Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Homework Guide for Parents and Carers

The Malling School

Welcome

Welcome to The Malling School's guide to supporting learning beyond the classroom. We believe that the partnership between school and home helps every student develop confidence, resilience and independence. This guide explains what homework you can expect, why it matters and how you can best support your child.

The Malling School's Approach to Learning at Home

Homework is designed to reinforce learning, develop independent study habits and prepare students for future success. We aim to set homework that is purposeful, manageable and meaningful.

How can parents and carers help?

- Establish a regular homework routine, helping to construct schedule for homework completion.
- Provide a quiet place to work where possible.
- Quizzing your child on core knowledge.
- Encourage your child to attempt tasks independently before offering help.
- Ask questions that encourage your child to explain their thinking.
- Praise effort, organisation and resilience.
- Encourage them to seek help from their teacher before the deadline, if they are unsure of how to complete the homework.
- Encourage attendance at Homework club in the Library before and after school each day.

What should parents and carers avoid?

- Completing work for students
- Teaching alternative methods/strategies
- Over-editing the student's work
- Using AI to complete work

Homework at a Glance

The table below provides an overview of the regularity students should expect to receive homework for each subject. Homework may occasionally vary depending on the topic being studied or upcoming assessments. Teachers will always communicate any additional requirements to students via Bromcom.

Subject	KS3 Frequency	KS4 Frequency
English	Once a week	Once a week
Maths	Once a week; Approximately 30 mins	Once a week; Approximately 45 mins
Science	Once a week; Approximately 30 mins	Once a week; Approximately 45 mins
Languages	Once a week	Once a week
Geography	Once a week; Approximately 20 mins	Once a week
History	Once a week	Once a week; Approximately 20 mins
Sport	N/A	Once a fortnight
Computer Science	Once a week; Approximately 20 mins	Once a week; Approximately 45 mins
Food Technology	2 pieces every full term, 6 per year	Once a fortnight
Drama	Once a fortnight	Once a week
Music	Once a fortnight; Approximately 30 mins	Once a week; Approximately 45 mins
Dance	N/A	Once a week; Approximately 45 mins
Art, 3D Design, Textiles & Photography	N/A	Once a week; Approximately 2 hours
Media Studies	N/A	Once a week
Health & Social Care	N/A	Once a week; Approximately 1 hour
Social Sciences	Once a fortnight	Once a week

Using AI Responsibly

AI can be a useful study tool for explaining concepts, creating quizzes and supporting revision. It should never replace independent thinking or complete homework on a student's behalf. Students should follow teacher guidance and make sure any submitted work reflects their own understanding.

English

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set weekly and will typically involve completion of a homework booklet, including retrieval quizzes and revision tasks. It is important for students to learn key terms and techniques as they go along as this builds to required knowledge at GCSE. I would recommend that students always have a book to read for pleasure.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and till typically involve completion of a homework booklet, including retrieval quizzes, revision tasks and reading of set texts
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: The English homework booklets have been carefully designed to support the work completed in lessons. The key resource is the Knowledge Organiser in the booklet. **KS4**: Online versions of the texts and The Globe Theatre version of Romeo and Juliet
Key Focus	Learning core knowledge Consolidation of class work Preparing for future learning Independent practice Consolidation of classwork Exam technique

Key Takeaway: Regular reading and retrieval help students build the language, knowledge and confidence needed for success in English.

Why this homework matters

English homework is designed to build the knowledge, vocabulary and confidence students need for reading, writing and GCSE preparation. Homework booklets and knowledge organisers help students learn key terms and techniques steadily over time.

Maths

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 30 minutes completing tasks set on Sparx Maths
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve completing tasks set on Sparx Maths and completing Exam questions. This should take approximately 45 minutes.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: Corbettmaths Youtube Sparx; **KS4**: Corbettmaths, SaveMyExams, On Maths, Maths Genie, Youtube tutorials
Key Focus	Consolidation of classwork

Key Takeaway: Little and often is the key to confidence in Maths; regular practice helps methods stick.

