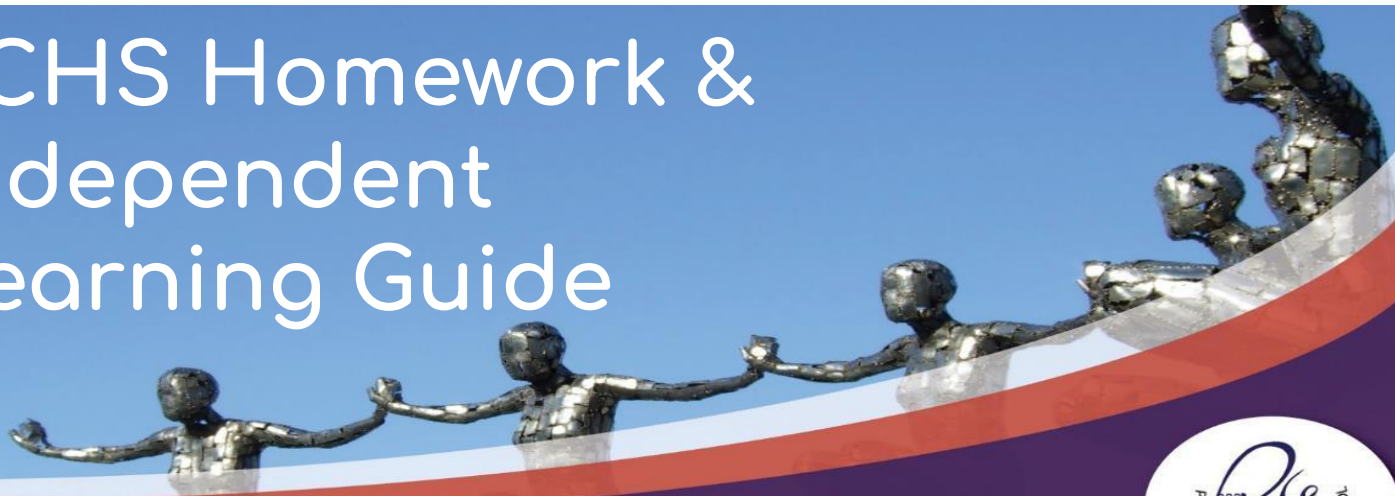


PCHS Homework & Independent Learning Guide



Excellence in all we do.

We believe that homework is an essential part of students' learning. Homework provides reinforcement and extension to learning activities in the classroom allowing students to consolidate their learning, know more and remember more. The completion of homework also helps students develop their abilities of working independently and managing their time.

At KS3 and KS4 students will be set homework approximately every 3 lessons. Homework should be meaningful and manageable but students will need to organise their time around extra curricular activities. On average students should expect to spend approximately 30-90 minutes each evening on homework and/or independent learning. Each subject's google classroom has revision tools and lesson resources to help students further consolidate their learning.

Homework is checked for completion and students will receive positive behaviour points for excellent work, high scores or excellent effort. Students will receive negative behaviour points for late or incomplete homework and teachers may give detentions to ensure students catch up on missed homework.

Electronic homework (Google quizzes, Maths Watch, Educake and Languagenut) give immediate feedback in the form of scores. Teachers will look at homework and use this to inform their teaching, tackling misconceptions or revisiting topics. Some homework is self checked or reviewed in class.

Our homework strategy is based on the key principles of research conducted by the [EducationEndowmentFoundation](#).

Students will be set homework of various types and length in all curriculum areas from practicing a skill or rehearsal e.g. in music, drama or PE to completing exam style questions.

A significant part of the homework and independent learning will be retrieval homework. This is homework that is not linked to the current classwork but to classwork from a previous topic or term. This is to help students revise their knowledge and skills in preparation for exams.

In many subjects (e.g. English, Maths, History, Geography, Music, Drama) students will work through homework booklets reviewing and consolidating their learning of previous and current topics. Some subjects set google quizzes (e.g. Science, Business Studies, ICT, PE, Health & Social Care).



