

18 January 2021

Key Stage 3 Homework Strategy

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following a process of feedback and review, it has been decided that during this period of remote learning we will be adopting a new approach to homework in Key Stage 3.

This new and exciting approach to homework takes into consideration the time students are being required to spend working from home and, in particular, required to spend in front of their screens.

We understand that this strategy is a step away from our normal approach to homework, but these are different times that we believe are in need of a refreshed methodology. We hope that this will balance the pressure that our new style of working can have on home life.

This homework strategy has two strands to it: compulsory and optional

- **Compulsory** – Hegarty Maths (30 mins per task) and directed reading (20 mins approximately per day, monitored on a [reading log](#))
- **Optional** – a menu of varied and engaging projects for students to choose from ([outlined in full in the document here](#)).

The optional strand to this strategy is designed to allow students to select the projects that are of greatest interest to them to complete. We encourage all students to choose their optional projects based on their own preferences to maximise their enjoyment and development of independent learning skills.

Please select from the list below (further projects may be added at a later date):

Subject Area	Optional Project details *Further details on the school website
Art	Children's book illustration project The Selfie – project
Drama	Independent learning task
DT	James Dyson Foundation Projects
English	Three Spring Term English Challenges* Pixar Film Analysis
Food Tech.	Taste Kitchen Challenge – design a dish for your family
Geography	Protect Our Planet – environmental project

History	History based screen break tasks – creative tasks with a historical focus!
ICT	National Museum Computing Tour Computer Science unplugged activities Computational thinking puzzlebook All Projects found here.
MFL	Poetry writing project – how creative can you be in a foreign language?
Music	Music challenges: Year 7 – Instruments of the Orchestra Year 8 - Variation Year 9 – Medieval Music
RS	Religion, philosophy and even a Lego challenge!
Science	Try at home experiments!

The full list of optional projects is located on our website [here](#) with hyperlinks included to further information.

We would also encourage students that are keen sportspeople to continue to train and develop fitness levels in skill, as is permitted under current government guidelines.

We hope that by adopting this balanced approach to homework, students will engage with timetabled remote learning lessons fully and in their most positive manner, in the knowledge that the end of the school day allows for greater freedom of choice and balance.

We would welcome students sharing their completed projects with us as we would be really interested to see what they have been up to at this time. Please email any work you would like shared to your son or daughter's tutor or class teacher for recognition of the work they have produced.

Please note that this is a new homework strategy for Key Stage 3, and therefore all Key Stage 4 and 5 students will continue to receive homework for their subject teachers that is designed to support their progress in their examination courses, as set out in the homework timetable on the school website.

We hope that you will find this combination of compulsory homework and optional project work a positive approach to creating a balance during this time.

Mr Thomas
Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning

