

SMC/ts

13 September, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers



This week we shall begin scheduling homework for your child. It is designed to support your child to develop the independent study skills essential for them to meet their potential at GCSE. Homework at Southchurch High School is a mandatory component of each subject.

Please find attached a copy of the homework schedule for your child for the next term. The schedule details the homework titles and dates for every piece of homework in each subject.

As you can see, we will increase independent study gradually over time. Your child will never be given more than one hour's worth of independent study, in total, per night. Research shows that students who complete homework and develop their independent study skills make approximately 5 months more progress than their peers, so it is vital that all of our students attempt their homework.

Your role in reinforcing the value of independent study by giving positive feedback to your child is invaluable. Your support will give your child the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. You can also assist by:

- using the planner and timetable from the English Department as a tool for providing the school with information about any problems or by contacting the school directly;
- encouraging your child to attend the school's Homework Club which is open from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm Monday to Thursday in the Library;
- providing, where possible, the appropriate conditions in which students can quietly and successfully complete work;
- supporting your child in planning out when tasks have to be done;
- ensuring that your child has adequate free time;
- checking the time spent on individual tasks as well as the quality of presentation and content of all work being returned to school;
- signing your child's planner each week; and
- reviewing Class Charts rewards and sanctions for homework.

Should your child need help or support with any of their homework, they should ask their class teacher, in the first instance, before the homework is due.

We thank you in advance for your time and support as we encourage our students to continue to invest in themselves and their academic progress at Southchurch High School.

Yours faithfully

Stacie McGowan  
**Head of English/Homework Coordinator**

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