



Perth Grammar School



Pride Respect Ambition



Broad General Education (S1-S3)

Home Study Expectations 2016-17

Information for Parents

The Broad General Education (S1-S3) Home Study Expectations 2016-17 Information for Parents

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Introduction

Our aim at Perth Grammar School is to inspire pupils with high quality learning experiences which raise their aspirations and motivate them to achieve their full potential.

Our Home study Policy aims to develop a strong ethos of personal study so that pupils can maximise their learning during their school years and are committed to learning for the rest of their lives.

Consultation with staff, parents and pupils, together with classroom monitoring of learning and teaching, has highlighted the need to improve the consistency of home study across the school.

At Perth Grammar we believe that the 'Power of Three' - pupils, parents and staff working together to support learning - is the best way to improve achievement

What is home study?

Home study is any task or study which a pupil undertakes outwith timetabled classes. What we call home study is not necessarily done at home.

The purposes of home study

These include:

- To allow the practice and consolidation of classwork
- To provide opportunities for individual learning
- To help to assess pupils' progress and mastery of learning
- To provide training in planning and organising time
- To encourage responsibility for learning and the development of good study habits
- To give parents an insight into their children's learning and help them to support and encourage them - a channel for home/school dialogue.

What home study tasks can my child expect?

Homestudy tasks are diverse. They may be teacher directed tasks or independent study tasks as shown in the table below. There is an expectation that all pupils do some regular home study in each subject. The tasks should be appropriate to the stage and development of the child. More information on the specific expectations of each subject can be found in the section on *Home Study Expectations* below

<i>Directed Study</i>	<i>Independent Study</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research• Essay planning/continuation/completion• Answering questions, completing exercises in textbooks/from worksheets• Directed reading and/or note-taking• Learning formulae, vocabulary, factual material• Practising techniques/skills learned in class• Preparing for the next lesson• Preparing presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private reading and writing• Re-reading texts• Organising and re-working notes• Learning and revising notes• Editing own written work• Revising from past papers• Working through set internet tasks at own pace• Practising essays• Using revision materials and techniques
NB Much work bridges both categories	

How much and how long?

The amount and duration will vary by subject and level. Some subjects will provide small amounts regularly, whereas others will require pupils to carry out considerable research, investigation and drafting, spread over a considerable period of time. There will be a clear, planned increase in volume of home study tasks as pupils progress through the Broad General Education and into the Senior Phase. In the Senior Phase, pupils will notice a considerable difference in what they are required to do as the level of demand of National Qualifications increases. Details of the frequency and nature of home study provided by each department at each level is provided further on in the section on *Home Study Expectations*.

Here is a suggested guide to how much pupils in the Broad General Education should expect to do in a school week:

S1/2 One hour per day

S3 One hour 15 minutes per day

Feedback

As homestudy is an important part of children's learning, the outcomes of homestudy will be reviewed by teachers to inform learning, and children will be given feedback in a variety of ways.

Examples of feedback of homestudy tasks for pupils:

- spot tests/quick quizzes
- going over work with class
- peer marking
- self-checking
- teacher marking complete pieces of work
- teacher marking a selected paragraph - pupil editing the rest
- discussion in groups/as a class.

Procedures where home study is incomplete or not done to an appropriate standard

Pupils can gain considerably from the development of good home study habits. For this reason, failure to submit on time or to a high standard must be dealt with. It is important that pupils are encouraged to take responsibility and that parents are kept involved and informed.

Where home study is not completed or is deemed to be sub-standard for that pupil, the procedures outlined below will be followed:

- Step 1 Pupil may be given a second opportunity to submit work the following day.
- Step 2 If not submitted, the class teacher will request that Home Study letter 1 is sent from the Principal Teacher requesting parental support.
- Step 3 If the problem continues, the Principal Teacher will send a second Home Study Letter requesting support. Where appropriate the pupil will attend a supported study session at lunchtime or after school to catch up on work missed.
- Step 4 If this is unsuccessful, Guidance Teacher will contact parents, inviting them to discuss the matter in school.

- Step 5 *All letters are seen by Guidance teachers before they are sent. This enables them to see if there is a pattern of non-completion in more than one subject. In such cases, parents will be contacted by Guidance teachers to discuss and resolve matters.*
- Step 6 In very serious cases, where there is no co-operation and home study continues to be a problem, parents/ carers will be contacted by the Head of House to resolve matters.

