

Higher Tregenna
St Ives
Cornwall
TR26 2BB
Phone: 01736 795608
01736 798474
www.st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk



Every Child, Inspiring Learning, Every Day

ST IVES SCHOOL

22nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to explain our approach to home learning (homework), and the exciting opportunities it presents all of us with. As parents will be aware, while schools were partially closed last year we were all facing new challenges one of which was having to work online. One of the benefits of this was how teachers improved their knowledge of online platforms and the way they could be used to promote student progress. Instead of traditional lessons, students (and parents / carers) were suddenly working in online classrooms and connecting with teachers remotely via phone, email or Google Meet! Now we are back in school, we feel we should continue to build on the progress we made, especially since many other organisations are now doing so much more of their work online. We have reviewed and evaluated our provision from lockdown and have come to the conclusion that we will gain significant advantages by continuing with many of these new approaches.

I am attaching a guide to the various online solutions we use as well as our guide that explains what happens when students have to self-isolate. In the Home Learning Guide there are links to some of the videos we made designed to support parents, carers and our students. I have also made a video that explains how home learning works overall. You can find it here:

<https://youtu.be/y1MH8mhsfp8>

I hope that these guides and videos are helpful. One of the areas we are investigating for the future is having a single sign on service – a service that allows students to sign on once and then get access to all our applications, without needing multiple passwords. I will keep parents updated with our progress on this.

A question many of our students ask is 'Why do we have to do home learning?' The answer is this: Home learning can have a significant impact on progress: it helps students to consolidate what they have learnt in lessons and to develop independent work habits, so vital for their future success. We can clearly see from our students' achievements in previous years that, not surprisingly, those who regularly complete their home learning to a good standard make more progress during their time with us than students who do not. We want to ensure that all our students benefit from the opportunity to extend their learning through independent study, and hope that the information below (as well as the guide) will help parents and carers to be able to support their children with this work.

We have a clear policy with regards to the home learning which teachers set: it must be at the correct level for the child, it must be purposeful (not set for the sake of setting it) and it must be linked to the work being studied in the lesson. Some home learning tasks are short and structured; others will be longer project based work. Teachers will always provide at least 48 hours before the work has to be submitted and will ensure tasks are of a manageable length for the age and stage of the child. There is more detail about our approach to home learning in our Homework Policy, available on our website.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Woodhouse BSc

Head of School: Mr J Butterworth MEd



Teachers set home learning using 'Satchel: One' (previously known as 'Show my Homework'), a web-based platform that shares details of the work, resources and hand in dates with parents and students. You can find it here: <https://www.satchelone.com/login>. Both parents and students can download an app to their mobile device which can then be used to access the work and provide reminders about completion dates. All students have been given log on details as well as a code that allows parents to access the platform.

Frequency and Quantity of Home Learning

Both frequency and the quantity of home learning set will vary depending on the age of the child and the complexity of the tasks naturally increases as children get older. The table below gives details of the subjects which set home learning in each year group:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Years 10 and 11
English, maths and science (weekly)	English, maths and science (weekly)	English, maths, science (weekly)	English, maths, science and option subjects
French fortnightly	French, geography and history (fortnightly)	Geography, history and French (Fortnightly)	(weekly or fortnightly depending on the subject)
A creative design (Graphics, DT, Art, Food tech) project will be set once a half term (so six a year)	A creative design (Graphics, DT, Art, Food tech) project will be set once a half term (so six a year)	Options (fortnightly)	
From January, homework in geography and history will also be set fortnightly	No homework will be set in other subjects	Ebacc subjects to be considered as options	

Following up on missed Home Learning

We hope all students will be inspired and motivated to complete their home learning. At times, it can be difficult for students to balance commitments outside of school with their studies. If this happens, and your child has been genuinely unable to complete their learning, please email the teacher to let them know why and an extension to the deadline will be given. If your child is unable to work online, teachers will give your child an alternative.

Because home learning is so important, teachers will record the instances where students do not complete their home learning on time. If this becomes a regular occurrence, you will be contacted first by your child's tutor and then by your child's Head of Year. If the situation doesn't improve, we will work with your child in school so that they can be better placed to do the home learning. This might be in the form of a 'Home Learning Support Card' or compulsory attendance at extra school sessions. In the case of controlled assessment (in Years 10 and 11), where controlled assessment deadlines are missed, we will use the school's behaviour policy to issue two behaviour points and a detention.

Rewarding great work and effort

House Points are awarded to students who complete home learning on time and to a good standard. Home learning is always followed up in class: either through teacher feedback or because the work is integral to the lesson. All our home learning is purposeful and meaningful and is set because the teacher has carefully planned and selected the activity. It is therefore important that all students complete the work set to their best ability. Having said this, if your child has spent an appropriate amount of time on the work, and has still not finished, please write a note in their book to confirm this. It should not be necessary for children to spend hours and hours in the evening on school work. Time management is an important part of learning independence and by working together we can help students to do this.

I hope that this explains our approach to home learning and summarises the key information that parents will need. If you have any questions about homework, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. My email is jhall@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk. Thank you in advance for your support for this vital aspect of school life and we look forward to another very successful year of inspiring learning.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Jon Hall
Assistant Headteacher