



Noel-Baker Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

It is our belief that homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills. As such, we consider it to be an integral part of the curriculum, ie. homework is not an optional extra, it is an essential part of a good education.

Learning can be defined as the permanent alteration to our long term memory. In order to remember the core and important knowledge, students need to revise, practise, repeat and rehearse the main principles for each subject. For this reason, homework at Noel-Baker will comprise of weekly 'knowledge checks' which are essentially a bank of questions that link to content already learned. Homework will be set by every subject every week, with questions to be completed at home using the homework answer booklets already provided.

Students will be provided with a knowledge organiser for each topic. A knowledge organiser is a collation of the core knowledge needed to understand and master the topic being studied; it can be used to help students complete their homework. To help students organise themselves, knowledge organisers and homework answer booklets should be stored in the A4 ring binder provided for them.

All homework will have a deadline of one week, and each subject will have a designated homework day in which homework is set. Homework will be marked as a class activity on the designated day, with students using green pen to address any misconceptions or incorrect answers.

In addition to homework set by each subject, it is expected that pupils read for at least 20 minutes a day, 5 times a week. The reason for this is clear; the more a child reads, the greater their vocabulary becomes. This allows them to access more difficult content across other subjects and more easily learn concepts they may have otherwise found difficult. Reading also builds cultural capital and expands a student's knowledge of how the world works, whilst encouraging the use and development of imagination. In addition, evidence shows there to be a clear link between frequency of reading and attainment, ie. the more a child reads, the more they achieve.

It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure all homework is recorded on Go 4 Schools and marked as either complete or incomplete on a weekly basis. It is the pupil's responsibility to complete homework, and failure to do so will result in a detention.

Please email dataexams@noelbakeracademy.co.uk if you have any issues accessing Go 4 Schools.

Parents can help by ensuring students have a designated quiet place to complete their homework in order to develop a clear routine for its completion and by taking an interest in their child's work. A good idea is to help them to test their knowledge, which increases the likelihood that pupils will remember the content and therefore learn more.

Our approach to homework is common sense. Achieving the right balance can be difficult, but I believe our strategy enables students to make greater progress, whilst still having enough time to rest, socialise and spend time with family.

Thank you in advance for your support. Together we can ensure our students achieve their potential and make the progress we know them to be capable of.

Yours sincerely

Simon Leach
Deputy Headteacher