

Why all the fuss about homework?

If a student completes an hour's homework per school night for five years, it is the equivalent of an extra year at school.

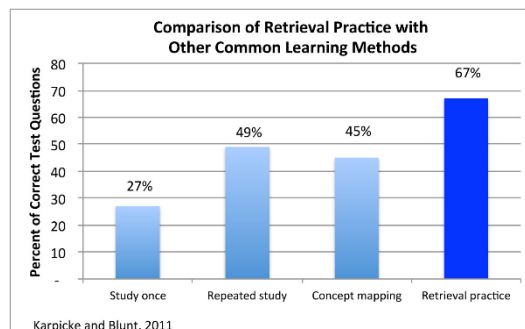
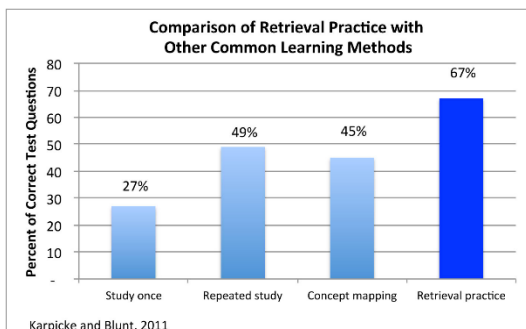
Homework at secondary school has been proven to work. There have been countless studies done looking at the correlation between exam success and homework and the results are indisputable! Students who regularly complete their homework achieve better grades in final exams than those that don't. One study noted links between students who regularly did their homework and tidy bedrooms! Research has shown that students who regularly complete homework benefit from:

- An increased progress from 12 months in a year to a possible 20 months
- An increased retention of knowledge
- Improved study habits and skills leading to an improved work ethic
- Improved self-direction and self-discipline
- Improved time management skills

What tasks should students be doing for homework?

Homework is not about keeping students busy and off the streets. The homework tasks that we set are based on the theory of retrieval practice. We all know the saying 'practice makes perfect'. At King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls we work on the premise that 'practice makes permanent'. The more practice a student does the more they can remember for longer. We do not want students to be able to remember things for a test or a quiz, the focus is on lifelong learning.

All we ever do is quiz!



A teachers' biggest enemy is forgetting. Twenty minutes after leaving our lessons our students will only be able to remember 58% of what we said. After a week, they can only remember 25%! Luckily for us, we discovered a solution, that is not only easy and only requires a pen and a piece of paper, but has been proven by research as one of the most effective studying methods. Quizzing (retrieval practice) is quick and easy to do, but more importantly it enables students to learn and remember knowledge in the long term. Your child has been taught how to quiz and the guidelines can be found in the front of their knowledge booklet. Quizzing may also be set using the online platform Carousel.

Why do we need to read every day?

"The more you read, the better you get at it; the better you get at it, the more you like it; and the more you like it, the more you do it. And the more you read, the more you know; and the more you know, the smarter you grow." (Jim Trelease)

Students have their own selected reading book and they should be reading for at least 20 minutes every day at home. Reading should be recorded in their reading log and will be checked by your child's English teacher. To help with encouraging reading there are a few hints and tips for parents below;

- Talk to your child about the book they are reading
- Listen to them read aloud a part of the book
- Ask them questions about what they have just read

- Read together- take it in turns to read a paragraph each

More ideas can be found [here](#)

We are keen to ensure that all of our students:

1. Complete all of their homework
2. Put their best effort into their homework

Homework should:

- Be set weekly by the teacher and recorded on Classcharts
- Be well presented at all times, with underlined dates and titles
- Be a true representation of what your child can do when they put in their best effort
- Be handed in on time
- If completed on a computer, should be printed off before the lesson.

The following excuses will not be accepted:

- I have done it but left it at home
- I have done it but need to print it off
- I have done it but it is in my locker
- I did not understand it, can I have more time?
- I have been busy with other commitments

What to do if you don't understand the task?

If your child does not understand the homework task, they:

- Should speak to their teacher well before the deadline date to clarify what to do or get some extra support
- Email the teacher using the school email system
- Go to homework club

Support

Your child receives a knowledge booklet every half term that contains all the knowledge organisers from each subject in one place. This knowledge booklet will aid as an invaluable resource when completing homework tasks.

To support our students, we offer a Homework Club every day from 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm. This club is open to all pupils and provides a calm environment where they can complete their homework. The club is staffed and provides access to books and computers. Pupils who continue to miss homework deadlines will be encouraged to attend Homework Club to help them improve their organisational skills and homework habits. Homework club can also be accessed by students in the event of an extra-curricular club being cancelled.

For Maths, every Wednesday students can attend the Sparx afterschool sessions in room 29.

We pride ourselves on open communication, please reach out to us if you believe there are factors affecting your child's ability to complete their homework. We are here to help and support in any way we can.