

# Homework:

## A Guide for Parents/Carers


Homework is widely accepted as an essential and valuable element of learning. Homework offers repeated opportunities for your child to develop key skills for independent learning, such as information retrieval, planning, analysis and time management.

### Homework: What is it for?

Homework can have many purposes, including encouraging independent learning; completing coursework assignments; consolidating work from lessons in school; helping students to practice learning by doing; enhancing student/parent/teacher partnership; encouraging self-discipline; promoting research skills; challenging students' thinking; and enabling work to be carried out that is not suited to the classroom situation. Essentially, the homework set must matter to each student's ongoing learning in that subject.

Homework forms a coherent part of the work being done in the UTC and a list of possible tasks could include;

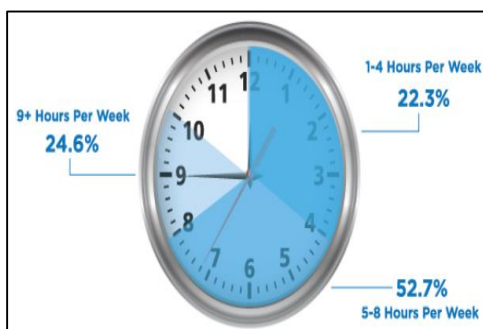
Investigations	Interviews	Simple experiments	Essay Writing
Research	Public Library visit	Drafting	Report writing
Reading	Designing	Revision	Making a model
Drawing	Word processing	Desktop publishing	Projects



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
DO YOUR  
HOMEWORK**

Online learning forms an integral part of our homework strategy, with many online platforms assessing as well as stretching and challenging students of all abilities. These will be used by teachers regularly throughout the academic year as part of your child's homework diet. Various websites will be referred to as part of our online provision and sometimes careful research of the World Wide Web will be set. This may be to support previous learning or, in some cases, to introduce students to future learning. The latter is often referred to as 'Flipped Learning' and is a strategy that will be used at appropriate times throughout the year.

### The amount of homework appropriate for students of different ages.



Good practice suggests that the amount of time which should be spent by students at The Energy Coast UTC, **on average**, on homework or GCSE coursework, should fall within the following ranges:

Years 10 & 11 - 6-8 hours a week, shared among a variety of subjects

Years 12 & 13 - 8-10 hours a week, shared among a variety of subjects

We would remind all parents/carers and students that the **quantity** of work produced is only one measure of success and that the **quality** of the work submitted will be of equal, if not greater importance.

## Our policy in action

The Energy Coast UTC will ensure that homework is clearly and consistently set. The sections below set out the responsibilities of the three main parties involved in the successful completion of quality homework – teachers, students and parents/carers.

### Teachers' responsibilities

#### **Setting & explaining homework:**

Your child will be told (often and preferably at the beginning of a lesson) whether homework is to be set. Larger, more time-consuming homeworks may be flagged up to your child a lesson or more in advance. Occasionally, homework may be expected in the next day but generally this will be the exception to the rule.

Teachers will make sure that your child has fully understood the task set for homework before the end of the lesson in which it is set.



Teachers and tutors will also make sure that your child knows what their user ID and password details are for online homework (your child should create a note of these details on their iPads or in the back of subject exercise books).



Teachers will ensure that your child has recorded the homework set into an appropriate folder on their iPads (for example, on platforms such as Showbie) or in their subject exercise books. They should record the day it is set and include the deadline for submission of this piece of work. Teachers will try to stick to the agreed homework timetable whenever possible but there may be occasions when it would be better for your child's learning to set the work on a different night. Teachers will also ensure that your child has completed and handed in their homework on the day of the original deadline. Where homework is incomplete, or late, consequences will be recorded on SIMs in line with our whole school policy.

**Regularity:** Teachers will be aware that your child may be set multiple homework tasks on one night which can lead to additional stress for your child and, therefore, quite possibly poor quality work. Wherever possible, homework will be set with a deadline beyond the next day, although occasionally this will be unavoidable.

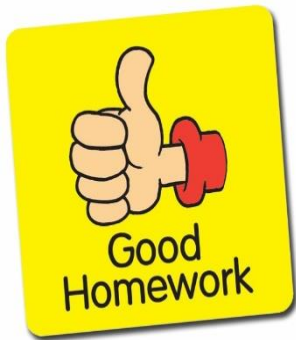
**All subjects will aim to set one homework every week.** Where more than one teacher is delivering a course, the teachers will coordinate which of them will be setting the homework for that week. Again, occasionally both teachers will set homework in the same week if this will be of benefit to the flow of your child's learning.

