

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may already be aware, alongside the work that takes place in school, we believe that homework plays a vital part in allowing each child to meet their full potential. At Oakmoor School we use a system known as Satchel One - Show My Homework (SMHW) to support parents/carers and students in being able to continue learning beyond the classroom. Satchel One - SMHW is an online system that allows staff to set detailed homework that supports the learning taking place in the classroom. It is easily accessible, allowing parents/carers and students to view homework set via their personalised account. Students can expect teaching staff to set three types of homework as follows. 'Preparation' involves researching a topic in advance of learning about it in lesson time so that students come to the lesson with some prior knowledge. 'Consolidation' involves completing work that supports and cements the learning that has taken place in lessons and 'Revision' involves learning ways to prepare for tests and exams.

Statistics show that on average, students who engage with 2 hours of homework a night are more likely to succeed in their GCSE and BTEC qualifications. At Oakmoor our minimum expectations on the amount of time students should expect to spend on homework increase as students' progress through Key Stage 3 and into Key Stage 4. This is to allow students to adapt and learn to manage their time alongside the demands of their education. By doing this students will invariably improve their chances of achieving better qualifications and subsequently their life chances. Engaging in home learning will also develop important life skills, such as organisation, resilience and self-motivation, all of which will help students to become successful in their lives beyond their time with us at Oakmoor School.

Within the first few weeks of your child starting with us, you will receive your personal log in details for Satchel One - SMHW. You will be able to have access to all of the information that your child will need to complete their homework. I strongly recommend that you download the Satchel One – SMHW app, which is available on iOS and Android. It will allow you to receive notifications on what homework is being set, when it is due in and even receive feedback from staff on the quality of work your child has produced. In addition, you will know whether your child has completed their homework or if they need to come back in their own time to complete it. If you have other children at our school, you will be able to link their accounts to yours so that you have an overview of all homework set for each of your children. The link contains two short videos that you might find helpful in getting you started with the system. <https://help.satchelone.com/en/articles/3686845-parents-guardians#introducing-parents-to-our-software>

As a staff team, we have been extremely pleased with the positive effect that homework has had on progress and we know that with your support, together we can make even more of a difference to your child's education.

Often the simple things can make a big difference. Over the page some of our current Parents/Carers have told us that the following approaches work really well;

Top Tips:

- Use the Satchel One - SMHW App to keep up to date on what homework is being set and when it needs to be completed by, to ensure that it is handed in on time
- Setting a regular time every day for homework
- Setting a good example by reading and writing yourself
- Staying in touch with your child's teachers
- Ensure that your child has all of the equipment that they might need to complete assignments

Provide guidance:

- Understand and respect your child's style of learning
- Do they work better alone or with someone else? Do they learn best when they can see things, hear them, or handle them?
- Help your child to get organised. Students will have a 'to do' list on Satchel One - SMHW, which helps them to learn to keep on top of their work
- Refer to the calendar on Satchel One – SMHW as this will help your child to easily see the different deadlines for each homework. This is really helpful in planning the order that the work should be completed in order to meet each deadline
- Encourage your child to develop good study habits (e.g. scheduling enough time for big assignments; making up practice tests)
- Talk with your child about homework assignments and check that they understand them. Guide them to their teachers if they need additional support
- Make sure that your child understands plagiarism (copying) and its consequences

Talk with someone at school when problems come up:

- Support the teacher and your child's learning by helping your child to work out a plan and schedule to fix homework problems
- We will work together to resolve any problems that arise, so don't hesitate to contact your child's mentor or teacher if you need any support

We enjoy excellent working relationships with our parents/carers and we believe in working closely in partnership with you to achieve a common aim of maximising your child's potential.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A Beere

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