



HOME STUDY GUIDANCE

Home study at Highcliffe School is relevant, meaningful and reasonable in length. It extends the studies undertaken in school and helps students to build their resilience as well as develop their capacity as independent learners who take responsibility and pride in their endeavours. Home study is not an extra: it is an integral part of all courses at all levels and vital to any student's success.

Purposes of home study

- Allowing practice and consolidation of classwork
- Providing opportunities for individual work
- Training for students in planning and organising time
- Developing good habits and self-discipline
- Creating channels for home/school dialogue

Types of home study

There are various types of work which a student may be asked to undertake:

- Guided/Structured Revision for an examination preparation
- Written exercises
- Project work – part of longer-term assignments
- Reading – continuing a book started at school or purely reading for pleasure
- Research – gathering information
- Completing work started in class

When should home study be done?

At whatever time suits the individual but it is certainly advantageous to establish a routine. Some pointers for management include:

- Use the home study timetable to plan the work to be done each evening
- Commit yourself to do home study most nights, allowing some time for other activities
- Avoid leaving everything to the last minute

Where is it best to study?

Individuals have their preferences but, in general, the following conditions are thought best:

- On a flat surface, preferably a table or desk
- In a well-lit area
- Away from distractions such as television, computer, mobile phone

How much Home Study should be done?

Years 7/8: Each home study should take a minimum of 30 minutes to complete.

Years 9/10/11: Each home study should take a minimum of 45 minutes to complete.

Years 12/13: Students should expect to spend one hour, per subject, per evening.

How do you know what is set and when?

Parents: MyHighcliffe Parents Portal on the school website

Students: Can find information from MyHighcliffe on the school website
Will hand their home study in on time

What parents can do to help:

The most important thing parents can do is simply to take an interest in their child's work. Apart from trying to provide the correct time and place for home study to be completed, you could:

- Ask what home study must be done, check the school website and/or your child's organiser
- Contact the school as soon as problems arise
- Above all, please always offer encouragement!

What the school can do to help:

MyHelp Live is a home study clinic which operates before school each day from 8am and every lunch time in LS1. In addition, MyHelp Live runs Monday to Thursday from 3.05pm to 4.00pm in IT2 and the school's Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and is open to all students. There is always a member of staff there to assist students.

At Highcliffe School we are constantly striving to find new and innovative ways of supporting our students. To assist all students (Years 7-13) with their home study, 'MyHelp' has been put into place.

When accessing their home study via MyHighcliffe, all students are now able to click on an icon – a question mark – and type a message stating the difficulty they are encountering. This message is then sent to an administrator who offers guidance or seeks support on behalf of the student from the appropriate curriculum area. Advice is then given via email to assist the student with their home study.

Failure to hand in home study:

The school expects home study to be completed and handed in on time. This gives students valuable experience of meeting deadlines and facilitates staff with marking. If home study is not handed in, appropriate action is taken.

This will include:

- A demerit being issued, and a short extension of the deadline given
- Home study then needs to be handed to the Learning Resource Centre by the end of the next school day to avoid a further demerit being issued and a lunch time detention

This may include:

- Discussion between student and Subject Teacher, Tutor, Pastoral Lead or Head of Achievement
- Communication home via the school organiser/MyHighcliffe/texting service
- Detention at lunchtime or after school