

# Stage 3 Homework 2018

Dear Stage 3 parents,

Homework has commenced this week in Stage 3 classes.

Home tasks are designed to reinforce learning within the classroom, to provide opportunities for students to pursue independent learning activities and to cater for the different learning styles of students.

Our school policy states that Stage 3 students should spend 30 minutes each evening, Monday to Thursday inclusive, completing homework activities.

Class homework tasks will be project based and follow on from work studied within the classroom. This will often include a STEM approach (Science, Engineering, Technology & Maths), allowing for a more student driven approach to learning. Of course, the Arts and literary tasks will also be included.

There will be one task assigned in each term, to be completed over several weeks. Often this task will be broken into sections, with each section submitted at approximately two-week intervals.

The requirements for each task will be clearly set out in writing and time will be spent in class going through the task and answering any questions the students may have. Students will be provided with a criteria-marking sheet so that they clearly understand what is expected of them.

This approach assists students to organise their time and to plan effectively to complete the tasks. These tasks are designed to assist students in their preparation for high school. They also provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understandings of the unit of work we have been studying and to apply this understanding to new situations. Regular feedback will be provided to students throughout the time frame of the assessment task.

In following this approach we aim to:

- allow time for students to pursue their own learning
- enable students some choice in demonstrating their understanding of concepts
- encourage a focus on the application to real-life of skills learnt
- recognise different learning styles and interests
- provide regular feedback to students and allow them to reflect on their learning

## **MATHEMATICS:**

Maths homework will be provided by the Maths teacher and will usually consist of Mathletics tasks. Teachers assign tasks online and students access these by logging onto the Mathletics site. Students who are unable to access Mathletics at home will be provided with alternative worksheets. Mathletics aims to practise skills learnt within the classroom in an engaging way.

We will occasionally use a project-based approach with some Maths homework tasks. There will be no more than one per term and we will coordinate tasks so that students are not completing both a major class task and major Maths task at the same time.

### **READING:**

Reading remains an important part of the homework routine throughout Stage 3. In each class, students will be taking part in the **40 Book Challenge**. Students will be expected to read 40 books in the year, covering fiction, non-fiction and poetry. This challenge includes books read at home and at school and is designed to encourage students to become independent and involved readers, engaging with a variety of books for different purposes e.g. enjoyment, information, etc.

Students are expected to read for approximately 15 minutes each evening. Part of this should be spent reading silently and some time should be spent reading orally and talking about the book with a parent. A great way to spend some time together in our busy lives!

### **COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK**

Please assist your child by supervising them and encouraging them to complete homework. It is important to provide a regular time and place to complete homework within the bounds of family routines and commitments. We understand that families become extremely busy but it is important to make homework a priority. Please send a note with your child if they have been unable to complete homework due to extenuating circumstances. If homework is not completed, students may be required to complete tasks at a Friday lunch time session. If your child is not bringing homework home, please contact the class teacher. If homework is being handed in on an irregular basis, we will inform you of the situation by letter.

### **HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE**

We will be establishing support sessions for students experiencing difficulty with completion of homework and assessment tasks. This will take the form of either small group sessions with our support teacher, Ms Bishop, or lunchtime sessions with a Stage 3 teacher.

If you have any enquiries regarding homework, please contact your child's class teacher.

Sheryl Cootes

Kim Lynch

Stephen Morris