Why this homework matters

Maths homework gives students regular practice so they can consolidate methods taught in lessons, build fluency and develop confidence with problem solving.

Possible barriers / notes

Not having the correct equipment such as calculator, ruler, compass and protractor

Science

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 30 minutes completing tasks set on Sparx Science and quizzing with the Core Knowledge Questions.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 45 minutes completing tasks set on Sparx Science, completing exam questions and revision tasks.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: BBC Bitesize Science https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p Sparx Science - https://sparxscience.com/ **KS4**: BBC Bitesize Combined Science Edexcel - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zqkww6f Sparx Science - https://sparxscience.com/ Scarecrow Science Simulations: https://scarecrowscience.co.uk/ Scarecrow Science Youtube videos: https://www.youtube.com/@mrjdfield
Key Focus	Learning core knowledge Consolidation of classwork Exam technique

Key Takeaway: Retrieval practice and Sparx tasks help students remember scientific knowledge and apply it accurately.

Why this homework matters

Science homework helps students learn and retain core knowledge, consolidate classwork and practise applying scientific ideas to retrieval quizzes, Sparx tasks and exam-style questions.

Possible barriers / notes

Access to internet and digital devices to complete Sparx science.

Languages

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set weekly and will involve completion of a homework booklet.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve completion of a homework booklet.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: www.wordreference.com **KS4**: Spanish: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zwbhb7h French: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zhkvkhv
Key Focus	Consolidation of class work Learning core knowledge

Key Takeaway: Short, regular vocabulary practice is one of the most effective ways to make progress in a language.

Why this homework matters

Languages homework helps students revisit vocabulary and grammar regularly, which is essential for confidence in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Possible barriers / notes

Not knowing how to pronounce words in French or Spanish. If this is the case, Google translate has an option where you can have Google read the word/sentence/text to the student.

Geography

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 20 mins completing retrieval quizzes.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve completing retrieval quizzes & exam questions.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS4**: Edexcel A GCSE Revision Guide (advised to purchase at Year 10 parents evening)
Key Focus	Consolidation of class work Recall of knowledge from previous topics Consolidation of classwork Exam technique

Key Takeaway: Regular retrieval helps students connect places, processes and case studies across the course.

Why this homework matters

Geography homework reinforces geographical knowledge, retrieval practice and exam technique so that students can connect ideas across topics and prepare for assessment.

Possible barriers / notes

Access to devices (phone/laptop)

History

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set weekly and will involve completing retrieval quizzes.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will be based around exam style questions and application of knowledge. This should take approximately 20 minutes.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: BBC Bitesize Knowledge (https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39) Organizers in curriculum booklets; **KS4**: BBC Bitesize Knowledge Organisers in Curriculum booklets Oxford REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE History Revision series entitled 'Complete Revision and practice' series editor Aaron Wilkes
Key Focus	Consolidation of class work Exam technique Consolidation of classwork

Key Takeaway: Revisiting key knowledge regularly helps students explain historical events with greater confidence.

Why this homework matters

History homework supports students in consolidating classwork, remembering key knowledge and developing the exam technique needed for clear historical explanations.

Possible barriers / notes

Accessing teams for quizzes at home

Sport

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	No homework is set for KS3.
KS4	Homework is set fortnightly and will involve tasks prepare students for their BTEC Sport component assessments in Year 10 (May) and Year 11 (December). Once these coursework components have been completed, homework focuses on preparation for the Component 3 examination in May of Year 11.
Platform(s) / Resources	Lesson resources
Key Focus	Preparation for coursework Consolidation of classwork Independent study Exam preparation

Key Takeaway: Regular completion of homework helps students stay on track with BTEC coursework deadlines and prepares them thoroughly for the final examination.

Why this homework matters

Sport homework is carefully planned to support students through each stage of the BTEC course. Early homework develops the knowledge and evidence needed for the internally assessed components, while later homework focuses on revising key content and practising examination skills for Component 3.

