

Lanark Grammar School



Homework Information

S5/6

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.

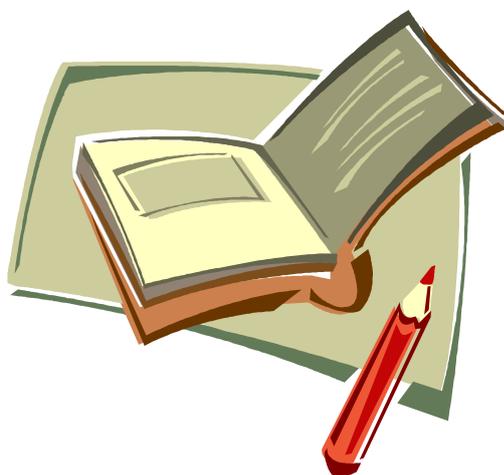
Supporting your child's learning at home is beneficial for many reasons: it enables you to gain an understanding of the focus of work carried out in school; to support learning through sharing information, discussing knowledge, skills and processes to be taken forward; offering guidance and support; 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 course at Higher or Intermediate levels is allocated 6 periods per week. Advanced Higher courses are allocated 4 periods per week. The subjects and levels offered are shown below:

Subject	Acc	Int 1	Int 2	H	AH
Accounting			✓	✓	
Administration		✓	✓	✓	
Art and Design			✓	✓	
Biology			✓	✓	✓
Business Management			✓	✓	
Chemistry			✓	✓	✓
Classical Studies		✓	✓	✓	✓
Computing/Computing Studies	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Drama			✓	✓	
English	✓	✓	✓	✓	
French		✓	✓	✓	✓
Geography		✓	✓	✓	✓
German		✓	✓	✓	
Graphic Communication			✓	✓	
History		✓	✓	✓	✓
Hospitality	✓	✓	✓		
Information Systems			✓	✓	
Latin			✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modern Studies				✓	
Music			✓	✓	✓
Physical Education			✓	✓	
Physics			✓	✓	✓
Practical Craft Skills	✓	✓			

Accounting & Finance (Higher/Intermediate 2)

Candidates are given an ink exercise relevant to the topic being studied, roughly once per fortnight, as well as being expected to complete any unfinished exercise before the next class. Pupils are expected to read relevant notes and text as required. Ink exercise questions, which are mostly from past papers, should take no more than 45 minutes to complete, while other work should take from 30 to 40 minutes per week on average.

Administration (Higher)

Candidates are issued with a homework booklet and are given weekly written exercises to complete. When no formal homework is issued it is recommended that students read over their Core Notes on a regular basis. Candidates are also encouraged to practise their ICT skills at home or in the library. All course resources and past papers for Theory and ICT are in paper format but they can also be accessed online. A Parental tracking sheet is issued at the start of the year and parents are encouraged to monitor progress by signing this after the completion of each unit of work.

(Intermediate 2/Intermediate 1)

Pupils are given an ink exercise, relevant to the topic being studied, roughly once per week. This should take no more than 45 minutes and pupils are given a week to complete the exercise. Additionally pupils may be given one past paper question to complete during the week taking a maximum of 10 minutes and are expected to spend around 30 minutes a week reading over their course notes. It is understood that all pupils will not have access at home to relevant software and are therefore encouraged to practise their ICT skills during school hours.



Art & Design

(Higher/Intermediate 2)



All S5 and S6 Art & Design students have an expressive and design folio to complete before the Easter Holidays. In order to complete their expressive and design folios, they will be expected to take items from class home to work on regularly.

Students will be given homework and short-term deadlines to complete areas of practical work and this will always relate to work in class. This 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

(Advanced Higher/Higher)

A homework sheet listing essay-type exercises is issued for each unit. These exercises are allocated at regular intervals on completion of the relevant areas of work.

Additional homework is issued at the discretion of the class teacher, and will often take the form of past paper questions.

(Intermediate 2)

Formal homework exercises exist for each unit and are given wholly or in part to students at teachers' discretion. Additional homework is issued as required – often taking the form of practice questions.

Business Management

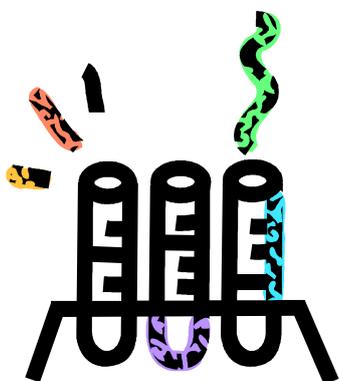
(Higher/Intermediate 2)

Candidates are given either an ink exercise in the form of a case study or past paper questions, roughly once a week and will be given a week to complete. This should take between 15 and 45 minutes depending on the current topic and homework issued. Candidates are expected to regularly read over their class notes and parents are encouraged to test pupils on the “command words” sheet – issued at the beginning of term. Background reading forms the basis of much of the homework, although it could include the completion of written work from class and past paper questions.