Home Study

How You Can Help?

Handy Hints for Parents

- 1 Provide a quiet place for your son or daughter to study.
- 2 Help your son or daughter get into a regular routine for planning and doing home study.
- 3 Talk to them about their skills, strengths & abilities and any area they want to improve.
- 4 Take an interest in their home study. Ask your son or daughter what they have to do, what ideas they have about tackling the work and if there is anything you can do to help. Show an interest in how they got on.
- 5 Read over their home study when it is finished. Ensure it is completed on time and to a standard that reflects your high expectations.
- 6 Please support the school policy when home study is not completed.
- 7 Encourage your child to ask for help and use the support available in school.
- 8 Remember that senior students preparing for exams *always* have revision to do.
- 9 If your child has a job, make sure it does not stop them from getting all their home study done.

Can pupils complete home study tasks in school?

Yes! Many departments run study support classes at lunchtime or after school. Information on classes offered can be found on the school website at this link: <http://www.perthgrammar.org.uk/Pupils/Supported-Study/>. In addition, the school library is open for study from 3.35 - 4.45pm Monday - Wednesday.

Additional home study resources

There are many excellent resources available to support home study both in print and online. Some of these are listed below and these can also be accessed from the school website: www.perthgrammar.org.uk/pupils/supported-study. Subject departments have a wide range of study resources and particular websites that they will recommend to pupils.

1. **Parentzone** is the official government website which aims to develop partnerships between parents and schools in Scotland. This link gives information about Supporting Learning at Home as well as Resources for Parents and the latest news on developments within Scottish Education: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/index.asp>
2. **BBC Bitesize** has a well-established reputation for high quality revision and study materials. Most of these concentrate on exam preparation but new sections on Third and Fourth Level resources are being developed for all curriculum areas.
3. **School A-Z** is an Australian education website designed for parents which includes helpful tips on helping your child to become more effective in their home study: www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study

If you have any concerns regarding your child's home study, please do not hesitate to contact the school:

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PH1 3SG

Tel: 01738 472800
Email: perthgrammar@pkc.gov.uk
Website: www.perthgrammar.org.uk

Section 2 Home Study Expectations by Subject

Home Study Expectations

English

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
English	S1-S3	Spelling, grammar, essay preparation, essay writing, redrafting, close reading, personal reading, research, completion of classwork, talk preparation.	Weekly/Fortnightly	On average, 1 hour.

Maths

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
<i>Maths</i>	Level 2	Formal written homework Consolidation of classwork Revision	Every 1 or 2 weeks	30 minutes
	Level 3	Formal written homework Consolidation of classwork Revision	Every 1 or 2 weeks	30 – 45 minutes
	Level 4	Formal written homework Consolidation of classwork Revision	Every week	Up to 1 hour

Science

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
Science	S1	research, questions, learning, when appropriate	Fortnightly	Each piece should be approx. 20mins duration, more if it is a learning homework.
	S2	research, questions, learning, when appropriate	Fortnightly	Each piece should be approx. 20mins duration, more if it is a learning homework
Physics	S3 BGE 2	research, questions, learning , when appropriate	Fortnightly	30 mins- more if it is a revision/learning homework
	S3 BGE1	research, questions, learning , when appropriate	Fortnightly	40 mins- more if it is a revision/learning homework
Chemistry	S3 BGE2	research, questions, learning , when appropriate	Monthly	30 mins- more if it is a revision/learning homework
	S3 BGE1	research, questions, learning , when appropriate	Weekly	30 mins- more if it is a revision/learning homework
Biology	S3 BGE2	research, questions, learning, when appropriate	Monthly	30 mins- more if it is a revision/learning homework
	S3 BGE1	research, questions, learning, when appropriate	Weekly	30 mins- more if it is a revision/learning homework