Educake

In **English** and **Science** students are set some of their homework on Educake. Educake is an interactive online tool designed to help your child strengthen their knowledge through engaging quizzes and instant feedback. Teachers assign quizzes for students to complete as part of their homework or revision, and students receive instant feedback to help them identify areas of strength and improvement.

Getting Started:

1. All students have been given a unique login for Educake.
2. **Teacher Assignments:** Teachers will assign quizzes as part of regular homework or classwork. Encourage your child to stay up-to-date with these assignments. These can clearly be seen on the Educake platform.
3. **Independent Use:** While teachers will assign specific quizzes, your child can also browse topics and take additional quizzes for further practice.

For more information please watch this introductory video <https://youtu.be/Y5GEZV6-23k>

Mathswatch

In **Maths** students are set some of their homework on Mathswatch. MathsWatch is an online resource giving students access to various tools to help towards achieving their full potential at Mathematics. With MathsWatch, students can access video tutorials which explain topics just like a teacher would at the board. Students can independently practice real exam-style questions with instant feedback on their performance.

Getting Started:

1. All students have been given a unique login for Mathswatch.
2. **Teacher Assignments:** Teachers will set assignments as part of regular homework or classwork. Encourage your child to stay up-to-date with these assignments. These can clearly be seen on the Mathswatch platform. Mathswatch homework is always due in on a Friday week 1 and maths homework booklets on Friday week 2.
3. **Independent Use:** While teachers will assign specific assignments, your child can also browse topics and try other questions for further practice.

For more information please watch this introductory video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTBL4cUQYdM>

LanguageNut

In **French and Spanish** students are set all of their homework on Languagenut. Languagenut is a digital language learning resource designed to support students along their language learning journey. It is a fantastic tool to practise vocabulary, sentence building, grammar and exam skills.

Getting Started:

1. All students have been given a unique login for Languagenut
2. **Teacher Assignments:** Encourage your child to stay up-to-date with these homework assignments. These can clearly be seen on the Languagenut platform. All year groups are set a homework task during week 1 and it is due in week 2. For Year 9, for both languages, a homework task is set on a Monday of week 1 and due the following Monday of week 2. There are a maximum of 3 homework tasks set in a half term for both languages
3. **Independent Use:** While teachers will assign specific assignments, your child can also browse topics and try other questions for further practice.

For more information please see this info guide

<https://www.languagenut.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Languagenut-deck-Primary-Secondary.pdf>

How can Parents help?

The Basics

Take an interest in your child's schoolwork and homework.

Make yourself aware of your child's homework requirements- students are encouraged by teachers to record their homework in the Planners.

Ensure your child has a quiet and comfortable place to work. This can be difficult in busy households- we offer a homework club in the LRC till 4pm every day. Students can also access the LRC at lunchtime.

Getting Organised

Encourage your child to use their Planner to record homework tasks.

Make sure materials such as pens, scissors, dictionary, etc. are at hand.

Check they have and know their log ins for Educake, MathsWatch and Languagenut.

Check they have joined all their subject Google classrooms.

Discuss with your child the regular evening routine and negotiate dinner time, homework time, television time, etc.

If internet access or access to electronic devices is an issue please contact school.

Study Time

Have a wall calendar with end of year assessments/mock exams/GCSE exams.

These are on the school calendar and further information and timetables will be shared with parents and students closer to the time.

Procrastination

Help your child avoid putting off starting by having a set starting time.

Have your child schedule something easy and/or enjoyable for the beginning of the study session.

Identify time wasters (e.g. television, internet, computer games, riding bike, phone calls, etc.) and negotiate with your child other times to do these things.

Encouragement

Encouragement is a major role for parents. Praise and reward your child for self discipline in getting started and doing homework. To help your child manage and cope with the workload you could sit with them or talk to them about the tasks. If youngsters verbalise their learning they are more likely to retain the knowledge. While it's not essential that you sit with them and work alongside them, showing an interest is imperative. Ask them what tasks they're undertaking tonight and sound enthusiastic! Try to support your child but remember the homework is theirs to do- not yours. Being aware of what they are studying by looking at the curriculum information for each subject on the website, attending parent information evenings and parent evenings is a great way to get involved and show an active interest.



Resilience



Curiosity



Reflection



Respect



Interaction