

# ANNAN ACADEMY

## HOMEWORK and HOME STUDY

### Information for parents

#### **Rationale**

At Annan Academy, it is recognised that homework can have an important role to play in the education of pupils. It is an integral part of the total learning experience; enhancing learning, improving attainment, developing organisational skills, promoting independent learning and developing the good study habits that are so essential for examination success. It also gives the parents another opportunity to communicate with their child about schoolwork and as a useful point of contact with the school. All departments are therefore expected to set appropriate homework tasks for pupils at all stages. As and when appropriate, Home Study will be expected of pupils in addition to Homework

#### **Purposes of Homework**

The purposes of a quality homework programme are:

- \* to provide opportunities for individual learning
- \* to allow the practice and consolidation of work done in class
- \* to prepare for future classwork or assessment
- \* to provide opportunities to assess pupil progress and mastery of work
- \* to provide training for pupils in planning and organising their time

- \* to encourage responsibility for learning and the development of good study habits
- \* to provide opportunities for enrichment of work done in school
- \* to provide opportunities for individualised effort and initiative

Homework can also provide:

- Teachers with evidence for the evaluation of learning and teaching
- parents with an insight into their child's learning opportunities to help them provide support and encouragement for their child a channel for home/school dialogue
- pupils with opportunities to develop their interest in subjects beyond the confines of the syllabus

#### **What sort of Homework exercises should your child be doing?**

All pupils are given a diary planner in which to record homework tasks and assessment dates.

There are various types of work which pupils are expected to undertake at home e.g.

1. Written exercises – set by the teacher to consolidate work done in class.
2. Project work/Investigation tasks – usually done over a longer time period and open ended, allowing pupils to follow up interests and enthusiasms.

3. Reading – fiction or non-fiction. To find information or for pleasure.
4. Revision – preparing for an assessment or examination. This may be a written paper, a practical exam, a talk or a speaking test.
5. Research – where information requires to be gathered in order to complete a specific task.
6. Finishing off work started in class.

### **How can parents support their child's studies?**

The most important thing you can do is simply to take an interest in your child's work. Apart from assisting by establishing a good routine and providing a suitable place for homework completion you could

1. Ask what work has to be done, check the homework diary and sign it each week (S1-S4).
2. Don't send children to a room for several hours and think all problems are solved. Check regularly whether help is needed and give assistance if and when you can. Arrange for homework to be done with a friend/s if this is more effective for your child.
3. Avoid saying "I used to do it this way"... methods can change. Advise – don't teach!
4. Contact your child's Guidance Teacher as soon as problems arise or if your child regularly claims not to have any homework.

5. Suggest ways of learning which will help with understanding e.g. get your child to make up a quiz on the homework and test someone else on that quiz.
6. Above all, offer encouragement at all times.

### **What will happen if Homework is not completed or is unsatisfactory?**

At Annan Academy we believe that homework is a crucial part of the learning experience. It can help to raise attainment and it helps to prepare pupils for the independent work they may need to do in the future.

If your son/daughter fails to complete a homework task, the teacher will record this, offer help if required and if appropriate, give an extension of time to complete the task. If your son/daughter fails to meet the original and/or new homework deadline, the class teacher will send you a homework letter informing you of this and requesting your support in getting the homework completed. When pupils fail to return homework tasks or complete them satisfactorily, their Pupils Support Teacher will contact you to discuss the problem and request your support. Failure to meet homework deadlines may mean that your child is denied the opportunity for constructive feedback on progress and may do badly in tests and exams.

### **What should you do if your child is having difficulty with Homework?**

If your child is having difficulty in completing a particular task then advise them to ask the class teacher for help as soon as possible and certainly before the homework is due to be handed in. If you have any queries about the homework in a particular subject or if your child regularly has difficulty completing homework in that subject then you should contact the Principal Teacher concerned to discuss the matter.

If your child is having general difficulties with homework tasks that have been set in a range of subjects then you should contact their Pupil Support Teacher to discuss the matter.

### **How much Homework ?**

As a rough guide pupils might expect to receive the following.

- S1/S2 approx. 3-5 hours per week
- S3/S4 approx. 8 hours per week
- S5/S6 approx 10 hours per week.