

NORTH CESTRIAN SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Independent learning (IL) is key to success in achieving qualifications, access to further education and a rewarding personal life and career. It consolidates learning and deepens understanding and provides stretch and challenge. This policy informs how North Cestrian Hwk enhances and enriches all aspects of life and academic performance by creating:

- **Confident Students** - adaptable and resilient, independent and critical thinkers, effective communicators.
- **Autonomous Learners** – responsible for their own learning, motivated and empowered to investigate and self-evaluate
- **Effective Participators** - play different roles within collaborative learning

Homework tasks (Hwk) strengthen links with parents and carers and raise their expectations of what their children can achieve.

Structure of Hwks

At all times all students will be engaged in a Hwk for all subjects. The published Homework Timetable gives further guidance as to which days each Hwk must be progressed.

Hwk	Frequency	Guidance	Hwk	Marking
Basic	All subjects at least once per week. (Twice for Maths, English, Science and subjects for which students are taking a qualification)	20 minutes Complete during the evening following the lesson.	- Further reading. - Review of the lesson notes. - Directed research.	Acknowledgement of task completion / note marked.
Complex	All subjects at least once per fortnight. (Once per week for Maths, English, Science and subjects for which students are taking a qualification)	60 minutes Complete as per the published Homework Timetable or during school time.	ILTs which allow feedback to be given on progressing up the grades.	Marked in depth and feedback given.
Extended	All subjects at least once per term. (Once per half term for Maths, English, Science and subjects for which students are taking a qualification)	180 minutes in regular small chunks. Complete as per the Homework Timetable, during school time or at weekends.	ILTs that demonstrate depth of learning over a half term / term. - Cross-curricular - Active revision - Creative - High depth.	Marked in depth and feedback given OR Acknowledgement of task completion / note marked (as learning will be evidenced in assessment which is marked in depth and has feedback given)
Self-directed	Recommended regularly	Regular small chunks. Complete during school time, weekends and school holidays.	An ILT on top of those set by the teacher that demonstrates a desire to further learning progress. - Ideas from teachers, peers, Schemes of Work or MyCestrian.	Marked or acknowledged as per student request. All Self-directed ILT will receive extra rewards.

Learners are encouraged to be flexible, organised and plan ahead. Learners will be assisted by subject staff and form tutors to be aware of hand in dates and plan accordingly. Learners and parents are encouraged to be proactive in managing ILTs and keeping teachers informed of a learner's ability to meet hand in dates, their progress during Extended ILTs and make the best use of MyCestrian and email contact.

Personalised ILTs will be developed in accordance with a student's IEP and take account of those personal circumstances of which the school has been informed. For instance, factors such as Special Educational Need, family circumstances and other applicable issues may lead to the modification and personalisation of the ILT.

Student's Recording of Hwks and Handing in

Every student must ensure that ILTs are recorded in Student Planners and see that the ILT is advertised on MyCestrian. Where it is suitable ILTs may also be emailed to students and parents. Students will be given adequate time and notice in order that all Hwks are delivered to the teacher on time and to the required standard of effort and quality.

Marking

Please see the North Cestrian Grammar School Marking and Assessment Policy for full details.

Rewards and Sanctions

Rewards for successful Hwks will be given as per the Rewards Policy. Successful Hwks meet or exceed expectations of quality and hand-in dates and are for the completion of Self-directed Hwks.

Sanctions are made as per the Behaviour Policy. Sanctions will be made for substandard-quality tasks, poor effort shown and missed hand-in dates. Homework is reported on via the data captures using the Hwk poster.

Role of teachers

Teachers are expected to enthuse pupils with a range of Hwks, set tasks according to the policy, mark and provide feedback in line with this policy and the Marking and Assessment Policy, uphold the Rewards and Sanctions and advertise a range of tasks available on MyCestrian and Schemes of Work to enable Self-directed Hwks.

The role of form tutors

Form tutors will check that Hwks are appropriately recorded in Student Planners, facilitate, when appropriate, the completion of Hwks through techniques such as utilising time in form periods, encouraging use of the school library and Homework Club and liaising with subject teachers.

Form tutors will also reward pupils for the independent learning that is developed out of school, for instance, these may fit the Work, Personal Development and Community areas in the Passport of Achievement. This evidence (parental or supervisor endorsement) will also be recognised in school reports and discussed in Assertive Mentoring.

The role of parents/carers

Parental engagement is a powerful lever for raising the achievement of a child and this policy enables them to engage themselves more directly with their child's learning. Parents are encouraged to discuss Hwks and a teacher's marking and feedback. Parents are expected to be aware of Hwks recorded in Student Planners and on MyCestrian, to support Hwk completion and encourage Self-directed independent learning tasks. (resources for self-directed homeworks are provided in the schemes of work)

Contact with teachers, school and using MyCestrian

Students are encouraged to talk to teachers in person and via email to regularly review their Hwk progress and to make the best use of marking and feedback. Students are encouraged to attend the Homework Club which takes place every day between 3.20-5.00pm.

The MyCestrian virtual learning environment also hosts Forums for students to share best practice and take part in collaborative learning tasks.