

HOMESTUDY POLICY

RATIONALE

Homestudy can be defined as theoretical or practical work undertaken at home, which relates to, consolidates and supports work undertaken in school hours. This includes the completion of set tasks, assignments, completion of class work, preparation for test and examinations, revision and research and wider reading.

For success at secondary level, balanced and consistent application is needed at school and at home. The setting and completion of Homestudy is therefore viewed as an integral part of the educational process at Yarra Hills Secondary College. This is seen to reinforce and enrich the curriculum and encourage excellence and requires the support of both parent and teacher groups.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop organisational and time management skills
- To develop the student's capacity to assume responsibility for his or her own learning
- To encourage students to realise that high aspirations and consistent effort in school and at home maximise the likelihood of success.
- To develop a balanced and consistent approach to study at home and at school.

GUIDELINES

- The nature and amount of Homestudy at each Year Level will vary according to individual age, learning needs and contexts.
- Students at junior levels are introduced to appropriate tasks, study techniques and time management skills as a preparation for senior studies.
- Sequential development of these skills assists preparation for the senior years, when individual initiative and planning are particularly vital.
- It is also important that Homestudy is balanced by hobby, social and sporting pursuits in order to provide appropriately for individual interests, growth and relaxation.
- As a general rule the College recommends the following minimum guidelines:
 - Years 7/8 3 Hours per week
 - Years 9/10 5 Hours per week
 - Years 11/12 15 Hours per week

It should be recognised that these are only recommendations. Individual differences between students and additional factors, such as varying subject demands, and other commitments and family responsibilities would need to be taken into account.

- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that work is subsequently completed after absence due to illness, appointments, sporting commitments, religious or other holidays.
- Teachers and Key Learning Area Coordinators are responsible for overseeing the nature and frequency of appropriate Homestudy tasks for students.
- Parents and carers share responsibility for encouraging maximum input and levels of performance.

- Students are responsible for recording Homestudy details in their compulsory school planners and completing the tasks involved. Students are required to replace (at their own cost) planners that are defaced or used inappropriately.
- Both parents and teachers share the responsibility for checking students' planners regularly to ensure their correct use and to monitor and report on individual progress.
- The process is further monitored by Year Level Coordinators, who endeavour to ensure an equitable and consistent Homestudy program for students.
- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that clear instructions regarding Homestudy are given and that set tasks are regularly monitored and corrected.
- Staff should notify parents when Homestudy tasks are frequently not attempted or incomplete.
- A Homework Help Club is provided by the College.

Additional Information

HELPING STUDENTS

Parents and carers can help students with their Homestudy by:

- encouraging a regular pattern for completing Homestudy
- providing a quiet, distraction free and orderly place for Homestudy
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with Homestudy
- helping to balance the time spent between Homestudy and recreational activities
- asking how Homestudy and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- talking to teachers about any Homestudy problems
- checking if Homestudy has been set
- ensuring students have and maintain the College planner
- reading texts set by teachers
- discussing their child's responses to set texts and asking to see their completed work
- discussing Homestudy with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking Homestudy and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language.
- regularly checking their child's Compass page