HOMEWORK POLICY

West Lakes Academy recognises the positive impact that homework can have on students' learning as indicated by the research findings published on the EEF's Toolkit website. We also recognise the important role homework can have in promoting independent study skills. As such, all students at West Lakes Academy can expect to receive regular homework tasks. Homework tasks at the academy are designed to consolidate learning, deepen understanding and prepare students for work to come. They are always planned to meet the students' learning needs and are always age appropriate.

Rewards for fantastic homework

Staff will celebrate student achievement and/or effort when reviewing homework, which may include achievement points, subject learner, WLA learner of the week or contacting home. Work can also be shared and celebrated on a variety of platforms. It is important that we celebrate the time and effort students have given to a task.

Deadlines

Students are always given at least a week to complete any homework task. This affords students the opportunity to spread their work across the week, and to avoid days when they may have other commitments.

Recording

All homework tasks are set through Edulink and may additionally be added onto Google Classroom. This programme is accessible through any device with internet access and enables parents, carers and students to see a record of homework tasks set. It also clearly displays deadlines, helping students to organise their homework schedule. Staff must inform students when homework has been set on Edulink and note how homework should be submitted. Staff must allow a week for homework completion.

Setting homework - Expectations

Core subjects: English, Maths & Science

Years Minimum time per subject each week

7, 8 & 9 (KS3) 40 min

10 & 11 (KS4) 60 min

12 & 13 (KS5) 120 minutes of homework per week and 120 minutes of independent study (per subject). Both should be set by the class teacher and clearly outlined. Independent study tasks must be completed in student study sessions, with the opportunity to continue at home.

Non-core subjects: e.g. Geography, Art etc.

Years Minimum time per subject each week

7, 8 & 9 (KS3) 20 min

10 & 11 (KS4) 60 min

12 & 13 (KS5) 120 minutes of homework per week and 120 minutes of independent study (per subject). Both should be set by the class teacher and clearly outlined. Independent study tasks must be completed in student study sessions, with the opportunity to continue at home.

Instructional homework

Practice **Benefits:** Helps students retain information, develop fluency, and build mastery of skills.	Practice homework focuses on tasks taught in class to increase speed, demonstrate mastery, review work, study for tests, and retain specific skills over time (Rosário et al., 2015). Teachers assign practice and preparation homework most often because it can be more convenient and less time consuming. Practice homework is more often used in mathematics and spelling to increase spelling proficiency and fluency in math facts.	**Example:** ● Worksheets with practice problems, like math equations or grammar exercises. ● Online quizzes or games to test comprehension. ● Reviewing key vocabulary or facts. ● Creating flashcards for memorisation.
Preparation **Benefits:** Enables students to come to class with a better understanding of the material, facilitating more effective learning.	Preparation homework focuses on preparing students for the next lesson (Rosário et al., 2015). This type of homework is inherently linked to pre-learning by Vatterott (2009). The homework is designed to encourage students' thinking about a previous homework topic discussed in class and prepare for future topics. In a study of 638 sixth-grade students, practice and preparation homework tasks showed an impact on students' mathematical achievement (Rosário et al., 2015). Students were able to review the material covered in the future lesson from the textbook and write the main ideas covered in a notebook to help prepare the students for learning. Students would use the textbook to help focus on the next lesson and prepare for what would be covered in the future class lesson (Rosário et al., 2015).	**Examples:** ● Reading assigned chapters or articles before class discussion. ● Watching a video that introduces a new topic. ● Conducting research on a specific subject.
Extension **Benefits:** Encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent learning.	Extension homework focuses on promoting the shift of previous learning to new tasks (Rosário et al., 2015). Extension homework requires higher level or abstract thinking to occur. Teachers use this form of homework to encourage students to collaborate with peers and be more creative during students' learning. Real-life, hands-on applicable skills are used to complete extension homework tasks. This provides a richer learning experience for students. Rosário et al. noted that homework with a specific purpose of extension (promoting problem-solving skills) is valuable for improving students' achievement.	**Examples:** ● Research projects that delve into a specific topic. ● Creative assignments, such as writing a creative piece inspired by a reading. ● Presentations or debates on a chosen topic.
Additional homework types **Benefits:** Encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent learning.	**Guided discovery tasks:** ● Tasks that guide students through a process of discovery, such as experiments or investigations. **Real-world tasks:** ● Tasks that connect classroom learning to real-life situations, such as analysing a current event or solving a problem. **Project work:** ● In-depth projects that require students to integrate multiple skills and concepts.	