Computer Science

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set weekly and will involve completing approximately 20 mins of Tassomai retrieval quizzes.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 45 minutes completing exam questions & Tassomai retrieval quizzes.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f **KS4**: Python - https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqK_fRVXlXeaFrKvtWnQU1TLykklJB4ug&si=HGM5t2WGaSZyrOug All content - https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCiOXwirraUAEhj4TUjMxYm4593B2dUPF&si=hsy0-xXKIliXYHBT
Key Focus	Preparing for future learning Learning core knowledge Consolidation of class work Independent practice Consolidation of classwork Exam technique

Key Takeaway: Regular practice helps students build confidence with key concepts, programming and exam technique.

Why this homework matters

Computer Science homework reinforces computational thinking, programming knowledge and key theory so that students can apply concepts independently.

Food Technology

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Each term, two pieces of homework are set and will involve completion of the homework booklet.
KS4	Homework is set fortnightly and will involve completion of retrieval quizzes, exam questions and revision tasks.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: School resources shared on Teams **KS4**: All resources are shared on Teams
Key Focus	Independent practice Exam technique Learning core knowledge Consolidation of classwork

Key Takeaway: Organisation and regular completion of booklet or revision tasks help students prepare for both practical and written work.

Why this homework matters

Food Technology homework supports independent practice, core knowledge, exam technique and preparation for practical and written tasks.

Drama

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set fortnightly and will involve completion of a homework booklet.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve research and completion of log writing.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: Everything required to complete KS3 homework can be found in the homework booklet **KS4**: https://getintotheatre.org/ https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/resources/the-curious-incident-of-the-dog-in-the-night-time-resource-pack https://www.thejohngodbercompany.co.uk/john-godber
Key Focus	Learning core knowledge Completion of coursework Completion of rehearsal logs or technical research from lessons

Key Takeaway: Drama homework is most effective when students take ownership of rehearsal, research and reflection over time.

Why this homework matters

Drama homework helps students build the knowledge and discipline needed for practical performance, research, log writing and coursework.

Possible barriers / notes

Some Drama homework may require students to access online resources, complete written research or write up rehearsal logs. Parents and carers can support by helping students plan time for these tasks and by encouraging them to keep notes and logs up to date.

In Year 10, homework is often written and may involve researching a topic or recording ideas from lessons. In Year 11, students may also need to learn lines, practise scenes and complete written logs. Where group rehearsal or extra support is needed, students should speak to their teacher about available after-school opportunities.

Music

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set fortnightly and will involve spending approximately 30 minutes completing the homework booklet and revision tasks.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 45 minutes completing tasks such as continuing with coursework on PowerPoint, doing listening activities and/or practising their chosen instrument.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: School resources **KS4**: School Resources BBC Bitesize Musical Futures Just Play Ultimate Guitar YouTube/Spotify/other method of listening to music SoundTrap
Key Focus	Learning core knowledge Consolidation of class work Reading/research Preparing for future learning Coursework Consolidation of classwork

Key Takeaway: Short, regular practice is more effective in Music than leaving rehearsal or coursework until the last minute.

Why this homework matters

Music homework supports listening skills, subject knowledge, rehearsal habits and independent practice, especially as students progress towards coursework and performance.

Possible barriers / notes

Some Music homework may require students to listen to music online, use YouTube or access specific music platforms. For KS4 students, regular rehearsal is especially important, and students may need access to their instrument at home where possible.

Parents and carers can support by helping students find short, regular opportunities to practise. Even 10–15 minutes at a time can make a difference. At KS4, homework may look different for each student because they may be working on different instruments, pieces or coursework tasks. Students should therefore be encouraged to check Bromcom, Teams and teacher instructions carefully, and to ask for support if they are unsure what they should be working on.

Dance

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Dance is a KS4 only subject
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 45 minutes completing tasks such as writing up work from the lesson, carrying out independent research and rehearsing practical elements from the lesson.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS4**: A workbook provided Links shared on Teams.
Key Focus	Learning core knowledge Consolidation of class work Reading/research Preparing for future learning Coursework Consolidation of classwork

Key Takeaway: Short, regular rehearsal and reflection help Dance students build confidence, remember choreography and prepare effectively for practical and written coursework.

