

Dear Parents / Carers

As we complete our first full week back in school we have been very impressed at how our students have settled in and have returned to their learning. Subject areas will now begin setting homework for students in all year groups in line with our home learning policy.

Here at Montsaye Academy we believe that homework plays an extremely important part in your child's learning as it helps them:

- to consolidate learning from a specific lesson or topic,
- to prepare for new learning or
- to independently reflect on their learning from a lesson or topic.

Our high expectations in regards to the setting and completion of homework are consistent across all year groups, however, the amount of homework and the regularity of it varies slightly across each key stage. It is an expectation that homework will be differentiated to support our students as well as provide them with an opportunity to further challenge their learning.

Key Stage 3: Across years 7-9 The Academy expects that homework will be set weekly for Maths, English and Science and at least once a fortnight for all other subject areas. As a guide, each piece of homework should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Key Stage 4: Students in years 10 and 11 will be set homework weekly for Maths, English and Science and at least once a fortnight for all their other option subjects. As a guide, each piece of homework should take approximately 60 minutes to complete.

Homework Schedule						
Key Stage	Weekly Homework Activities			Fortnightly Homework Activities		
Years 7-9 30 minutes per task	Maths	English	Science	All other subject areas		
Years 10-11 60 minutes per task	Maths	English	Science	Option A Subject	Option B Subject	Option C Subject

Children can find it very helpful if routines are established at home whereby homework has a specific time set aside for its completion. In addition, it is beneficial to provide an appropriate place within the home where your child is able to focus on completing the work that has been set. Furthermore, it is particularly useful to discuss homework with your child regularly as they may raise queries which you might be able to assist them with or can help them make contact with their teacher.

Knowledge Organisers

At Montsaye Academy we are always looking for ways of improving our students' learning, and consequently, this year we will be launching the use of knowledge organisers within our lessons and through our homework tasks. Knowledge organisers contain essential, fundamental knowledge that students should know in relation to the topics they are studying in their subjects. They allow the students to recap, revisit and revise what they have learnt in lessons, enabling them to move knowledge from their short-term memory to their long-term memory.

Each subject area has created a knowledge organiser for each topic that students will study across the year and these can be accessed on the school website from Monday 14th September. Students may wish to print them out or they might prefer to save them in their documents and use them on screen. It is really important they keep all of their knowledge organisers somewhere safe, because the knowledge required in Year 7 will also be needed in Years 8-11 as topics will be revisited by teachers in lessons.

Monitoring Homework on Go 4 Schools

You are able to check what homework has been set by checking the Go 4 Schools website at www.go4schools.com. Further guidance about home learning and how to access Go 4 Schools can be found on our website (<https://www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/parents/news/go-4-schools-news/>) where you can find links to the following user guides:

- Parent GO 4 Schools Mobile Quick Start Guide;
- Student GO 4 Schools Mobile Quick Start Guide; and
- GO 4 Schools Set-up and User Guide.

To receive information on your child via the App, it is essential that we have your current email address. In order for you to access this important information about your child, the email address that we hold on the system needs to be correct. If you wish to update your email address details please contact us at data@montsaye.northants.sch.uk or alternatively phone on 01536 418844 ext. 144 or 166.

To login to the GO 4 Schools App, your username (email address) and password are the same as those you use for the GO 4 Schools site. There is a simple link to follow if you have forgotten your password. The App is a great way to keep in touch with how your child is doing at school. Don't forget however, you can also login to the main GO 4 Schools site for more detailed information. Please note: the first point of contact for any queries regarding the information on the GO 4 Schools App or anything else that you may wish to discuss, is your child's form tutor.

On behalf of everyone here at Montsaye Academy, we would like to thank you for your support and we look forward to working together with you to assist your child during this academic year.

Yours faithfully

Ms Amy Bunker
Head of Humanities