

Study and Homework

We all should expect the highest standards of work and study from students as they progress towards the Leaving Certificate Examinations.

Full attendance at school, concentration in class and private study/homework are essential for the successful student.

Senior students are expected to apply themselves taking a mature approach to work and study with a high standard of self-discipline.

Senior Cycle students are encouraged to take on responsibility for their own study. During these years students are advised by their teachers, Year Heads and Guidance Counsellor about the best ways to plan and carry out their personal study.

In particular

- The place of study should be comfortable and quiet with no distractions such as mobile phones, TV, MP3 players etc.
- In 5th/6th Year the student should be more independent in his/her application to study (as opposed to homework) and give study the priority it requires.
- Students should keep notes organised in separate folders according to subject.
- The student should plan study on a weekly basis. Setting targets for study serves as a useful way of gauging progress and acts as a motivator.
- It is expected that work will be completed on time and to the best of the student's ability.
- The student should keep a balance between study, social interaction and participation in extra-curricular activities. The right balance and a healthy approach to exercise and sleep will contribute to academic success.
- Part-time work is not recommended and can adversely affect progress in school.
- Students are encouraged to liaise with their teacher for advice, in the first instance, if they are experiencing difficulties. Students and/or parents should contact the Year Head if difficulties persist.

The Purpose of Study and Homework

1. To reinforce and practise what is learnt in class
2. To prepare for tests and examinations
3. To encourage independent study, learning and regular reviewing of work
4. To get feedback from teacher
5. To allow for the completion of class work and coursework

Time (approximate) spent on Study and Homework

5th Year 15 - 18 hours *effective work* per week
for example: 2½ - 3 hours each evening and 3 hours
study at the weekend

6th Year 18 - 22 hours *effective work* per week
for example: 3 hours each evening and 3+ hours
study at the weekend

Some students will manage more than this.

But remember:

The top grades demand this time commitment (at least).
Effective study means you are alive, alert and efficient.
The Leaving Certificate is a 2 year course and requires
substantial effort and dedication over the two years.
Working during holiday time will be necessary

In subjects where there are projects and practicals it is important that
deadline dates are noted well in advance and the deadlines for these are
met. This prevents an overload of work closer to the written examinations.

Absence from Class

If a student is absent from class it is the responsibility of the student to
catch up on work that has been missed.

Extra curricular activities should not be used as an excuse for not
producing work. If a student has a concern then he/she should consult
with the subject teacher. In the case of longer planned or un-planned
absences the student or parent should consult with the Year Head for
advice.

Advice for Students

1. Form good habits

- a. Study at same place each day/evening
- b. No TV, mobile phone or any technology based distractions
- c. Decide on time required for each homework or assignment
- d. If you have additional time look ahead to work set for later in the week or review and study earlier work
- e. Take short breaks & reward yourself when work is finished

2. Get organised before you start – have a clear desk or table

- a. Student diary
- b. Text books, copy books, note pads, files
- c. Pens, pencils, drawing equipment, calculator dictionary etc

3. Use your Student Journal

- a. Write down homework as it is set
- b. Tick off when you complete homework
- c. Look for opportunity to do long-term work
- d. Note important dates for oral, practical and project deadlines

4. Get motivated, set goals, plan ahead

- a. The key to motivation is to set realistic goals
- b. Set daily, weekly, monthly goals – Make sure these are realistic
- c. Enjoy the sense of achievement as you reach these targets

5. Time management

- a. Do work at same time each evening; get into a steady routine
- b. Allocate time for each assignment
- c. Take short breaks (and keep them short!)
- d. Use any “leftover” time to review work (Steady!)
 - Summarise topic in notes or bullet point form
 - Summarise a chapter
 - Select questions from revision exercise at end of topic or chapter
 - Highlight headings, key facts, dates etc in book
 - Read

6. Tackling a test or exam paper

- a. Read all of question or paper before you start
- b. Allocate time for each question – spend more time on questions worth more marks
- c. Answer your “best” question first
- d. Correct test or exam as soon as possible