Why this homework matters

Dance homework supports students in developing practical performance skills, understanding key dance knowledge and reflecting on their progress. Tasks such as writing up lesson work, completing research and rehearsing practical elements help students prepare for coursework and assessment.

Possible barriers / notes

Some Dance homework may require students to rehearse independently, complete written reflections or access resources shared on Teams. Parents and carers can support by helping students plan regular short practice sessions and encouraging them to keep written work up to date.

Students may need a suitable space to rehearse safely at home, where possible. If space or access to resources is a difficulty, students should speak to their teacher so that support or alternative arrangements can be discussed.

Art, 3D Design, Textiles & Photography

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	None
KS4	Homework is set weekly and students should spend approximately 2 hours completing coursework tasks. In Year 10, this is supported by a homework booklet and materials provided by the department. In Year 11, students are expected to use task checklists more independently to keep coursework development on track, particularly in the lead-up to mock exams.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS4**: Y10: Homework booklet & coursework tasks Y11: Task checklists
Key Focus	Coursework

Key Takeaway: Regular, focused coursework time helps students develop their ideas, refine their skills and keep on track with project deadlines.

Why this homework matters

Art, 3D Design, Textiles and Photography homework supports students in building a strong coursework portfolio over time. Weekly tasks help students develop ideas, practise techniques, complete research and refine work so that projects show clear progress and personal development.

Possible barriers / notes

Some homework may require students to complete practical work or continue developing coursework outside lessons. Parents and carers can support by helping students plan regular time for their work and encouraging them to keep task checklists, booklets and project deadlines up to date.

Where students find it difficult to access materials, space or equipment at home, they should attend the weekly after-school sessions on a Monday in B13.

Media Studies

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Media Studies is a KS4 only subject.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve revision tasks and completion of a homework booklet.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS4**: BBC Bitesize, Mrs Fisher on YouTube
Key Focus	Learning core knowledge

Key Takeaway: Media Studies homework is most useful when students regularly revisit key terminology and examples.

Why this homework matters

Media Studies homework helps students strengthen their knowledge of key media concepts, terminology and examples so they can prepare confidently for assessment.

Health & Social Care

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Health & Social Care is a KS4 only subject.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve spending approximately 30 mins completing a homework booklet, revision tasks and exam questions.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS4**: www.nhs.co.uk Homework and lesson booklets
Key Focus	Coursework Exam technique

Key Takeaway: Keeping booklets safe and completing tasks on time is essential for successful coursework in Health & Social Care.

Why this homework matters

Health & Social Care homework supports coursework, exam technique and the completion of booklet tasks that help students build evidence and knowledge over time.

Possible barriers / notes

Homework booklets and additional tasks are important because they help students build the knowledge and evidence needed for their coursework. Students should keep their booklet safe and bring it to lessons when required.

Parents and carers can support by encouraging students to complete tasks on time and by helping them stay organised with deadlines. A copy of the booklet will be uploaded to the student's Teams page, so students should use this if their paper copy is misplaced or unavailable.

Social Sciences

Homework Snapshot	
KS3	Homework is set fortnightly and will involve retrieval quizzes.
KS4	Homework is set weekly and will involve retrieval quizzes, exam questions & revision tasks.
Platform(s) / Resources	**KS3**: Cumulative assessment revision lists and shared files on Teams; **KS4**: Shared files on Teams and Curriculum booklets
Key Focus	Learning core knowledge Consolidation of class work Consolidation of classwork Exam technique

Key Takeaway: Regular retrieval practice helps students remember key knowledge and apply it confidently in written work.

Why this homework matters

Social Sciences homework helps students build and retain core knowledge through retrieval practice and apply it confidently in written responses and assessment.

Possible barriers / notes

Lack of internet

Resources Quick Reference

The resources below are taken from departmental responses. Internal resources such as Teams files, booklets and school resources are listed as text because they may require school access.

