

RATIONALE:

At Alexandra Secondary College we believe that homework is an integral component of the teaching and learning process. School related activities completed at home benefit students by complementing classroom learning.

It is designed to provide a basis for developing positive study techniques and encouraging students to be responsible for their own learning.

This policy will be developed in consultation with School Council, Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Students, who are all working towards the common goal of individual excellence and achievement through strengthening the home school partnership.

AIMS:

Homework shall be delivered in such a way as to ensure that it is

- appropriate to the skill level and age of the student
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the College Curriculum
- able to be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

It shall incorporate a range of strategies and activities such as

- practice in a technique or skill
- measuring understanding of subject content
- Preparation for work to be done in class
- the development of skills already employed in the classroom.
- the provision of extension or support activities for individual students as required.

IMPLEMENTATION:

It is recognised that students will benefit from completing appropriate homework tasks on a regular basis.

The following is the recommended guide as to how much time students at A.S.C. are expected to spend on homework.

- The **minimum time** recommended for SET homework 5 nights per week is:

Year 7	30 minutes per night
Year 8	45 minutes per night
Year 9	60 minutes per night
Year 10	60 minutes per night
Year 11	90 minutes per night
Year 12	120 minutes per night.

This may alter sometimes, but students should not attempt more than 3 subjects per night.

- Students in years 7-10 shall be given a homework guide and timetable at the commencement of each year which must be carefully adhered to.
 - Students in Years 11 and 12 shall be set homework weekly and are expected to organise a personal timetable and home study program in consultation with teaching staff in order to meet requirements.
- Set Homework may be comprised of:

- Written work such as continuation of class work, projects, assignments or essays.
- Learning work that requires factual recall.

Reading prescribed texts or particular set passages.

- Research.
- Revision.

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

- Student diaries provide a record of set work for completion. Students are also provided with a list of important deadlines by each subject teacher, at the commencement of the unit of work.
- Teachers will instruct students in the effective use of student diaries.
- Students should focus on work in order of importance using set deadlines and type of work as a guide.
- Work set that requires an extended period of time such as projects, extended essays, research tasks or preparation for School Based Assessment Tasks should be started promptly and worked on regularly.
- A work plan with achievable targets should be developed by the student and teacher, to assist them to monitor progress and meet deadlines.

HOW TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH HOMEWORK TASKS.

Failure to complete homework on a regular basis will be followed up and it may result in an unsatisfactory grading. The College takes into account the fact that students have from time to time other important demands in their after- school life. The following are guidelines to assist parents to enable students to complete homework successfully.

- Provide students with good study conditions, free from all distractions.
- Regularly inspect their diaries to see what they are supposed to be doing. Communicate back to teaching staff by signing the diary. This also strengthens the home – school learning partnership.

Show an active interest in their work, helping them where you can and providing praise.

- Remember there is no such thing as absolutely no homework. There is always work that can be done for revision, preparation or extension.

HOMEWORK HINTS FOR SUCCESS

- Work in the same area and away from distractions.
- Make a set time after relaxation. Remember to start early enough and avoid late-night sessions.
- Do the work first that:
 - You least like to do or
 - Will be the most difficult or
 - Is due the following day.
- Plan the use of your time. Do not spend all your time on one subject .
- You will do homework more effectively if:
 - You are clear about what you are doing and why you are doing it.
 - You have developed a positive time management plan.
 - You have a personal home study schedule that is effective and meets your needs.
 - You are equipped with the resources you need or know where to locate them.
 - You are able to communicate effectively with your teachers, parents/guardians.
 - You have developed a balanced approach to work, study relaxation, leisure, social life and recreation.
- You do not place undue pressure upon yourself by ensuring you maintain the balance between work and relaxation.

You have the determination to succeed.