

Year 10 – IT Systems, Homework and Changing Options

Dear Year 10 Parents / Guardians,

We are very pleased with the start that Year 10 have made to the new school year.

I am writing to provide you with information about two key elements which support the learning process: our IT systems and homework. I will also provide you with details of how your child may change an option subject if they are considering doing so.

1. IT Systems

BYOD

As you will know from the information you received from us before your child joined the school, we require all students to bring a mobile device into school to support teaching and learning. These bring significant additional opportunities because students can make use of their device to connect to the internet as and when they need to:

- Online quizzes for immediate feedback on learning
- Accessing shared lesson and homework resources in Google Classroom
- Photographing/videoing practical work
- Research
- Accessing specific learning resources, e.g. Maths Watch and Vocab Express
- Accessing GCSE past papers and mark schemes

It is therefore essential that your child has a fully charged mobile device in school every day and has access to a fixed computer or mobile device at home.

Our BYOD Code of Conduct (attached) requires students to use the wifi when in school. This is a filtered system and students can only access age appropriate websites when connected to it. If your child is still having problems getting connected, they can contact our IT Services for support by following the instructions on the IT summary document which is also attached to this e-mail. This summary also outlines the key Google applications which our students use and provides links to introductory videos on each of these.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a very important application which allows teachers to set work and share resources with the students in their class. It also allows students to complete the work online and submit it to their teachers for marking and feedback.

As all homework will be set on Google Classroom, it is essential that your child understands how to use it. If they are unsure, please watch through the instruction video with them. If they still need help, they should discuss this with their form tutor.

2. Homework

We believe that homework is a very important part of the learning process. This is, in part, to support the teaching and learning which takes place in school. It also helps our students develop the independent learning skills that will support them in their post-16 studies and adult life.

The homework itself, including the deadline for completion, and any resources required to complete it will be posted by your child's teacher on Google Classroom. The students will receive a notification of this in their email inbox and will also be able to see it in the class folders in Google Classroom. It is important that your child follows the instructions given by their teacher.

It is an absolute requirement that homework is completed and submitted on the deadline set. The expectation is that students spend around 2 hours per night on homework in Year 10.

The table below shows the number of times homework should be set in each subject per fortnight and the approximate time it should take:

Subject	Year Group	Frequency	Time (Approximate)
English	Year 10	Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	Weekly	1 hour per week
Maths	Year 10	2 x Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	2 x Weekly	1 hour per week
Science	Year 10	Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	Weekly	1 hour per week
RS	Year 10	Fortnightly	1 hour per fortnight
	Year 11	Fortnightly	1 hour per fortnight
Option subjects	Year 10	Weekly	1 hour per week
	Year 11	Weekly	1 hour per week

The school homework timetable can be found on our school website by clicking on the link below:

<https://gillotts.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/overview/>

Your child should know which class they are in for each subject as this is recorded on the front of their exercise books and on the printed copy of their timetable which has been stuck in their planner. If they are still unsure, please contact your child's tutor who will be able to help. Please can you also sign your child's planner weekly as part of this process.

3. Changing GCSE Options

While the vast majority of students will be happy with the option choices they have made, there is usually a small number of students who would like to make a change. It is important to consider this decision carefully and your child should have a discussion with their tutor in the first instance. The deadline for changing option is **Friday 29th September**. Any students considering a change of options should discuss this with their form tutor in the first instance.

We have sent out information regarding the Year 10 GCSE Information Evening on Thursday 5th October 2023 - and I look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to once again encourage you to contact your child's form tutor if you have any questions regarding these matters.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Newbold
Deputy Head