



Home learning

Home learning represents a true form of independent study. It encompasses any teacher-directed work that students complete outside of the classroom. When utilized effectively, home learning has been shown to produce an effect on learning three times as large as the effect of socioeconomic status. It is therefore a key lever in our curriculum planning, and we recognise the importance of designing an impactful, coherent approach to home learning at Ark John Keats.

Effective home learning supports students to recall powerful knowledge. As students mature and develop as learners, we recognise that home learning must also provide an opportunity to practice the application of this knowledge and to extend students' thinking.

Through effective design and delivery, an effective home learning programme supports students to develop better study habits, greater self-discipline and can promote greater parental involvement and participation and schooling. We recognise that in order for home learning to be effective it should:

- Have a clearly defined purpose
- Be an efficient use of student and teacher time
- Promote student ownership
- Support student perceptions of competence
- Be carefully designed and aesthetically appealing

Our approach

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
Knowledge organisers 100% pages Online quizzes	Knowledge organisers 100% pages Online quizzes Application/practice pack	Knowledge organisers 100% pages Online quizzes Application/practice pack Reading record
Weekly study skills session delivered through tutor time		
60 mins per subject	90 mins per core subject 60mins per options subject	5+ hours per subject

KS3

Home learning will support students to recall and master core knowledge in each of their subjects. Students will be issued with a set of knowledge organisers at the start of each half term. Home learning time will be used to deliberately practice knowledge recall through self-quizzing, mind-mapping and flashcards. These strategies for study will be explicitly taught through tutor-led study skills sessions once each week.

Student output will be captured through:

- Completion of one 100% page per subject per week.
- Completion of one online quiz per subject, per week.

KS4

In Years 10 and 11, students will continue to complete a weekly 100% page and online quiz. They will continue to use a central pack of knowledge organisers to support with this. In addition, they will also be provided with a consolidation pack of practice questions to support with application and revision. Students will be issued with one pack each long term.

Students will continue to develop their understanding of effective strategies for independent study through one tutor-led study skills session each week.

KS5

At Key Stage 5, students must demonstrate a high degree of skill in independent study. Their ability to work independently outside of the classroom will have a more significant impact on their academic success than ever before.

Students will continue to use knowledge organisers to support their independent study. The output of this study time will be recorded in a blank work pack provided by each department. Students will also be expected to complete one online quiz per subject per week, as well as a section of their termly application/practice pack.

To support the development of academic reading skills, each student will be provided with a reading log. They will enter one piece of reading per subject, per week.

Marking

Home learning is not marked by teachers. We understand that the barriers to successful completion often reflect issues with student confidence, self-discipline and study skills. It is not possible to accurately disentangle these issues from genuine gaps in understanding.

100% pages are checked visually by teachers during each lesson. At every Key Stage, these work-packs are quality checked by form tutors twice per half term. This enables more effective identification of students facing challenges with independent working and creates space for more holistic discussion of the barriers to success.

Online quizzes are marked automatically through the use of an appropriate digital platform.

At Key Stages 4 and 5, student application/practice packs are marked by students using a teacher exemplar. This exemplar will be uploaded and stored in Class Notebook on MS Teams.

Support for students

Effective home learning supports students to become capable, competent learners. Where students require additional support to complete home learning, we recognise that this reflects real gaps in confidence, self-discipline and skills.

Where issues with home learning completion exist, students will be supported through a single, coherent intervention programme. Student attendance can be:

- a) Mandatory – referral by subject teacher, form tutor or Head of Year
- early intervention following 3 missed submissions
- b) Voluntary – drop in service

Useful reading

[Darling-Hammond, L & Ifill-Lynch, O \(2006\): 'If They'd Only Do Their Work!', Educational Leadership, 63.5, p8-13](#)

[Dunlosky, J \(2013\): 'Strengthening the Student Toolbox', American Educator, 3, p12-21](#)

[Shrat-Carr, N \(2013\): 'Increasing the Effectiveness of Homework for All Learners in the Inclusive Classroom', School Community Journal, 23, 1, p169-p182](#)

[Vatterott, C \(2008\): 'What is effective homework', ASCD Express On-line Newsletter, p1-5](#)

[Vatterott, C. \(2010\). Five hallmarks of good homework. Educational Leadership, 68, 1, 10–15.](#)