

# Horizon Community College Home Learning Policy



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## Section 1 Aims of the Home Learning Strategy

The College has a Home Learning strategy that is designed to develop independent learners. The aims of the strategy are to:

- Develop habits of learning across all students, in all years
- Create a sense of personal responsibility in all students to learn and remember the content of the subjects they study
- Enable teaching to develop a balance between activating new knowledge and the application of knowledge and skills

## Section 2 Types of Home Learning

At Horizon, students complete a variety of home learning tasks which support individual subject curriculums.

Home learning tasks may include using online platforms and / or retrieval practice to embed previously learnt knowledge and information.

Students will receive a positive achievement point for completing their home learning to the expected standard in each of their subjects.

### Online platforms (Maths and English)

The class teacher will set a maximum of three online tasks per week (as appropriate) for students to complete. The bespoke online platforms indicate the level of success for each task once submitted by the student.

- **Sparx Maths**
  - Maths use Sparx Maths. This online platform provides students with targeted self-marking, skill-based questions, each with a supporting video to enable students to work independently and receive instant feedback on their progress.
- **Bedrock and Seneca**
  - English use Bedrock at KS3 and Seneca at KS4. These online platforms ensure students can practise English based skills appropriate to each key stage. Bedrock develops vocabulary and teaches the language students need to be successful in school. Seneca focuses on GCSE content revision for both English Language and Literature and is used to support and reinforce content from lessons in both Year 10 and Year 11.

## **Retrieval Practice**

Other subjects choose to use retrieval practice as a means of home learning to retrieve and embed previously learnt knowledge and information from their subject knowledge organisers.

Retrieval strategies include self-quizzing, mind-mapping, or using techniques such as look, cover, write, check (guidance around these techniques are in the school planner).

- At the beginning of the academic year students will be given the knowledge organisers for subjects that use this strategy.
- Each week (or as appropriate for subject's students study fortnightly/on a rotation basis), subject teachers will identify the section of a knowledge organiser that students need to be studying for home learning.
- Students will use one of the suggested retrieval strategies for the section in the knowledge organiser as instructed by their teacher, to recall the previously learnt knowledge and information.
- The following week/fortnight, subject teachers will ask students to present evidence of their retrieval practice either in the classroom or by submitting online.
- Successful recall of the information is identified by using low-stakes quizzing accessed either remotely via Microsoft Teams, Seneca or in lessons.

## **Other home learning tasks**

In all subject's teachers may set alternative home learning to support understanding in their subject. This may include but isn't limited to through the means of:

- Exam-style questions
- Research for project work and coursework
- Preparatory reading
- Practical tasks

## Section 3 Home Learning Responsibilities

### Student responsibility:

- To have a complete set of knowledge organisers for each subject they study
- To listen to home learning instructions in class and seek clarification if necessary
- To ensure all instructions are recorded in their college planner
- To ensure all home learning is completed to the best of their ability and submitted on time
- To inform the class teacher before the lesson, not at the start, if there are any issues with the home learning set
- To seek support to ensure that they can complete the retrieval practice and quizzing tasks set for home learning before the deadline

### Parental responsibility:

- To ensure regular opportunities for home learning are created throughout the week
- To ensure their child has the correct equipment needed to complete home learning
- To stay in touch with the college should there be any issues with the completion of home learning tasks
- To check their child's planner for home learning deadlines
- To encourage their child to develop good study habits
- To check the quality and presentation of all home learning being returned to school
- To liaise with college should concerns arise

### Teacher responsibility:

- Class teachers should issue and monitor home learning in accordance with college policy. Home learning must be issued and recorded in the student planner, with instructions and a deadline clearly stated. Retrieval practice should be modelled and explained to support students to effectively carry out retrieval techniques.
- Teaching staff should reward effort in home learning in accordance with the college rewards policy. This will include:

- Achievement Point(s) for home learning completed to the expected standard
- Positive phone calls home
- Praise postcards
- Celebration assemblies

Teaching staff should monitor and record the completion of quizzing:

- Continued non-completion of home learning should be discussed with parents/carers, subject leaders and school teams to ensure appropriate follow-up and support provided where it's needed.