



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

12th September 2022

Remote learning and homework letter

Dear parent/carer,

It was great to welcome back all of our students in school following the Summer break. Last week, we continued to be impressed with their fantastic attitude to learning and again with the strong start made to this term. To continue to build upon this, the following information sets out our approach to work for absent students and to homework.

As I'm sure you are aware, our Year 11 results in the summer were outstanding. They were the best in the area and as things currently stand, the progress of our students is in the **top 10% of schools across the country**. This was a result of all members of TeamTanfield coming together and playing their part over the last 5 years. We believe that we are going to continue this improvement and our aim is to be in the top 1% of schools with our current year groups.

Each year around half a million students sit their GCSEs. Only 230 of these students managed to get grade 9s across all of their 8 GCSE subjects. **One of our students was one of those 230**. On the day they collected their results, we asked our year 11s what things made the biggest impact on their results and every student said that **"Get Exam Ready", "Champions Hour" and "revision at home"** were key to their success.

"Get Exam Ready" is a comprehensive after school study programme which we expect all year 11 students to attend.

We also have our voluntary **"Champions hour"**. This is an opportunity for students to study independently in a computer room, supervised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This is particularly beneficial for those students who struggle to work at home, have noisy siblings who may distract them, or have a lack of access to IT. Due to its success with year 11, we are going to introduce **"Junior Champions"** this year. It will be the same format but for years 7 to 10. It will run from 3.05pm to 4pm. There will be a 4 o'clock bus for any student who attends.

We don't set target grades for our students as we feel that it limits their potential. We ask that every student gives 100% effort 100% of the time and aim for grade 9s. Regardless of the minimum grades colleges and apprenticeships require to gain entry to their courses, the higher GCSE grades a student gains, the more choices they have in their career.

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Absent students

Some students may be absent due to illness, whilst some students will need to self isolate if they test positive for Covid-19. For those students who are self isolating but well enough to work, we are providing work on Google classroom. For all students they have a designated subject classroom. They need to follow these steps:

- Go to the subject Google classroom
- Go to the classwork folder in that Google classroom
- Students should follow their usual timetable, therefore, open the relevant subject Google classroom where the learning resources are located in Cycle 1 Learning Resources 2022.
- Click on and join the meet to the live lesson which is located on the stream page.
- Open the ebooklet or assignment for that lesson and complete the recap or Do Now at the start of the lesson.
- The teacher will teach live to both the students isolating and those in school and give feedback on the work

The following video demonstrates the process:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5iuslvYNRM&feature=youtu.be>

Our homework approach: Why we do what we do

At Tanfield, a culture of revision is at the heart of students' everyday practice in Morning Meetings, in lessons and it is central to all home learning. Each students' Morning meetings and Homework book is a key part of this process. Homework is designed to ensure the development of powerful knowledge and practise the application of that knowledge. Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' independent study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. Students are given all the learning resources that they need to complete homework and extended support is available at school for students to maximise their learning.

Our homework approach is focused on:

- developing the ability of your child to remember what has been taught in their lessons;
- developing the use of knowledge organisers to ensure that your child learns the key knowledge;
- allowing your child to practise applying their knowledge and checking their understanding;
- preparing your child for examinations;
- developing powerful learning habits including Hard Work and Resilience.

We have updated our homework timetable and approach to maximise the opportunities for retrieval practice and to allow students to develop additional revision techniques building upon their experience of using Look, Cover, write and Check. No homework task should take more than an hour for students to complete.

English, Science and Maths homework

It is timetabled for 3 times a week with 3 on the same night on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

- The quizzing for English and Science will be via Tassomai and will have a daily goal task.
- Maths will have Hegarty on a Monday night, Wednesday is MemRi and Friday is fix-up-5
- Students will not be expected to do any other tasks on the English, Maths and Science nights, other than the quizzes.

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Both Tassomai and Hegarty have been proven to improve students' grades if done regularly. Once a week is not enough to have an impact, hence the move to three times during the week. The Tassomai and Hegarty homework platforms ensure that your child receives regular practice of key topics which is pivotal to students' progress and success in the core subjects. The homework students are required to complete complements the topics taught in lessons and aids students' understanding of the important skills and knowledge necessary to make rapid progress. Doing these three quizzes should still not take any more than an hour. Please get in touch if you feel like your child is spending much longer than this so that we can help them.

The homework nights for English, Maths and Science are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. However, students can choose to complete homework outside of these days provided that they have three completed tasks per week and complete the scheduled homework for other subjects. When students are absent, the expectation is that they still need complete homework to ensure they do not fall behind their peers. Where a student is too unwell to complete the work, this will be taken into account. However, if they are unwell for 4 days they still have 3 days to ensure the completion of their homework.

Specific deadlines to homework for English, Maths and Science.

