

Science Homework Policy (04)

The following points have been discussed and agreed to at subject meetings

Seniors

Should complete the following components as a minimum requirement for their home study:

- students should be issued with a written set of requirements regarding homework expectations (this is also to be given to parents at Parent/Teacher nights)
 - note taking that reflects each of the syllabus dot points
 - practical reports that attend to each of the first hand experience column 3 dot points
 - completion of revision questions that reflect the style of question that could be expected in the exam

Juniors

- minimum requirements so students sense consistency when changing classes
- each 1-2 day unit subsection has the following components that require completion
- this pattern of home study requires students to do a minimum of 20 – 30 minutes homework at least every night they have Science
 - must do questions with each subsection of work
 - all 'test your knowledge', 'thinking scientifically' question sets
 - 'information skills', 'communication skills' when teacher deems necessary
 - suitable opportunities are suggested in the program
 - (research related questions are not mandatory)
 - must do the experiment questions as requested by the pencil icon in the text
 - do not have students write full reports except where requested
 - must do certain parts of chapter review questions
 - 'sum up' and 'did you understand this chapter' are mandatory
 - computer related tasks which are indicated in the question areas and highlighted in the program are to be completed and presented in a portfolio

This routine is to be included in the front of each text book so students and parents can refer to the requirements.

Homework checking

Teachers are required to check the completion of these various components and indicate performance on the Science database for sending home as part of the student profile sheet. A written record of this should be compiled for use at parent teacher nights and for sending home at regular intervals. A standard log sheet designed to allow specific checking of each of these components has been placed in the Science folder.

Keeping Parents informed

Parents are issued with the 'Short note to parents' which informs them about the expected homework tasks either at parent teacher night where the requirements are emphasised or from class if they did not attend. An entry is placed in the diary to alert parents that the note has been sent. Teachers will ensure that students enter the section in the text that they are studying each day (eg 5.1) so parents can align it with the required homework components.

Homework guidelines :

It is very important that the work in this subject is completed night by night and not left to be done in one large block. Your son should be working most nights on some part of Science, averaging a minimum of 15-20 minutes.

All students in each year follow the same homework procedure which is repeated every time they have a Science lesson. Students are required to -

- write reports for experiments undertaken during class as indicated in the text (the pencil icon indicates what to do)
- complete the 'Test your knowledge' and 'Thinking Scientifically' question sets that accompany each section in the chapter
- do 'Information' and 'Communication Skills' question sets when indicated by the teacher (you will need to do most of these but not all → check with your teacher to make sure you know which ones)
- complete the 'Sum up', 'Word power' and 'Did you understand this chapter' sections at the end of each chapter

These items are to be completed in a homework book. You must ensure neatness in this book by using the following guidelines

- dates shown top right of each page
- margins drawn in red → top bottom and left side
- a new page for each new section of the text
- heading showing the section of the text at the top of page (red pen / capitals)
- the question set identified with a heading (red pen / capitals)
- each question numbered (do not rewrite the question)

Students are required to record what section of the text they completed in Science that day in their **diary** so parents can monitor if the above items are being completed at the correct time.

Students must also complete computer based tasks that are to be handed up in a portfolio. Samples of your work in the following areas will be required

- **graphics**
- **graphing**
- **tabulating**
- **internet searching**

The teacher will tell you which of these you are supposed to complete. There are many locations in the text and they can be identified by the computer icon – you do not need to do all of these.

