BUDMOUTH ACADEMY WEYMOUTH

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Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to share an overview of our homework programme for this academic year, which outlines key information on building effective study habits, official start dates, daily schedules, and our approach to managing incomplete homework. At Budmouth Academy, our homework programme is designed to consolidate classroom learning, build long-term memory, and establish strong independent study habits across all year groups

Start Date

Please note that homework will officially begin for students on **28th September**.

Why Good Homework Habits Lead to Exam Success

Consistent homework habits directly drive strong exam performance by leveraging key cognitive principles:

- **Strengthening Long-Term Memory:** Spaced and retrieval practice—revisiting knowledge over time—builds stronger neural pathways, making information easier to recall under exam pressure.
- **Reducing Exam Stress:** Regular, short bursts of revision prevent the need for last-minute cramming, giving students genuine confidence in their knowledge.
- **Building Exam Stamina & Metacognition:** Practising exam-style questions and self-quizzing helps students learn to monitor their own learning, refine their exam technique, and apply knowledge fluently.

Homework Expectations by Year Group

- **Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9):** Students complete 60 minutes per week in each core subject (English, Maths, and Science) using online platforms (Sparx and Seneca), totaling 180 minutes.
- **Year 10:** Homework is set fortnightly, requiring 45 minutes per subject. Students revise designated topics using Knowledge Maps, produce revision evidence (10–15 flashcards or 2 A4 mind maps), and complete a 10–15 question retrieval quiz in class.
- **Year 11:** Homework is set fortnightly, requiring 60–90 minutes per subject. Tasks focus on examination-style questions and extended practice to refine GCSE exam techniques.
- **Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13):** Sixth Form students are expected to complete 55 minutes of independent study for every 55 minutes of classroom delivery (e.g., 8 hours 15 minutes per fortnight for a subject with 9 lessons). Tasks are managed via Google Classrooms and include deliberate practice, wider reading, and exam preparation.

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Year 10 and Year 11 Fortnightly Homework Timetable

To help Key Stage 4 students balance their workload, homework setting follows a two-week timetable rotation:

Week	Subjects Setting Homework
Week 1	• Maths • Humanities • DT / Engineering / Computer Science / H&C • Performing and Visual Arts
Week 2	• Science • English • MfL • Sport • Health and Social Care

Detention Policy for Missed Homework

We want all students to develop positive and consistent homework habits that support their learning and progress. We recognise that students may occasionally miss a homework, so detentions are only issued once a pattern of missed homework develops.

Missed homework is monitored across each half term, with the following staged approach:

- **3 missed homeworks:** 30-minute detention
- **6 missed homeworks:** 60-minute detention
- **9 missed homeworks:** 90-minute detention

This approach gives students the opportunity to improve their homework habits before the next threshold is reached. Detention time also provides an opportunity for students to complete outstanding work where appropriate.

The aim is to encourage students to take responsibility for their learning, establish positive routines and prevent missed homework from affecting their progress.

School Support & Facilities

We are committed to helping every student succeed. To ensure that all students have access to computers, resources, and a quiet environment to complete their work, the **Resource Centre is open after school to support students**. School facilities are also accessible before school and during lunchtime.

We appreciate your continued support in helping your child establish strong study routines at home.

Yours sincerely

M Williamson

Dr M Williamson

Assistant Principal