

Gillingham School Home Learning - Summary For Parents (Years 9, 10 & 11)

If wish to discuss any aspect of your child's home learning, please contact their tutor in the first instance.

Why is home learning important?

Not only does home learning reinforce and support classroom learning, it also helps develop the independence and self-discipline necessary for life-long success.

When will home learning assignments be set?

Please see the published home learning timetables for Years 9-11.

How much home learning will be set and when will it be due in?

Teachers would not normally ask for home learning assignments to be in for the next day, so your child will usually be given a minimum of 48 hours, and often longer, to complete work set. This enables them to plan their study around any other activities and weekly commitments. We do not want home learning to interfere with other educational, social, religious or family activities. Indeed we value students' participation in sporting activities, theatrical performances and the countless other activities that pupils are involved in out of school. Your child should spend up to one hour on each subject set and the total could be up to two hours per evening. Understandably, these times may increase when students are preparing for external examinations.

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 and details will also appear on Edulink. It is hoped that this will further improve communication of home learning details between school and home.

It is expected that as students progress through Years 9, 10 and 11 they will display greater self-motivation in taking responsibility for their own learning and planning their time effectively.

How can parents help?

You may feel that it is sometimes difficult to help your son/daughter with their home learning assignments. However, showing that you care and taking interest, is perhaps the greatest help you can give. We would be grateful if you could check your child's diary on a regular basis and sign it each week. The diary is an important means of communication between the school and parents. Tutors will check your child's diary, which should be kept tidy and free from graffiti. In addition to the diary, you will be able to ask your child to show you the instructions for their home learning assignments in Microsoft Teams.

Why might home learning assignments not be set?

Reasons why home learning might not be set include: if a teacher is absent from school, if your child has been on a school trip or during preparation for examinations to enable students to plan their revision sessions.

What happens if a home learning task cannot be completed on time?

We expect assignments to be completed and to be handed in on time. This gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines and helps staff with their marking schedules. However, sometimes it is not possible to complete home learning for a variety of legitimate reasons and we would ask that you write a note in your child's diary if this is the case.

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.