

Dear parent carer

I am writing to you to provide an update on changes that we have made to how we set and monitor homework completion at Sheldon. Feedback from students and parent carers has indicated that the frequency of homework set varies from child to child, and subject to subject. As a school, we are striving for a consistent experience for all of our learners.

Research suggests that when completed, homework can improve the progress of a student by more than 5 months when compared to students who do not engage with homework¹. Therefore, as a school, we are committed to improving the quality and consistency of homework that has been set.

Consistency

From next term, we will be using a homework timetable to set homework for Key Stages 3 and 4. This will give students, parent carers, and staff clarity on when work should be set. All homework set will be due in 7 days (e.g., set on Monday and due the following Monday). If a homework set needs to be physically handed in, students will be given more than 7 days to complete and submit it to their teacher. This approach will provide students sufficient time to manage their schoolwork alongside any other extracurricular or family commitments. The homework timetable will be published on the school website and can also be found below:

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Key Stage 3	Week 1	English Geography	ICT* PE**	Mathematics Languages	Science History	PSRE*
	Week 2	English Art	DT Music	Mathematics Languages	Science Dance	

Key Stage 4	Weeks 1 and 2	English Option A	PE Option B	Mathematics Option C	Science Option D	PSRE*
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* Homework will be set 2 times per term for this subject

** Homework will be set at the end of units of study for this subject

Type of Homework

At Sheldon, we recognise the importance of using retrieval practice to ensure that the powerful knowledge from within our curriculum is embedded in students' long-term memories. If students are unable to recall key facts, skills, and concepts, they are unable to apply that knowledge to their learning. Therefore, our ambition is to set low-stakes multiple-choice quizzes for students to retrieve key information and ensure that it is not forgotten over time.² In most cases, this work will be set via a Microsoft Forms quiz. The benefit of using Microsoft Forms is that students receive immediate feedback on where they have been successful and areas that they will need to revisit. Using automated technology will also free up teachers' time so that they can focus on planning and preparing high-quality lessons³.

¹ [Education Endowment Foundation \(2021a\)](#)

² [Education Endowment Foundation \(2021b\)](#)

³ [Department for Education \(2023\)](#)

Students in Key Stage 3 should be spending approximately 20 minutes on each homework task, and students in Key Stage 4 should be spending approximately 30 minutes on each task.

Following discussions with Faculty Heads, there will be some caveats to this approach to ensure the best provision for your child. There will be instances where homework might be set using other platforms that are more appropriate for knowledge recall (e.g., Sparxmaths and Kerboodle in science). For more creative and practical subjects (e.g., PE/Drama/Art), quizzes may be set less frequently to allow students to explore the subject more creatively. Finally, teachers may set fewer quizzing questions to allow time for students to complete coursework and/or develop examination skills/techniques at KS4.

Monitoring Homework

Historically, we have used Microsoft Teams alongside student planners to diarise homework that has been set. While this approach provides clarity for students, parents have communicated to us that they do not always have a clear picture of what has been set. This is because Microsoft Teams is a student-facing platform.

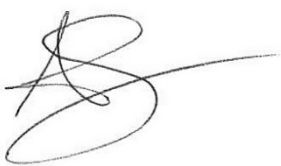
To mitigate the above, we have purchased a homework add-on for our ePraise platform. From term 2, all homework will be diarised using this software. This means that parent carers can use ePraise to see the homework that has been set for their children, and when it is due. You should already be familiar with ePraise as we use the platform to record merits and demerits. If you require any support to access ePraise, a link to the parent guide can be found [here](#).

Making this change will also ensure that senior and middle leaders can more effectively quality assure the standards and frequency of homework that is being set for our students.

Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. We would value your feedback on the changes that have been made to the homework policy. You can access the feedback form by clicking on this [link](#). Additionally, if you are experiencing difficulty in accessing ePraise you can use the form to let us know and we will be in contact with you to support you.

Kind regards



Andy Symes

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QR Code for
Parent Carer
Homework
Feedback Form