Chemistry

(Advanced Higher)

Course questions are issued at timely intervals throughout each of the 3 Units. In addition, a calculations book is provided to each student and exercises are issued wholly or in part by the class teacher, as and when required. Past paper questions are issued at the discretion of the class teacher.



(Higher)

23 homework exercises are issued formally to students at regular intervals throughout the course. Additional homework is issued at the discretion of the class teacher, and will often take the form of past paper questions.

(Intermediate 2)

Formal written homework exercises are issued to students at regular intervals throughout the course to consolidate learning. Additional homework is issued at the discretion of the class teacher, and will often take the form of past paper questions.

Classical Studies

(Advanced Higher/Higher/Intermediate 2/Intermediate 1)

Background reading forms the basis of much of the homework, although it could include the completion of written work from class and past paper questions, depending on the level studied.

Computing

(Higher/Intermediate 2)

Students will be issued with a formal ink exercise task approximately once every 3 weeks, or when the end of a topic has been reached, and will be given 1 week to complete and hand it in. These exercises will take about 40 to 50 minutes to complete. Students are also expected to finish off tasks at home that were not completed in class time. It is recommended that students spend 30 minutes every week to read over content covered in class that week.

Computing Studies

(Intermediate 1/Access 3)

Due to the practical nature of this course, homework is issued prior to NAB multiple choice assessments. This homework is in a similar format to the assessment and covers the theory element of the course.

Parents are encouraged to help pupils read and understand the questions asked in preparation for the assessment.

Pupils following the Intermediate 1 course are also encouraged to read over notes on the content covered in class that day – this will help to consolidate learning and aid in the final exam.



Drama

(Higher/Intermediate 2)

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.

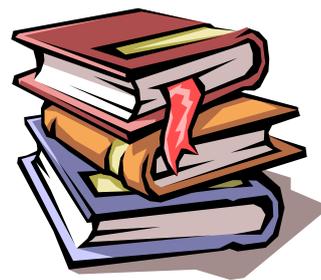
Prior to performance assessments in class, pupils shall be expected to take on different types of characters, completing the necessary character background work, as well as learning lines from short extracts.

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

(Higher/Intermediate 2/Intermediate 1)

Pupils will be expected to spend approximately 2 hours per week on English homework



The amount and level of difficulty will vary according to the level of the class (Intermediate 1 to Higher) but the main types of homework task set will be:

- Reading (of class literature)
- Reading (of newspaper articles – very important for Close Reading progress)
- Literature essays
- Study (revising texts, learning notes, quotations) before literature exams
- Close Reading practice
- Folio work – planning, researching, drafting, redrafting

(Access 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 and school library and are welcome to choose books from the well-stocked class library.

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

Enterprise Through Craft/Practical Craft Skills

(Intermediate 1/Access 3)

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.

French/German

(Advanced Higher/Higher/Intermediate2/Intermediate1)

Pupils need to review the work completed in class and ask if there are questions/problems. Vocabulary and grammar study still form a key part of the course and pupils need to learn and review both regularly. Ten minutes every evening is a good model.

Pupils have several pieces of written homework per week addressing the different types of writing assessed at upper school level as well as reading comprehension exercises. They may sometimes be given listening exercises to complete at home with the recording provided or available via the web.

Prior to NABs or Advanced Higher Folio submission, pupils will be expected to prepare thoroughly to complete necessary assessments.

You can help by encouraging regular review of work, learning of vocabulary and grammar, checking vocabulary with your daughter/son and by ensuring that the range of reading/writing tasks are completed.

Geography

(Advanced Higher)

Pupils studying the Advanced Higher course are mainly involved in personal reading and research in relation to their Geographical Issue essay and Folio work, as well as practising their skills in statistical analysis and graphical presentation of data.

(Higher)

Higher Geography students' complete one written assignment, normally based on past paper questions, every 1-2 weeks, and general revision of previous units will be added to this throughout the course of the year.

(Intermediate 2/Intermediate 1)



Pupils are asked to complete unfinished class work as required and complete past paper questions as preparation for examination. This varies through the session but will increase in frequency towards prelim and final exam time.

Graphic Communication

(Higher/Intermediate 2)

Students are given drawing ability past paper questions relevant to the topic being studied. These are issued approximately once per fortnight. Students will also be required to complete any unfinished drawings before the next class and read over notes and texts as required. Pupils are encouraged to buy their own set of basic drawing tools to enable these tasks to be completed at home. Drawing ability tasks should take no more than 35 minutes. Ink exercises to evaluate knowledge are also issued about once per month.