Social Subjects

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
History	S2	Slavery and The Holocaust	Two per topic	Varied
	S3	Mary Queen of Scots and USA 1850-1880	Weekly	1 hour
Modern Studies	S2	Crime	Two per term	3 hours
	S3	Russia Media Gun Crime KU and source questions	Fortnightly	1 hour
RMPS	S2	Research for Hijab essay	Once	2 hours
	S3	Crime and Punishment	One per term	1 hour
Geography	S2	Survival Maps 1 & 2, Report on Natural Disaster	2 in term 1, 1 in term 2	6 hours
	S3	Rivers Rainforest and Tundra Shanty Towns	One per topic	1-2 hours
Social Subjects	S1	Scotland, Mexico and Terrorism	2 per term	1hr

Technology

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
CDT	S1	Research based homework	1 topic per unit of work	1 week
HE	S1	HE in the news presentation In pairs	Once a year	3 weeks
CDT	S2	Research	One homework per unit of work	1 week
HE	S2	Research	Design their own recipe	2 weeks
Hospitality	S3	Practice cookery	In preparation for assessments	
Health and food	S3	Homework Revise notes at home	1 homework per theory unit of work	
Graph Comm	S3	Homework Revise notes at home	1 homework per theory unit of work	1 week
Engineering Science	S3	Homework Home study of notes given out in class. Research on engineering and the environment.	1 homework per unit	1 week

Modern Languages

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
French / Spanish	S1 / 2	One piece of written work a week and/or Going over / learning of new vocabulary covered in class	Once a week Vocab on-going	20 mins for written piece and/or 20 mins for learning of vocab
	S3	1 piece of written work a week and/or Going over / learning of new vocabulary covered in class	Once a week/Fortnightly for longer pieces. Vocab on-going	30 mins maximum for written piece and/or 30 mins for learning of vocab

Business Education

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
Business Awareness	S1/2	Written Questions	One homework per theory unit.	30 minutes
Admin & IT	S3	If software available at home, pupils can build on their skills using typing.com .	As required	
Business Management	S3	Written Tasks	Every 2 weeks	45 minutes

Computing

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
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Computing	S1/S2	Further research and use of software (if possible) to strengthen the learning in class.	As required	10-15 mins
	S3	Mainly question based and research tasks related to the work done in class to reinforce key concepts.	As required	15-20 mins

Art & Design

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
Art and Design	S1	SKETCHBOOK DEVELOPMENT Simple drawing techniques looking at objects and exploring the visual elements. Looking at Artists and Designers work and using critical language to evaluate images.	At the end of each unit	1 hour
	S2	Simple drawing and written tasks to support work undertaken within the classroom environment. Sketchbook work to include evaluation and appreciation of images related to Art and Design.	At the end of each unit	1 Hour
	S3	Unit work backed up with simple drawing tasks looking at the visual elements. Pupil responsibility to resource visual stimuli to progress their expressive and design outcomes. Pupil awareness of Design and Designers, Art and Artists through website and virtual gallery investigation. Become familiar with Artistic vocabulary.	At the end of each unit	1 Hour

Expressive Arts

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
Music	S1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Homework relating to instruments and music played in class 2. Practise at home for those pupils who have access to an instrument 	One per topic (termly)	One week
Music	S2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Homework relating to instruments and music played in class 2. Practise at home for those pupils who have access to an instrument 	One per topic (termly)	One week
Music	S3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing for concepts/vocab tests. Learning and memorising the definition of the word and ensuring understanding of it. Practise at home for those pupils who have access to an instrument or at break/lunchtime/after school 2. Completion of notes and composing tasks 	Practice instrument if applicable One per unit of work-usually termly	One week
Drama	S1	Tasks vary to include topic research, design work & sourcing Production items (props, costume, music, sound effects).	As required due to the practical work being completed.	

	S2	Tasks vary to include topic research, design work & sourcing Production items (props, costume, music, sound effects).	As required due to the practical work being completed.	
	S3	Preparing for Vocabulary tests. Learning and memorising the definition of the word and ensuring understanding of it.	One per unit of work-usually termly	One week

PE

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
PE	S1-S3	<p>Pupils will be given two homework tasks per term. These will be based around the activities they are studying at the time. Activities vary from class to class and as they move up through school. Typical tasks involve a reflection on performance, planning to improve performance and demonstrating understanding from certain classes.</p> <p>We also encourage pupils to participate in activities after school. This could be as part of our extra-curricular programme, at a club or as part of their leisure time.</p>	Minimum of two homework tasks per term.	20 mins

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