. Pupils should make use of their course notes, either in written or electronic format, to aid in the completion of these exercises. Students will be given several days to complete these exercises. When no formal homework is issued, pupils are encouraged to read over notes on the content covered that day. This will help to consolidate learning and support end of topic assessments. Pupils are welcome to attend catch-up sessions during Wednesday lunchtime if help is required in the completion of any homework task.



Creative Arts

This course forms a link between Art and Music and the homework policy will focus on the practical element of both courses where possible.

Art

The homework will consist of Workbooks and thematic worksheets for a variety of design and expressive tasks to stimulate their imagination and build their 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.

Music

Pupils are expected to practice their chosen instruments at home if possible and if this is not then the department is open every lunchtime for rehearsal space and staff are always available for extra rehearsals and supported study.

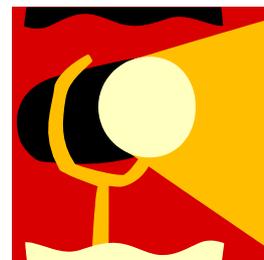
Design & Manufacture

There will be homework tasks associated with each of the units undertaken as part of this course. The number and complexity of homework activities will be dependent on the specific area being studied but there should be approximately 3 items of homework per unit of study that will take 20-30 minutes to complete.



The nature of the activities will be varied, at times pupils will undertake research tasks to find out information on materials and processes relevant to the topic being studied, whereas at other times pupils will be expected to explore and develop ideas through sketching or electronic means and on occasion specific tasks to build up knowledge and understanding relevant to the course will be set.

Drama



Each pupil shall be expected to complete a significant amount of reading at home to ensure they are doing the maximum amount of studying on the set plays and extracts. Following the initial studying of plays and extracts pupils shall be given various essay or short question paper tasks to answer, which shall test their knowledge in this area. This practice and preparation at home is essential to give pupils an in-depth knowledge of texts and extracts.

Prior to performance assessments in class, pupils shall be expected to take on different types of characters, completing the necessary character background work, as well as learning lines from short extracts.

Pupils shall also be required to be responsible for scripting and directing a short scene in response to a stimulus, as part of the investigative work in Drama.

English

Pupils will be expected to spend approximately 60 minutes per week on English homework. The amount and difficulty of the homework will vary according to the level of class (National 5 or 4), but the main types of homework task set will be:

- Reading (of class literature as well as personal reading)
- Research (for essays)
- Drafting/redrafting of essays
- Close Reading Practice
- Preparation for individual presentations and group discussions.

For National 3/2, homework packs are issued monthly. Worksheets are dated as a general guide for pupils and parents as to when each worksheet should be completed. Two or three worksheets per week is the recommended rate of completion.

As well as the monthly homework packs, extra work is given to reflect the day's lesson as and when necessary for extra reinforcement and reflection. All homework packs include words to learn from 'Nelson

Spelling'. Regular home 'reading for pleasure', is encouraged. Pupils are frequently reminded to visit their local library, school library and are welcome to choose books from the well stocked class library.

An English Homework plan which reflects work covered in class is sent home with the packs. This allows parents to view their child's homework month by month for the year.

French/German

To ensure success, pupils must learn and review vocabulary and grammar on a regular basis. We recommend 5 x 10 minute sessions per week. They should get into the habit of looking over the work from class each day, whether they have formal homework that evening or not.

Pupils are given reading and/or writing tasks to be completed at home most weeks. These exercises link directly into the work being covered in class and should take up to an hour.

Written preparation for internal Speaking/Writing assessments or extended vocabulary learning and practice for internal Reading/Listening assessments form homework where appropriate.

You can help by encouraging regular study of vocabulary and grammar and ensuring that the vocabulary lists are used for the completion of all homework tasks.

Geography

Pupils complete several homework booklets, largely based on past paper questions in each topic within the syllabus, usually 2 weeks apart depending on the work covered until that point. Each booklet is set at National 5/4 level and is largely based on past paper questions. The responses are marked and form the basis for formative class discussion and then are added to pupils' notes to form the basis for revision notes for that topic.



Graphic Communication

Pupils will be given homework on a regular basis and there should, where possible, be variety in the nature of assignments. Homework will be related to work done in class but may also include revision or wider reading/research in relation to Graphic Communication.

The quantity, depth and nature of homework will vary according to the course being followed, ie N5/N4 and should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. Pupils are encouraged to take home and use their technology notes to assist in the completion of these tasks.

Pupils will have specialist equipment made available to them to support homework tasks and key software, such as Autodesk Inventor can be freely downloaded by pupils from home to support the development of critical skills.

History

Pupils should be learning content covered in class at home, as well as practising the KU and ES steps they have been taught. Past paper questions are also completed after content has been covered. Timing here varies throughout the session but should be at least 30 minutes per week. Parents can help specifically by supporting pupils in their timed question activities.

