



Home learning Policy



Marches Academy Trust

Home learning

Developing the skills to study independently is our aspiration for all students at Idsall. At Key Stage 3 home learning is used to support students moving from Expected Standard to Greater Depth in their academic progress. (For more information on this please see the Assessment Principles project). We aim to help students grow and apply a range of skills as they move through all phases of their education in our school. We develop student independence through a planned home learning programme supporting our students in their transition from Key Stage 3 into examined subjects. Further details of our home learning expectations can be found in the Student Planners on page 27.

Key Stage 3 and beyond

Students in KS3 will receive home learning from core subjects fortnightly and from all other subjects a minimum of once per half term. All tasks at Key Stage 3 are designed to ensure students are meeting the expected standard in their curriculum whilst also pushing them to have a greater depth understanding of each subject.

Students in KS4 and 5 should expect home learning to be set weekly in all applicable subjects in preparation for their end of course exams.

Task setting:

Home learning should be set during the lesson allowing time for students to write their home learning into their planners, in KS3 and KS4, and ask clarifying questions. Home learning should be clearly explained and communicated to students and parents/carers through recording in the student planners with any additional information, such as access to further resources and deadlines communicated here. It is best practice to ensure home learning is clearly displayed on the board or Power Point so students can record accurately, additional support given to SEND students may include, checking, writing or stickers to record home learning. Students are encouraged to record reminders of their log ins on page 140 in the student planner. At KS5 students are encouraged to purchase their own planners for organisation.

Supporting students with home learning:

Some students may require additional support and resources to complete home learning tasks. They may require a quiet place to work or access to a school computer, this will be available in the Learning Resource Centre during Break times and Lunchtimes and during Session 6. SEND students may also access home learning support in the POD.

Teacher feedback on home learning:

At KS3 home learning is set to allow students to have a greater depth understanding of their subject and to develop the independent skills necessary to be a successful student at KS4. Therefore, home learning will not be teacher assessed but may be marked electronically using online platforms or technology such as Microsoft Forms.

At KS4 home learning will use a combination of retrieval based activities to embed core, powerful knowledge alongside regular opportunities to practise the application of knowledge. Teacher specific feedback may therefore be focused on detailed feedback of application based tasks.

For more information about the identified core, powerful knowledge for each subject, please refer to the curriculum pages on the school website.

Types of home learning:

Students will receive a wide range of home learning tasks from their teachers over the course of a year. These may include but not be limited to;

- **Revision, retrieval, and recall**

Revision tasks will be given to all year groups at various points during the year. Teachers will regularly set revision, retrieval, and recall tasks. This is hugely important in ensuring that core powerful knowledge from the curriculum is successfully embedded into students long term memory. We will support students by ensuring that they understand the cognitive science behind the learning through assemblies and other interventions, so that they understand the importance of regularly completing retrieval-based knowledge tasks. We encourage parents to actively engage in this home learning with their children where possible.

- **Home learning menus**

A series of tasks or activities are set for a half term or term and students are asked to select activities of their choice from the menu. The menus will cater for students to make progress to expected standard and or/greater depth understanding at KS3.

- **Home learning projects**

Projects are set over number of weeks at the discretion of the teacher. These projects will require the student to be independent and to demonstrate good organisational skills. This type of home learning develops a variety of skills and enables the student to spend time on areas of interest within the project. Students will be expected to touch base with their teachers and explain how they are progressing with the project.

- **Academic reading**

This style of home learning prepares students for Higher Education. It is particularly important for KS4 and KS5 students to 'read around' their topics and themes although it can be set for any year group. KS5 students will be issued with reading lists in order to ensure they are able to develop a deeper contextual understanding of their subjects.

Reading

In addition to the home learning tasks above, we place high value on reading for pleasure and would encourage all students to read for pleasure at home. The power of reading is not to be underestimated and improving reading skills can have a huge impact on overall progress. As a part of a 'reading multi-academy trust,' we all read together during Reading Time as a part of the English curriculum. We recommend that additional reading takes place every evening for at least 15 minutes for all our students.