



# Aston Academy

## Specialising in Maths & Computing

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Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to provide you with information regarding your child's homework in the subjects of History, Geography, MFL, Drama, Art, Craft and Design (Fine Art and Photography/ Textiles and 3D Design), Music, Religious Studies, Sociology, Design & Technology, Physical Education/Sport, Health & Social Care and Hospitality & Catering.

Homework is a crucial part of your child's education, reinforcing what they learn in class and fostering independent learning skills. Your child's planner, alongside Google Classroom, is where you can find information regarding the homework set by your child's teachers.

An overview of the homework during KS4 is below. More information regarding the homework from all subjects can be found on the 'Home Learning' section of the Academy website.

### History

As part of the GCSE History course, students will be expected to complete home learning tasks on a weekly basis. These will form a vital part of the course, providing students with an opportunity to expand, develop and retain the knowledge and skills gained in History lessons. Students will be given paper copies for some tasks, with others being found and completed on google classrooms. A weekly schedule will also be provided in students' books and posted on google classrooms, along with all home learning instructions and resources.

The aim of the home learning is to allow students to 'Think like a Historian', achieve their potential in GCSE History and develop as well-rounded individuals.

GCSE History will follow the structure below, on a weekly basis:

- Historical Knowledge: Task based on recalling key historical knowledge
- Historical Skills: Task based on practising historical skills such as source inferences and interpretations
- Historical Context: Tasks based on wider reading and watching, to expand on knowledge gained in lessons
- Historical Application: Tasks which will enable students to apply knowledge to a GCSE style questions, to develop their confidence and practice exam structures
- Historical Retention and Retrieval: Tasks based on revision and recall of knowledge learnt in lessons, to support retention and develop students' knowledge of different revision techniques.

### Geography

As part of the GCSE Geography course, students will be expected to complete home learning tasks on a weekly basis. These will form a vital part of the course, providing students with an opportunity to expand, develop and retain the knowledge and skills gained in Geography lessons. Students will be given paper copies for some tasks, with others being found and completed on google classrooms. A weekly schedule will also be provided in student's books and posted on google classrooms, along with all home learning instructions and resources.



All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

The aim of the home learning is to allow students to 'Think like a Geographer', achieve their potential in GCSE Geography and become well rounded global citizens.

GCSE Geography will follow the structure below, on a weekly basis:

- Geographical Knowledge: Tasks based on recalling key geographical knowledge and case studies
- Geographical Skills: Tasks based on practicing geographical skills such as maps, maths and graphs
- Geographical Context: Tasks based on wider reading and watching, to expand on knowledge gained in lessons
- Geographical Application: Tasks which will enable students to apply knowledge to a GCSE style questions, to develop their written communication and practice exam structures
- Geographical Retention and Retrieval: Tasks based on revision and recall of knowledge learnt in lessons, to support retention and develop students' knowledge of different revision techniques

## **MFL**

Learning a foreign language successfully cannot solely be undertaken in the classroom: it does call for some additional and independent revision and continuous practice.

The vocabulary tests introduced in Key Stage 3 continue through KS4, but are enhanced by longer, GCSE-style written tasks alongside (often gone through first in class and then students are asked to draft their own written response independently outside of the classroom or prepare for a forthcoming, written Milestone Assessment task), past paper practice and general revision for the Speaking Test.\*

\* MFL teachers will provide a booklet of key questions based on the 3 GCSE Themes of: Family and Friends, Local, National and International Issues, Education and Future Career along with suggested answers in either French or Spanish. Gradually, students are required to revise these answers; building up their confidence, fluency, accuracy and understanding of how to answer potential key examination questions well before April-May of Year 11.

## **Drama**

For KS4, students complete a homework activity linked to key concepts they have been learning about in their lessons. The aim of students' Drama homework is to help them to consolidate the knowledge they have acquired during lesson time. Homework will be checked by class teachers to help identify areas which require further teaching.

## **Art, Craft and Design (Fine Art and Photography/ Textiles and 3D Design)**

Home learning tasks will be set weekly. All tasks will support the current classwork or will be individual pieces which will be used as part of their portfolio (worth 60% of their overall grade) or exam project (worth 40% of their overall grade).

Examples of homework tasks can be:

- To complete further research in order to extend knowledge and understanding of a topic, and to help generate ideas.
- Finding and collecting contextual and secondary images to help them support their recording.
- Taking their own photographs (primary sources) to help develop their ideas.
- Completing high quality drawings to record and support their design ideas.
- To use the success criteria to ensure sketchbook pages and tasks are completed to required expectations.

All home learning tasks will be set on google classroom and visual examples will be included on the assignments (in most cases) to remind students of the expectations. Students are expected to complete (or bring in a physical copy of) their home learning task by the due date. Students are advised on alternatives or provisions in the department if they have concerns about completing it at home.

## **Music**

Homework will be set weekly, linked to learning from timetabled lessons. A variety of work will be set to encourage students to apply their knowledge and understanding focussed around current learning for their coursework and/or examinations in GCSE Music.

## **GCSE Religious Studies**

As part of the GCSE Religious Studies course, homework tasks will be set on a weekly basis. Tasks will focus on reinforcing, recapping (revising) and extending learning that week and/ or mastering exam technique through practice exam style questions.

## **GCSE Sociology**

As part of the GCSE Religious Studies course, homework tasks will be set on a weekly basis. Tasks will focus on reinforcing, recapping (revising) and extending learning that week and/ or mastering exam technique through practice exam style questions.

## **Design and Technology**

In Y10 students will be given a booklet of tasks linked to their learning in class. Providing opportunities to refine skills such as technical drawing or to apply their theory knowledge to a range of exam style questions aimed to prepare students for the written paper.

In Y11 this will be a booklet of revision materials with exam style questions to ensure they embed the knowledge gained in Y10, build on new knowledge from their learning and to continue to develop the understanding of the requirements of their exam, how to answer the questions and maximise their mark.

## **Physical Education/Sport**

Weekly homework will be set linked to learning from timetabled lessons. A range of tasks will be used to encourage students to apply their knowledge and understanding. These will be focussed around current topics within coursework and/or examinations.

## **Health and Social Care**

Homework will be set every week linked to their learning in Health and Social Care. A range of tasks will be used to encourage students to apply their knowledge and understanding. These will be focussed around current topics within coursework and/or examinations units.

## **Hospitality and Catering**

Students will be given homework tasks linked to their learning in class. Providing opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry.

Students will also be asked to bring in some ingredients for practical lessons and will be expected to bring a container for taking food home in. We are aware it is sometimes difficult, for a variety of reasons, for students to bring ingredients in from home. We ask that parents and carers let us know if there are any issues so we can ensure your child will have the ingredients to access their lesson.

It is expected that they complete the homework in short chunks through the week. There are a range of weekly tasks such as flashing cards, quizzes and exam questions. They must show their completed homework to their class teacher each week. Their class teacher will address common errors/misconceptions in lessons where appropriate.

To support your child's homework routine please:

- establish a routine and encourage consistent homework time.
- create a quiet workspace: Ensure a distraction-free area.

- offer encouragement: Praise their efforts and provide assistance when needed.
- communicate: Contact teachers with any concerns or questions.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's education. Together, we can help them succeed in being exceptional.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anyon", followed by a period.

**Miss Anyon**  
**Vice Principal - Quality of Education**