Hospitality



Pupils studying National 5/4 Hospitality will be issued homework on a regular basis. Homework tasks will include research and written tasks on currently taught topics. While this course is predominantly practical pupils will be encouraged to practise their cookery skills and techniques at home. Parents can assist by encouraging pupils to be prepared for all practical lessons and check completion of set homework tasks.

Latin

To ensure success, pupils must learn and review vocabulary and grammar on a regular basis. We recommend 5 x 10 minute sessions per week. They should get into the habit of looking over the work from class each day, whether they have formal homework that evening or not.

Pupils need to study the selected texts and the associated interpretation notes regularly. As in S3, pupils are given 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. They are given questions on the set texts to be answered at home most weeks.

You can help by encouraging regular learning of vocabulary and grammar and ensuring that the background reading and questions on the texts are completed.

Mathematics

The amount of homework issued varies depending on the level of study. Most pupils should complete some continuation homework four times per week, taking approximately twenty minutes. Formal homework will also be issued at regular intervals to all classes.

Homework for National 2 Lifeskills Mathematics will be given for practice, consolidation, or revision of the work in class, where necessary. Pupils will be given help sheets such as times-tables and number-lines and occasionally, a loan of a calculator, where required and appropriate in order to support homework. Pupils will be given a due date for homework. Extra instructions will be written on the booklets/sheets where and when required.

Modern Studies

Pupils complete several homework booklets, largely based on past paper questions in each topic within the syllabus, usually 2 weeks apart depending on the work covered until that point. Each booklet is set at National 5/4



level and is largely based on past paper questions. The responses are marked and form the basis for formative class discussion and then are added to pupils' notes to form the basis for revision notes for that topic.

Music: Performing

Homework is given out on a weekly basis and is for reinforcing understanding of class work and for the practice of particular skills in preparation for class work. This consists of Practical rehearsal, theory workbooks, concept worksheets, and Composition.

Pupils are regularly given a list of concepts to learn using Internet based Resources available from Learning Teaching Scotland Websites. These concepts have to be listened to and revised to form part of the SQA testing procedure for the Music Listening Element of the course.

Pupils are given the opportunity to be creative within the composition element of the music curriculum. By the time pupils reach S4 they will have experienced Music Technology in composing their own songs. Many pupils have computer based programs they can work on at home or they can simply use manuscript to start a composition using a stimulus suggested.

Pupils are expected to practice their chosen instruments at home and if this is not possible then the department is open every lunchtime for rehearsal space and staff are always available for extra rehearsals for any forthcoming exams.



Music: Technology

Homework is given out on a weekly basis and is for reinforcing understanding of class work and for the practice of particular skills in preparation for class work. This consists of Practical assignments using technology, theory workbooks, concept worksheets, and Composition.

Pupils are regularly given a list of technology based concepts to learn using Internet based Resources available from Learning Teaching Scotland Websites. These concepts have to be listened to and revised

to form part of the SQA testing procedure for the Music Listening Element of the course.

Pupils are given the opportunity to be creative within the composition element of the music curriculum. By the time pupils reach S4 they will have experienced Music Technology in composing their own songs. Many pupils have computer based programs they can work on at home or they can simply use manuscript to start a composition using a stimulus suggested.

Pupils are assigned Music Technology based tasks which will form part of their course assessments. These will include PowerPoint presentations, research projects, script writing for Radio Broadcasting units and also internet based homework tasks to identify pieces of music to use as part of their course.

Physical Education

Pupils studying National 5/4 Physical Education will be issued homework on a weekly basis. Homework will be based on theoretical work as well as performance improvement in practical lessons. It is therefore essential for pupils to keep up to date with all set tasks. Pupils will also be expected to complete 15-20 minutes of private reading each week. Parents can assist by encouraging pupils to be prepared for all practical lessons and check completion of set homework tasks.



Physics

Formal written homework exercises are available at appropriate levels for each of the 3 units of work in National Level Physics. These exercises are issued wholly or in part by the class teacher in response to the strengths or development needs of the individual pupil, as and when required.

Parent's can encourage pupils to revise from summary notes and worked classroom examples on a regular basis.

Practical Craft Skills

All pupils following the practical courses in Woodwork and Metalwork are issued with notes throughout their course. They are expected to study and learn these notes when they are instructed by their teacher. At the end of the course the pupils are given a test to assess the work learned in the class and at home.

Spanish

Homework will largely focus on topic based work wherein pupils will be provided with recommended websites to research their chosen theme. Parental support in directing their daughter/son to these websites would be helpful. In preparation for Speaking assessments, pupils should aim to practise at home. Homework will be noted in the pupil diary and pupils will be given plenty of time to complete any tasks at home. There will also be some emphasis placed on learning core vocabulary across units.



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
Mr Goldie
Mrs Ewing
Mr Bone

Additional Support Needs Mrs Gordon, Mrs Bennett, Ms Murray

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