Subject	Resources
English	**KS3**: The English homework booklets have been carefully designed to support the work completed in lessons. The key resource is the Knowledge Organiser in the booklet. **KS4**: Online versions of the texts and The Globe Theatre version of Romeo and Juliet
Maths	**KS3**: Corbettmaths Youtube Sparx; **KS4**: Corbettmaths, SaveMyExams, On Maths, Maths Genie, Youtube tutorials
Science	**KS3**: BBC Bitesize Science https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p Sparx Science - https://sparxscience.com/ **KS4**: BBC Bitesize Combined Science Edexcel - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zqkww6f Sparx Science - https://sparxscience.com/ Scarecrow Science Simulations: https://scarecrowscience.co.uk/ Scarecrow Science Youtube videos: https://www.youtube.com/@mrjdfield
Languages	**KS3**: www.wordreference.com **KS4**: Spanish: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zwbhb7h French: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zhkvkhv
Geography	**KS4**: Edexcel A GCSE Revision Guide (advised to purchase at Year 10 parents evening)
History	**KS3**: BBC Bitesize Knowledge (https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39) Organizers in curriculum booklets; **KS4**: BBC Bitesize Knowledge Organisers in Curriculum booklets Oxford REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE History Revision series entitled 'Complete Revision and practice' series editor Aaron Wilkes
Computer Science	KS3: BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f KS4: Python - https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqK_fRVXlXeaFrKvtWnQU1TLykkUB4ug&si=HGM5t2WGaSZyrOug All content - https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCiOXwirraUAEhj4TUjMxYm4593B2dUPF&si=hsy0-xXKIliXYHBT
Food Technology	**KS3**: School resources shared on Teams **KS4**: All resources are shared on Teams
Drama	**KS3**: Everything required to complete KS3 homework can be found in the homework booklet **KS4**: https://getintotheatre.org/ https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/resources/the-curious-incident-of-the-dog-in-the-night-time-resource-pack https://www.thejohngodbercompany.co.uk/john-godber
Music	**KS3**: School resources **KS4**: School Resources BBC Bitesize Musical Futures Just Play Ultimate Guitar YouTube/Spotify/other method of listening to music SoundTrap
Media Studies	**KS4**: BBC Bitesize, Mrs Fisher on YouTube
Health & Social Care	**KS4**: www.nhs.co.uk Homework and curriculum booklets
Social Sciences	**KS3**: Cumulative assessment revision lists and shared files on Teams; **KS4**: Shared files on Teams and Curriculum booklets

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my child does not understand the homework?

Encourage your child to read the instructions carefully, look back at lesson notes or resources, and attempt what they can. If they remain stuck after 10-15 minutes, they should write down what they found difficult and ask their teacher for support.

How much help should I give?

The most helpful support is usually asking questions, helping with organisation and encouraging effort. Parents and carers should avoid completing the work, over-editing written tasks or teaching alternative methods that may conflict with lesson guidance.

What if my child does not have access to a device or the internet?

Please let the school know if access to technology is affecting homework. Laptops are available at homework club which runs before and after school every day in the Library (Morning session: **08:15–08:45** and After school session: **15:20–16:00**)

How can I help my child revise?

Short, regular retrieval practice is usually more effective than long last-minute revision sessions. Ask your child to explain key ideas, quiz them on knowledge organisers or vocabulary, and encourage them to revisit previous learning.

Can my child use AI for homework?

AI can be useful for explaining concepts, creating revision questions or checking understanding. It should not be used to complete homework, write answers on behalf of the student or replace independent thinking.

What if homework is causing stress at home?

Homework should support learning, not become a source of unnecessary conflict. If homework is regularly causing stress, please contact the pastoral team or inclusion team.

Need Support?

Please add the relevant school contact details below. This section is designed to help parents and carers know who to contact when they need support with homework or learning at home.

Homework queries:

Year 7: yr7homework@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 8: yr8homework@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 9: yr9homework@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 10: yr10homework@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Year 11: yr11homework@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Working Together

Every conversation about learning matters.

At The Malling School, we value the partnership between school and home. Homework is one way students build confidence, independence and resilience beyond the classroom. Your encouragement, interest and guidance make a meaningful difference.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning beyond the classroom. Together, we can help every student develop the habits, confidence and knowledge they need to succeed.