Please see the information below for the specifics of each subject:

English and Science

- Students must complete three separate Tassomai Daily Goals per week.
- Each week runs from Monday to Sunday.
- A detention will be issued for incomplete homework if there are fewer than three Daily Goals completed.
- Students must ensure they complete a Daily Goal - Tassomai will inform them when they have done this.
- The option is there to complete more than three - this extra effort will be rewarded.
- These tasks must be completed on three separate days.
- Homework will be checked on a Monday morning.

- If students fail to complete their three daily goals on Tassomai they will be issued with a detention the following week.

Maths

Students are required to complete the following 3 tasks on Hegarty Maths per week. Each week runs as follows from Monday to Sunday:

- Monday evening is a 'teacher set' task (plus an optional 'stretch' task). It is important that the student completes the task in order to gain an overall percentage score, otherwise Hegarty Maths does not register the task as complete.
- Wednesday evening is a 'MemRi' task. This consists of 10 quiz questions that have previously been answered correctly in order to aid recall.
- Friday evening is a 'Fix-up-5' task. This consists of 5 quiz questions that have previously been answered incorrectly. This gives the student the opportunity to improve on their weakest areas. Please NOTE - if a student consistently gets 100% on tasks set by the teacher then there will be no fix-up-5 task available to complete.. Instead they can either complete an additional MemRi task or attempt the weekly teacher set 'stretch' task (see below).

Please note that the Maths team will create a Hegarty report every Monday morning to check that all 3 tasks have been completed and issue the student with 5 positive behaviour points. If however, one or more of these tasks are missing, then the student will be automatically issued with a one hour detention on the detention night as per the timetable below.

In summary, each subject has a separate detention night depending on the criteria outlined above:

Science: Wednesday for one hour after school.

English: Thursday for one hour after school.

Maths: Tuesday for one hour after school.

For other subjects on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Students will still complete a quiz based on a presentation and a section of their Knowledge Organiser. However, students will then use a revision strategy to recall knowledge learnt to date and then add in the new learning from the homework. This can be any of the options below and the first three would need to be done in homework books:

- Look, Cover, Write, Check using the current approach of black and green pen;
- A mindmap;
- Cornell notes;
- Flashcards.

Years 7 and 8 Homework timetable

WEEK A	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	English Maths Science	History	English Maths Science	French	English Maths Science
WEEK B	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	English Maths Science	Geography	English Maths Science	RE	English Maths Science

Years 7, 8 and 9

Students need to go to the individual Google classroom on the day set out in the timetable above (on Tuesday and Thursday). They may not have had that subject that day but the homework is based around the knowledge organisers and specific quiz. There are four parts for students to complete:

1. Complete the braindumps for the day in their books. This allows students to review what they have learned in each lesson that day and they complete this in their Morning meetings and homework books.

2. On the subject Google Classroom, open the quiz form, read the instructions, watch the presentation for the subject that night and complete the quiz. The target is to get 100%.
For English and Science a Tassomai quiz and Maths Hegarty quizzing.
3. Optional Stretch Task for subjects other than Maths, English and Science
4. Find the relevant subject knowledge organiser and complete the revision strategy task based on a section of the Knowledge Organiser that covers a page of their homework book unless flashcards are created. Advisors will be checking homework books and where applicable flashcards each morning to ensure that the homework has been done. If the homework is not done, students will receive a homework detention that night to complete it.

Years 10 Homework Timetable

WEEK A	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	English Maths Science	Option A	English Maths Science	Option B	English Maths Science
WEEK B	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	English Maths Science	Option C	English Maths Science	Option D	English Maths Science

Years 10

Students need to go to the individual Google classroom on the day set out in the timetable above. They may not have had that subject that day but the homework is based around the knowledge organisers. Students need to go to the Google classroom for the relevant subject and go to the classwork section followed by the homework sections. There are three parts for students to complete:

1. On the subject Google Classroom, open the quiz form, read the instructions, watch the presentation for the subject that night and complete the quiz. The target is to get 100%.
*** For English and Science a Tassomai quiz and Maths Hegarty quizzing.**
2. Complete the stretch task (this is optional) for subjects other than English, Maths and Science.
3. Find the relevant subject knowledge organiser and complete the revision strategy task based on a section of the Knowledge Organiser that covers a page of their homework book unless flashcards are created. Advisors will be checking homework books and where applicable flashcards each morning. If the homework is not done, students will receive a homework detention that night to complete it.

As students are now doing their GCSEs, there may be extra tasks to do as well.

BTEC subjects

Homework will be set in line with the current course focus:

- coursework- directed tasks on coursework
- quizzing or practice questions in preparation for exams/assessments.

Once again, I want to thank you all for the continuing support. It really is making a big difference to what we are achieving and will continue to achieve as a team.

Take care,



Mr S Clough
Headteacher

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