



St Mark's Academy
Acacia Road, Mitcham, CR4 1SF
020 8648 6627
school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk
www.stmarksacademy.com
Principal: Ms Hannah Fahey

Home-learning at St Mark's Academy

15 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so pleased to have welcomed our wonderful students back to the Academy, and we hope that you and your families had a wonderful Summer. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to continuing to provide transformational experiences and opportunities for all our students to support them to live life to the fullest.

I write to you today about home-learning, previously known as homework. We believe that the purpose of home-learning is to provide an opportunity for guided independence, where learners develop the skills to become self-efficacious. We recognise that much like we promote a journey of transformation, that the journey towards independence is one that needs to be carefully supported and planned, to support learners to develop reflective and metacognitive skills to therefore independently access, recall, consolidate and apply knowledge.

All home-learning will be set through ClassCharts, a new online platform which you will shortly receive log-in details for. All students have been (KS3) or will be given their logins (next week for KS4 and 5), so that they can track the setting of home-learning. Teachers will indicate the task, wider purpose of the activity, and how to submit the work. They will also indicate the deadline and the duration of time that should be spent completing the activity.

We have chosen to adapt the language to home-learning as we want the learning completed outside of lessons to support and enrich the learning that takes place within the classroom. We recognise that there can be several factors that can affect whether a student can complete learning from home, so we ask that you get in touch with us via reception, if there are any barriers that we can support in overcoming. There is also a home-learning club each day in the library after school, so please do encourage this time and space to be used. Please do contact reception with any queries or concerns.

Research suggests that home-learning is more valuable when it is meaningful, purposeful and receives feedback; we value the time that meaningful home-learning takes and therefore take the approach of quality over quantity. In taking this approach and staggering the sequence of home-learning throughout the years in the Academy, we will ensure that the home-learning that is set, is impactful and conducive to learners knowing more, thinking more and therefore being able to do more with their knowledge.



This journey towards independence should be carefully mapped and sequence across their seven years at the Academy.

Stage 1: Establishing focuses on years, 7 and 8, to support key knowledge and skills that underpin the entire curriculum, namely numeracy and literacy, with a discrete focus on reading. Students will not be set specific subject home-learning but may be given optional activities by some teachers.



Stage 2 is the Emerging stage where year 9 begin to prepare for their GCSE courses, flipping learning to support more independent thinking, meaning that they begin to identify powerful knowledge and how knowledge connects, building towards more procedural knowledge. Year 9 will begin to have home-learning set by their subjects after October half term, and more subjects will be added to this timetable as the year progressed. Year 9 will continue their literacy, numeracy and reading home-learning throughout the year.

Stage 3 is the Embedding stage for years 10 and 11, where students are immersed into their GCSE courses and begin to embed their knowledge and their understanding of the application of this knowledge through exam-style preparation. They will follow a weekly home-learning timetable and will be expected to read and revise throughout the year.

Stage 4 is the Excelling stage, where our KS5 learners explore around their subjects, still retaining the focus on embedding their approach to exam-style preparation, whilst being guided to read around their subjects and synthesise from a broader knowledge basis to enrich and deepen their understanding. Again, they will be set home-learning each week by their subjects, but this should be the minimum work that they are completing outside of the classroom.

This sequence will empower learners to own their own learning over time as all stages are underpinned through learning strategies that support learners to revise and thrive in their subjects. Overleaf, you can find a detailed diagram of the approach to home-learning, and you can find the home-learning timetable for years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school through reception. We thank you in advance for your support.

Yours Faithfully

Danielle Finlay
Vice Principal