



Science Team Homework Policy

Key Stage 3

Science is taught in topics based on the 'Spotlight Science' scheme. The topics vary in length but over the three years cover all aspects of the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Key Stage 3.

Students commence Key Stage 3 by continuing with the carefully balanced 'transition programme' designed to ease the transfer from Key Stage 2 to 3. All students have 6 lessons over a period of two weeks which may be taken by one or two teachers who would usually teach separate topics.

On occasion your child may be taught by a trainee teacher under the close guidance of the normal class teacher.

Each topic is assessed using National Curriculum levels by either a longer AFL (Assessment for learning) task requiring independent study or an 'End of Topic' test. As such the homework set by your child's teacher will vary according to the topic being studied at the time.

The general guidelines are

- 3 homeworks over a two week (AB) period
- Homework to take about 20 -30 minutes on average
- Homework tasks may include: learning for quick tests, research, answering questions, drawing diagrams, mind-mapping, watching a topical TV programme, revision of the whole topic, ongoing project work, preparation of presentations to name a few.

Homework is expected to be completed

A Homework club runs every lunch time in Room 9 either for extra help, a quiet area or use of textbooks and computers

Homework may be assessed orally, by written tasks or tests, or by peer assessment.

If homework is not completed students will attend a lunch time detention set by the teacher

Failure to attend the teacher's detention and/ ongoing defaulters will attend a team detention

Failure to attend the Team detention will result in parents being informed.

Parents of ongoing defaulters will also be informed

Key Stage 4

Year 10

Students in Year 10 follow the Gateway B Core Science leading to a GCSE grade at the end of year 10.

The course covers the new National Curriculum Programme of Study for Key Stage 4 and includes Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

There are modular exams in January and June. (67%)

There is a coursework element (33%) consisting of 'I can do' tasks and a longer piece of work requiring research at home and write up of the task in lesson time at school. All students have 10 lessons over a period of two weeks which may be taken by two or three teachers who would usually teach the Biology, Chemistry or Physics of the course depending on their specialism.

On occasion your child may be taken for some lessons by a trainee teacher under the close guidance of the normal class teacher.

Each module is completed by an end of Module test and mocks are sat in December and May.

The coursework element is completed at various times throughout the modules.

All students are issued with a GCSE Gateway Work book

The general guidelines are

- 5 set homeworks over a two week (AB) period
- Homework may vary from 10 – 60 minutes depending on the task
- Homework tasks may include: learning for quick tests, research, answering questions, drawing diagrams, mind-mapping, watching a topical TV programme, revision of the whole topic, completion of questions in work books, preparation of presentations to name a few.
- Students are always expected to read through the lesson's work before the next lesson to ensure understanding and to enable them to raise any problems they have.

Homework is expected to be completed

Homework may be assessed orally, by written tasks or tests, or by peer assessment.

If homework is not completed students will attend a lunch time detention set by the teacher

Failure to attend the teacher's detention and/ ongoing defaulters will attend a team detention

Failure to attend the Team detention will result in parent being informed.

Parents of ongoing defaulters will also be informed.

Year 11 GCSE

Students in year 11 either follow OCR GCSE Double Award Linear B course or OCR Foundation Salter's Science.

All students have 10 lessons over a period of two weeks which may be taken by two or three teachers who would usually teach the Biology, Chemistry or Physics of the course depending on their specialism. Salter's topics tend to have a mixture of all three subjects but a greater focus on one aspect.

Both specifications have a coursework requirement (20%) which includes one piece each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each topic is completed by an end of topic test and the mock is in November.

All students have a GCSE assessed question on Friday

The general guidelines are

- 5 set homeworks over a two week (AB) period
- Homework may vary from 10 – 60 minutes depending on the task
- Homework tasks may include: learning for quick tests, research, answering questions, drawing diagrams, mind-mapping, watching a topical TV programme, revision of the whole topic, completion of questions in work books, coursework, preparation of presentations to name a few.
- Students are always expected to read through the lesson's work before the next lesson to ensure understanding and to enable them to raise any problems they have.
- During Coursework times students are expected to continue with the write up after every lesson as a result their workload may increase.

Homework is expected to be completed

Homework may be assessed orally, by written tasks or tests, by peer assessment.

Coursework is assessed using GCSE criteria. Students are given guidelines on how to improve their work before the final assessment which is internally moderated.

If homework is not completed students will attend a lunch time detention set by the teacher

Failure to attend the teacher's detention and/ ongoing defaulters will attend a team detention

Failure to attend the Team detention will result in parent being informed.

Parents of ongoing defaulters will also be informed.

Failure to complete coursework will result in non-entry to the GCSE.

Work Related Curriculum Year 10 and 11

Homework is not generally set for these students; however from time to time when coursework is being carried out students may be asked to complete some research in their own time.

Sixth Form

All students at AS and A2 are expected to spend 5 hours independent study per week per A level subject in the sixth form.

The work may take the form of reading, making notes, practice questions, research, essay writing, preparation of presentations, writing up of coursework, revision etc.

The nature of the assessment is very dependent on the particular area of study which varies from week to week.

All students are expected to read over notes and complete background reading using references given in order to consolidate their learning and understanding. Research shows that students who complete all independent study as required more easily reach and even surpass their target grade.

Summary

Year group	No. set over AB cycle	Approximate time
Key stage 3	3	90 minutes
Year 10	5	2-3 hours
Year 11	5	2-3 hours
Work Related Curriculum	0	0
Year 12 and 13	4-10	10 hours