

Gillingham School Home Learning - Information For Parents (Years 7 & 8)

At Gillingham School we are ambitious for all our students. Home Learning is an integral part of the curriculum with well-planned tasks supplementing and consolidating on lessons learnt in class. Year 7 and 8 home learning focuses on encouraging and developing the necessary learning habits that will help students learn, and commit to memory, key knowledge and skills over time. This in turn will lead, not only to examination success but the ability to become a lifelong learner.

Students' home learning will follow the home learning timetable on the website. Therefore, they should always have home learning that they should be doing. This should take no longer than one hour per night. Students can also make use of their knowledge organisers and the digital platforms to which we subscribe in order to review and consolidate their learning. Students will be taught, over time, how to revise efficiently and effectively in each subject area.

Key Home Learning Information

- Students should complete 30 minutes of Reading Plus per week to improve reading speed, fluency and comprehension
- We strongly encourage reading for pleasure outside of school to develop their range of vocabulary and to encourage a love of learning. They should also be encouraged to read around the topics being covered in lessons to broaden their knowledge and understanding
- Students should complete personalised Maths Home Learning on SPARX each week
- In other subjects students are expected to regularly revise the content from their lessons to consolidate their knowledge and understanding. Knowledge organisers are issued to each student to help them achieve this with regular low stakes quizzing informing teachers of student progress
- In many subjects students will be set home learning around identified key assignments that will enable them to develop and embed key skills
- We would encourage a breadth of home learning which might include visits to museums, galleries, concerts, theatrical performances, representation in local sports teams, trips away from home and other valuable educational opportunities
- Students should also spend some time each day listening to and reading the news to make links with lessons in school
- They can also start to be inquisitive about future careers and progression pathways by exploring the UNIFROG website (<https://www.unifrog.org>).

There are a range of excellent resources available to assist students with their home learning. These include: Seneca Learning (<https://app.senecalearning.com>) BBC Newsround (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>), Memrise (<https://memrise.com>) GCSE Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jimp3>) our school website (<https://www.gillingham-dorset.co.uk/>).

Communicating Home Learning with parents

Students will record that a home learning assignment has been set and its due date in their diaries. More detailed instructions will be provided by the teacher via the assignment function on Microsoft Teams. Any assignment posted on MS Teams will then automatically appear on your Edulink account under the Homework tab. It is hoped that this will further improve communication of home learning details between school and home and will allow you to support your child with their Home Learning.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's home learning (including any issues with accessing Microsoft Teams), please contact their tutor in the first instance.

Once again, may we thank you for your support; it is this positive working relationship between parents and teachers which benefits our children's education, progress and future prospects.