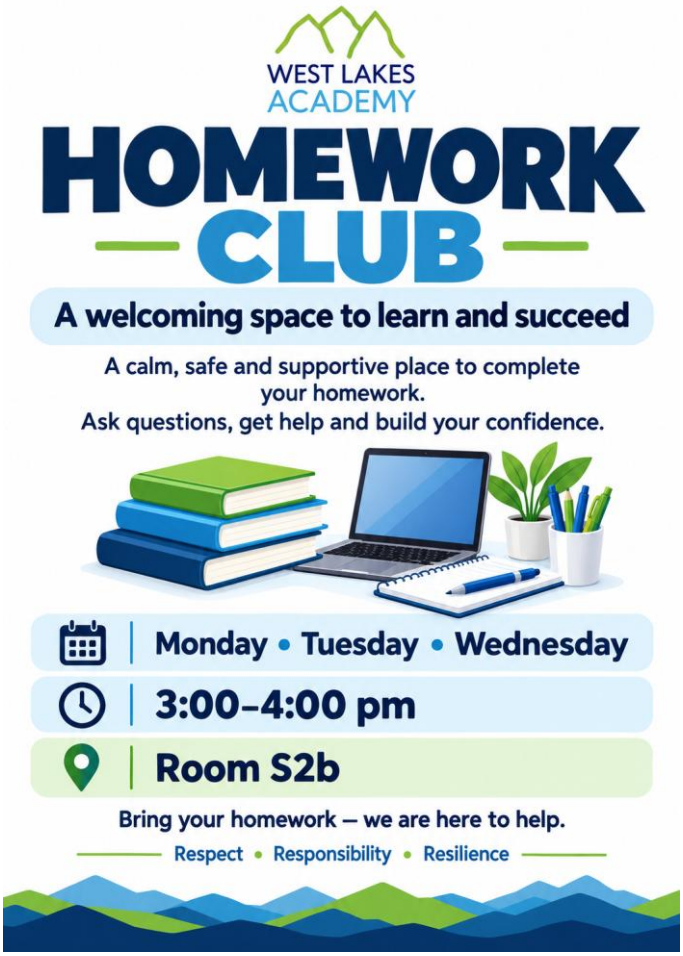
Behaviour support:

	Action:	Follow up:
C1	If homework has not been submitted by the deadline the teacher will issue a C1 warning and give a day's grace with a new deadline.	If a student returns homework by the deadline there is no further action. If homework is not submitted next lesson then C2 is given.
C2	The student must attend a homework club session, after school, where they will be offered support and strategies to help the student complete their homework. Staff running the homework club will use the C2 register to note attendance.	If a student attends they will be given support. If a student does not attend they will be logged as C3.
C3	Detention given. Students are put on a tutor card to monitor homework across all subjects.	Escalated to SLT if C3 expectations are not met,

Rewards:

Fantastic work, considering effort and/or level, should be rewarded through house points, contacting home, excellence wall and whole school celebration strategies. Any students attending homework club voluntarily, will be awarded House Points for responsibility in their own learning.

Don't Forget Homework club to help support your students.



EEF Research on Homework - key findings:

1. Homework has a positive impact on average (+ 5 months), particularly with pupils in secondary schools.
2. Some pupils may not have a quiet space for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported (e.g. through providing homework clubs for pupils).
3. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective. In particular, studies that included feedback on homework had higher impacts on learning.
4. It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to pupils (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area).

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