**HOMEWORK IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**WHY DO TEACHERS GIVE HOMEWORK?**

In English it is an extension of on-going class work and is vital to pupil progress. This is essential homework because English is not a subject where facts are memorised, but is a process of constant development. Failure to do homework can lead to a gradual slippage in grades and motivation, as a pupil fails to keep up with classmates.

Education research tells us that pupils who do homework – with parental involvement – become successful in later life. At Woodfarm High School we are ambitious for all our pupils and want them to get off to a positive start at secondary school.

**HOW DO THE PUPILS REMEMBER WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO?**

Every pupil has their homework diary, which they should carry with them at all times. The diary is kept on the desk during lessons and the pupil fills in the homework before leaving class. If a pupil is absent, they should find out what homework has been issued from their Teacher or classmates. “I was off” is not an acceptable excuse for avoiding homework.

And not all homework is the same – in English it is very varied.

**WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?**

In the English Department, like the rest of the school, we want parents to feel part of their child’s education. School, home, teachers and parents should be a partnership in the development and education of children.

Teachers rely on parents and would appreciate their support in:

* Checking the homework diary
* Encouraging their child to take care of it and bring it to school every day
* Checking work is completed and meeting deadlines
* Encouraging their child to talk about their work
* Listening to their child’s ideas and solo talks
* Helping to correct errors
* Offering advice on planning
* Checking spelling words are learned
* Fostering good reading and work habits
* Discussing their child’s personal reader with them
* Accessing homework on GLOW and department website eg. Monthly Writing Challenges

You are essential.

We can’t do without you and we hope you will join us in giving homework the seal of approval.

**TYPES OF HOMEWORK:**

READING

Pupils are expected to read on a daily basis and are encouraged to have a personal reader, preferably a book, as this helps develop a good reading habit for later years and increases speed and accuracy as well as general knowledge. Newspapers and Magazines can also be useful. Constant reading often leads to an overall improvement in a pupil’s English.

Pupils may also be asked to read in preparation for class work. This can be to read on in the class text or to find out information for a talk or a project. This may be from a variety of sources – books, adverts, web pages…

WRITING

The writing tasks are very varied – both in content and length. They may involve:

* Planning ideas to enable pupil to write an essay
* Noting ideas for class discussion
* Finishing off work begun in class
* Redrafting marked work, making corrections and improvements
* Developing layout and presentation skills

Each pupil has to complete a MONTHLY WRITING CHALLENGE. This is found on the department website.

TALKING

English is a subject which encourages pupils to become articulate and to express themselves fluently and confidently. Preparation at home will help encourage this confidence.

The homework may involve:

* Preparing for a solo talk : research into topic, and planning
* Preparing prompt cards – headings and notes – because talking is not reading
* Preparing part of a group presentation
* Preparing to talk about books
* Practising talks
* Listen to your child’s talk or presentation – a live audience is a great help
* Offer advice on their delivery
* Encourage them to use eye contact, avoid reading their notes

**Good verbal communication is not only essential in school but in life!**

LISTENING and WATCHING

This homework may involve:

* Watching the News
* Watching a particular programme on a topic being looked at in the class or a text being studied
* Watching adverts as part of a unit
* Noting what programmes they have watched or listened to
* Keeping a watching and listening diary

**How can you help?**

* Talk about your child’s plans and ideas
* If it is a story, ask them about the setting, characters and plot
* Ask them to read their finished work to you
* Success in Literacy Units later depends on technical accuracy in writing
* Encourage your child to watch/listen to the news
* Discuss current topics with them
* Discuss purpose of different adverts – who they are aimed at?
* Discuss characters, setting, plot in soaps or dramas