



Homework Guidelines for Teachers of Middle School Students

1. Consideration must be given to the time students spend on co-curricular activities such as Music (instruments and theory), Drama (productions), Dance and Sport in their time outside school. Homework must be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
2. Year 7 – 9 students should be given homework that is purposeful, interesting, relevant to the curriculum, challenging, but appropriate to the students' learning needs. Homework should not be given just for the sake of giving homework.
3. A homework timetable guideline will be handed out to Years 7 and 8 students at the start of each semester (see sample). House Tutors will work with the students to compose a homework schedule which fits in with their own timetable, but this will contain only the subjects listed overleaf.
4. This timetable should be adhered to and time limits should be monitored by students, parents and teachers. Teachers should give students an idea of how much time to spend (in earnest) on a task and expect them to stop when that time is reached. The purpose of this is to enable students to develop effective study skills for the years ahead. The use of the School Diary in recording and monitoring homework is essential.
5. Mathematics, LOTE, Science and History or Geography may set **short tasks** on a regular basis as indicated in the timetable. English tasks could be set as required, but girls are expected to do some reading each night.
6. When longer research tasks are set, teachers should allow some class time to check on work in progress on a regular basis (perhaps using a checklist of specific criteria) to ensure that the student is on task.
7. Year Level Planners for each year level (7-9) should be located in the staff information centre on which dates of common tests, due dates for major assessment items, submission dates for talent quests and research tasks are recorded. This will include co-curricular activities that involve large numbers of students. These will be maintained by the appropriate Year Level Coordinator.
8. Homework is not to be set on weekends or during holidays. However, students who miss out on work due to absence or other co-curricular commitments may need to ask their teachers or fellow students about work missed and weekends or holidays may be an appropriate time to catch up on this missed work.
9. Students need to realise that effective use of class time is essential - they should see the connection between wasting time and accruing homework. Care must be taken to avoid "punishing" weaker students who do not complete work during class time by adding to their homework (negotiation with some individuals will be needed here).
10. Open-ended research tasks set over a period of time should be viewed **as part of**, rather than additional to, allocated homework time.
11. Those students who are in extension subjects should expect to have some additional homework as necessitated by working at a faster pace and in a greater depth.

YEAR 7 – homework recommendation – 75 minutes*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Total per week
Mathematics	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	60 minutes
LOTE	10 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	40 minutes
Science	25 minutes		25 minutes		50 minutes
English	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	60 minutes
History/Geog		25 minutes		25 minutes	50 minutes
Research/Revision for tests/Reading **	The balance	The balance	The balance	The balance	

* Time allocated for homework should be spent in a suitable working environment and fitted in around time for recreation, sports, music, drama etc.

** Length of time allocated to revision and reading will vary from day to day and will depend on the homework load given. The time allocated to English may be used for reading if no other tasks are set.

YEAR 8 – homework recommendation – 90 minutes*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Total per week
Mathematics	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	60 minutes
LOTE	20 minutes	15 minutes	20 minutes	15 minutes	70 minutes
Science	30 minutes		30 minutes		60 minutes
English	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	60 minutes
History/Geog		30 minutes		30 minutes	60 minutes
Research/Revision for tests/Reading **	The balance	The balance	The balance	The balance	

* Time allocated for homework should be spent in a suitable working environment and fitted in around time for recreation, sports, music, drama etc.

** Length of time allocated to revision and reading will vary from day to day and will depend on the homework load given. The time allocated to English may be used for reading if no other tasks are set.

Students should use this table as a guide on the recommended times allocated to each subject and then using their timetables, devise a personal study schedule using the blank personal homework schedule provided. This needs to be done for both Week A and Week B and should be pasted into the School Diary.

YEAR 9 – homework recommendation; 90 - 105 minutes*

Students undertake a range of core and elective studies and should develop the skills to organize their workloads at this level. A maximum of 90 – 105 minutes is recommended and homework should be set in English, Mathematics, Science, History/Geography and Elective subjects. Time allocated should include research time, revision for tests and time for reading each night.

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>RECOMMENDED TIME SPENT</i>
English	70 minutes
Mathematics	70 minutes
Science	60 minutes
History/Geography	70 minutes
Electives (x3)	3 x 50 minutes

Time allocated for homework should be spent in a suitable working environment and fitted in around time for recreation, sports, music, drama etc.

Length of time allocated to revision and reading will vary from day to day and will depend on the homework load given. The time allocated to English may be used for reading if no other tasks are set.

Students should use this table as a guide on the recommended times allocated to each subject and then using their timetables, devise a personal study schedule using the blank personal homework schedule provided. This needs to be done for both Week A and Week B and should be pasted into the School Diary.

HOMEWORK/STUDY TIMETABLE

MON A	TUES A	WED A	THUR A	MON B	TUES B	WED B	THUR B

HOMEWORK/STUDY TIMETABLE

MON A	TUES A	WED A	THUR A	MON B	TUES B	WED B	THUR B