



# Home Learning Policy and Practice

*Amended: July 2020*

*Next Review date: July 2021*

*Agreed by the Local Governing Body: Oct 2020*

### **Rationale for setting Home Learning Tasks**

Fort Pitt has undertaken extensive research into international approaches to Home Learning (HL) and canvassed opinion from students, staff, parents and governors alike. From this we have formulated a well-balanced HL programme that enables students to develop the skills and attitudes they will require for successful life-long learning. Students are given opportunities through HL to prepare for, embed, extend, enrich and enhance their learning experiences in order to improve their performance and raise attainment. In addition, HL will prepare students to become independent learners, a prerequisite for any university course or career they may choose to follow.

### **Benefits of Home Learning for students**

Home Learning provides opportunities to:

- gain and further develop essential transferable life skills, such as organisation, independent learning, time-management, prioritisation and an aptitude for high level research
- practise skills and techniques before and after lessons that accelerate learning and progress
- carry out assessed tasks and receive formative feedback, which will increase confidence levels and a sense of pride
- prepare for summative assessments
- develop work life balance

### **Examples of Home Learning Tasks at Fort Pitt**

- ✓ wider reading around a subject
- ✓ research for extended projects
- ✓ preparation for presentations
- ✓ preparing for discussions and debates
- ✓ comprehension tasks
- ✓ creative tasks such as blogs/mini-websites
- ✓ extended writing tasks
- ✓ exam practice questions
- ✓ revision for tests and examinations
- ✓ response to assessment feedback
- ✓ carrying out practical tasks
- ✓ rehearsing for music, drama
- ✓ flipped learning investigative work
- ✓ collecting and organising materials on a topic or theme
- ✓ Enrichment tasks within Sixth Form.

This list is not exhaustive.

## **Home Learning Support and Guidance**

**Students** should use their 'student planner' to record all HL tasks and deadlines and mark them off once completed.

**Staff** should set meaningful, useful, stretching and challenging HL activities which are both sensitive to the time required and deadlines given.

**Parents** are asked to support their child with HL by:

- ✓ providing a suitable quiet place to study
- ✓ ensuring adequate time is allocated for the completion of HL tasks
- ✓ establishing a regular routine for HL and private study
- ✓ checking the 'student planner', making comments where appropriate and signing it weekly
- ✓ regularly showing interest in all current HL tasks and discussing the work, expectations and deadlines with their child
- ✓ regularly reviewing the feedback given to previous HL tasks and reflecting on how the work could have been improved
- ✓ contacting the school if there are any concerns in relation to HL.

### **Frequency and Quantity of Home Learning**

During KS3, Years 7 and 8 will spend around 30 minutes per HL task set.

During KS4, Years 9-11 will spend around 45 minutes per task.

During KS5, Years 12 and 13 will spend a minimum of 5 hours per subject per week on HL, study tasks and research.

**Failure to complete HL tasks** by the deadlines set will result in sanctions being applied by the classroom teacher. Persistent failure to complete HL will indicate a need for the formal school sanctions procedure to be followed.