History

(Advanced Higher)

Regular reading of class notes in order to learn content will form the basis of homework activities and will develop to include dissertation and historiography skills as the course progresses.

(Higher)

Regular reading of class notes in order to revise course content will form the basis of homework activities from the outset. This develops with the practice of essay step techniques and source analysis skills. Preparation for the Extended Essay takes place from February. This activity should take up to 2 hours per week.

(Intermediate 2/Intermediate 1)

Pupils should read over class notes and Key Point revision files which build up as the course progresses. Work on past paper questions and preparation for the Extended Essay will happen later in the course. Homework here should last up to 1 hour per week.

Hospitality

(Intermediate 2/Intermediate 1)

Pupils are given advance notice of between 1 and 5 weeks of which dish, container and money to bring each day to practical classes.

(Access 3)



Pupils have to note in their diaries when they have to bring in dishes and money for practical work in Hospitality. They have to know the type of container that they have to bring and the amount of money that is needed. Pupils will be given one week's notice for this.

Information Systems

(Higher/Intermediate 2)

Students will be issued with a formal ink exercise task approximately once every 3 weeks, or when the end of a topic has been reached, and will be given 1 week to complete and hand it in. These exercises will take about 40 to 50 minutes to complete. Students are also expected to finish off tasks at home that were not completed in class time. It is recommended that students spend 30 minutes every week to read over content covered in class that week.

Latin

(Advanced Higher/Higher/Intermediate 2)

Pupils need to review the work completed in class and ask if there are questions/problems. Vocabulary and grammar study still form a key part of the course and pupils need to learn and review both regularly. Ten minutes every evening is a good model. Pupils have written work most weeks – either translation or interpretation, often based on past papers.

You can help by encouraging regular review of work, learning of vocabulary and grammar and by ensuring that the translation and interpretation tasks are completed.

Mathematics

(Higher/Intermediate 2/Intermediate 1)

The amount of homework issued varies depending on the level of study. Most pupils should complete continuation homework four times per week. The length of time will vary significantly depending on level and the pupil's work rate in class. Most classes will also be issued with formal homework at least fortnightly.



(Access 3)

Homework is always relevant to the area of Mathematics being studied. It is given for practice, and consolidation of the work in class, where it is necessary and appropriate, rather than homework for homework sake. There are booklets and single pages covering all areas of Mathematics available as and when required for homework. Pupils are given helper sheets such as times-tables and number-lines to support homework. Pupils are given a due date for homework. Extra instructions are written on the booklets/sheets where and when required. Parents are given advice during the 'Parent Evenings' about how to support their child's mathematics in real life contexts for areas such as time, money and measure.

Modern Studies

(Higher)

Pupils are asked to read over notes taken from class and to supplement them with personal research into the topics covered. They are set regular written tasks in the form of answering past paper questions once sufficient content has been covered.

Music

(Advanced Higher/Higher/Intermediate 2)

All pupils who are involved in national qualification courses have a structured homework regime throughout the year. This is given out on a weekly basis. This homework structure is to reinforce understanding from class work, to practise particular skills and research information in preparation for class work. This consists of practical rehearsal, theory workbooks, concept worksheets, Invention and Sound Engineering.



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 Invention element of the music curriculum. Many pupils have computer based programs they can work on at home or they can simply use manuscript to start a composition.

Pupils are expected to *practise* 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. There is no set time for this element of the homework course as instrumental lesson may dictate progress for the area of the course.

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

Physical Education

(Higher/Intermediate 2)

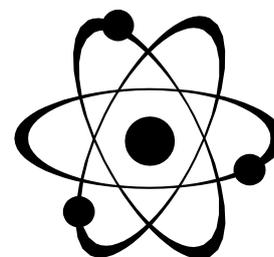
Written homework tasks will be issued approximately once a week and will be an extension of both classroom and practical work. Tasks should take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. Pupils will be expected to regularly study class notes between lessons. Pupils will also be expected to take notes at home on all practical lessons covered and keep these notes in their Practical log book.

Parents can help by encouraging pupils to be well prepared for all practical lessons and by encouraging personal reading of class notes on a regular basis.

Physics

(Advanced Higher)

Course questions are issued at timely intervals throughout each of the 3 Units. Past paper questions are issued at the discretion of the class teacher.



(Higher)

20 homework exercises are issued formally to students at regular intervals throughout the course. Additional homework is issued at the discretion of the class teacher, and will often take the form of past paper questions.

(Intermediate 2)

Formal written homework exercises are issued to students at regular intervals throughout the course to consolidate learning. Additional homework is issued at the discretion of the class teacher, and will often take the form of past paper questions.



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

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