**Differentiation:** Homework will be differentiated to take into account the needs of each individual student. This is especially true of those students who have particular needs as outlined by our Learning Support Department, as well as our More Able/High Prior Attaining students, who need to be intellectually challenged more than most. At least one homework per subject per half term will ideally allow for an element of creativity.

**Labelling homework:** All homework should be clearly labelled by your child in your child's exercise books and folders using the capital letters 'HW' in a circle next to the title and date. If an internet-based homework is set, this should also be noted in your child's exercise books and folders, with the same annotation used.



**Support:** A supervised homework club are provided in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form study centre during the week between 4.00pm and 5:15pm to allow your child access to research materials, the internet and face-to-face adult support. This service can be used proactively by your child prior to a submission deadline. Unfortunately, transport home is not provided by the UTC for anyone accessing this provision.

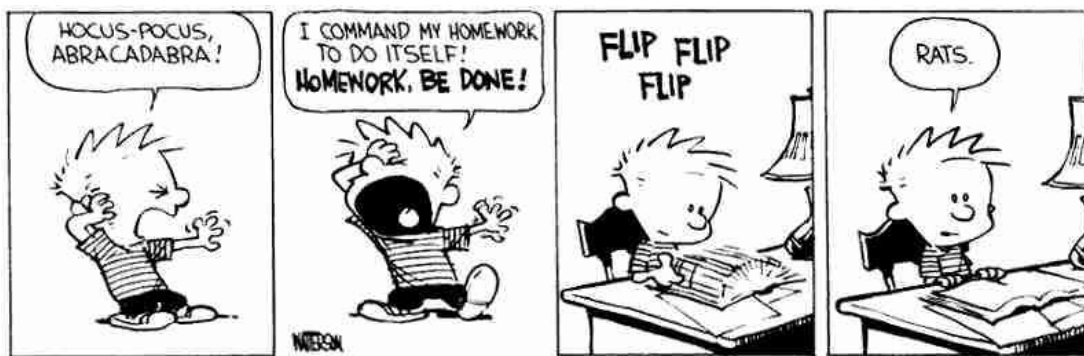


**Marking homework:** All homework will be marked, either by students themselves or by their teachers. If the homework set is also a Key Piece, then it will be marked using our agreed Assessment for Learning criteria, thus giving your child more regular targets for ongoing improvement (see our Marking and Assessment Policy on our website for further details).

Some homework will be linked to GCSE/A-level grades (or BTEC/Tech Award equivalent). Achievement points may also be given to your child if they complete homework to a higher standard than expected of them.

**Missed homework:** All late homework will generate a negative behaviour point on our electronic register system (SIMS), which informs your child's Head of Key Stage. Class teachers will also issue appropriate sanctions, especially if your child persistently forgets to bring in their homework on time or meet the required minimum standards. Please do all you can to support your child's completion of homework to the required standard and in time to meet their deadlines.

### Students' responsibilities



Your child must:

- have their iPad with them in every lesson in order to record homework
- record the homework set into an appropriate folder on their iPads (for example, on platforms such as Showbie) or in their subject exercise books on the day it is set and include the deadline for submission of this piece of work. All students without an iPad will be noted on SIMS as not having the correct equipment, which will inform tutors and HOY's.
- make sure that they ask for clarification about any homework task set well before the submission deadline.
- complete the homework set to the very best of their ability and hand it in on time to their teacher.
- respond rapidly to any improvement advice given by their teacher. Time should be allocated in lessons to improve marked work.

**A GENIUS IS A  
TALENTED PERSON WHO  
DOES HIS HOMEWORK**

THOMAS EDISON

## Parents'/carers' responsibilities

To be effective, homework needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents/carers and the school. We need to be able to count on your support to ensure that homework is effective and successfully completed. Homework is already an important part of home school agreements between you and The Energy Coast UTC which helps create and maintain both students' and your commitment to homework. Therefore, it would be very helpful if you could:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework or help children attend other places where homework can be done (such as homework club).
- make it clear to their children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress at school.
- encourage their children and praise them when they have completed homework.
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are.
- contact the school should there be any issues with this aspect of their child's education.

# HOMework



**If you have any questions or comments about any of the issues raised in this leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's class teacher (if the matter relates to just one subject), your child's Head of Key Stage (if the matter is linked to more than one subject)**

