

Home Learning (Study) Policy

Smith's Wood Academy

Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust

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"The best thing for being sad," replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, "is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn."

TH White, The Once and Future King.

1. Aims

This document seeks to outline the strategies that will be used at Smith's Wood Academy to ensure that students maximise their time, outside of school hours to advance their mastery of subject knowledge. No child should get to year 11 without the skills to revise or self-study. Our aim is for our students to be a part of a culture where self-study and homework is a part of life. Study will be accessible to all students regardless of background. No child will be disadvantaged by lack of parental support or lack of resources outside of school.

2. Study

Homework at Smith's Wood is referred to as 'Study'

2.1 Why do students at Smith's Wood study?

Our aim is to ensure that Smith's Wood Academy students study because they treasure opportunities to learn. We work hard to ensure that our students understand that in order to make excellent progress towards bright futures, they need to take responsibility for their own success and study beyond the classroom walls. Study at Smith's Wood Academy has three core purposes:

- To **prepare** for new learning taking place in a subsequent lesson.
- To **consolidate** the learning that has taken place during a lesson, giving students the opportunity to practice and refine particular aspects of their knowledge, and understanding.
- To **stretch** students to explore the subject beyond the classroom.

2.2 How will students be supported with their study?

- Students will be given a **Knowledge Organiser** (see section 12) each half term / each unit of work for every subject.

- The Knowledge Organiser will complement the subject unit of work to in order to achieve the aforementioned core purposes of study.
- The Knowledge Organiser will contain information relevant to ensure students are able to master that particular unit of work.
- Parents will be informed of completion rates every half term which will increase parental support
- Study Clubs will be on set days of the weekend are there provide additional guidance and support to those that need it.

2.3 How will teachers know if students are completing their study effectively?

- **Weekly Knowledge Checks** (see 11) will be embedded into Learning Journeys (Schemes of Work) in addition to regular assessments to test learning from study – these will take place as the Do Now Activity (DNA) of a given lesson.
- **Completion of work in Practice Books** will be monitored by subject teachers and recorded in their Teacher Feedback Book and SIMs.
- **Mentors** will check **Practice Books and Knowledge Books are present daily** as part of their morning **equipment check**.

3. What are the expectations of study?

- Students will be given a '**Knowledge Book**' in which to collate their Knowledge Organisers
- Students will also be given a '**Practice Book**' in which they will complete their study*.
- Students will be expected to keep their Knowledge Organisers, Knowledge Books and Practice Books safe and presented neatly. If a student loses their study resources, or fails to bring these resources to school they will receive an 'x' mark on the 'Equipment' section of their standards card.
- Students will be expected to spend the appropriate amount of time studying and complete their study to the highest quality possible.
- It is expected that students provide evidence of their evening's study by the deadline set by the class teacher.

*In Mathematics students will complete their study using the online platform MyMaths/Dr Frost Maths. In MFL students will complete their study on ActiveLearn. Creative Arts will set projects based on themes every half term.

4. What are the rewards of completing study effectively?

- Students will reap the rewards of regular, purposeful study in the progress that they make across their subjects - students will begin to truly master units of work, seeing their rate of progress increase as a result.
- The completion of Study will be more widely celebrated through celebration letters and postcards home

5. What are the consequences of not meeting study expectations?

- Parents will be informed of completion rates every half term. This is will also be used at parents evening as a discussion point to address any extra supportive measures that may be needed e.g. attending Study Club
- Individual teachers can choose to hold their own detentions if students fail to complete Study

6. How will study be set?

- All Study tasks will be decided by departments which fit in line with the Learning Journey
- All students should record their Study in the **Practice Books*** (if there is a particular deadline, students should record this too), as outlined above – see section 4.
- Faculty's which will set Study are, English, Maths, Science, Humanities, MFL and Creative Arts.
- The **Knowledge Organisers** will support students in the completion of Study which will be needed to support classroom learning.
- Teachers will track completion on SIMs, and completion rates will be sent home to parents every half term.

*In Mathematics students will complete their study using the online platform MyMaths/Dr Frost Maths. While in MFL certain students will complete MFL specific Active-Learn task as set by the classroom teacher. Students will be told which aspect of MFL study to complete by their classroom teacher. Creative Arts will set projects based on themes every half term.

7. How often will students be studying?

This will depend on the Learning Journey being delivered by departments and can vary.

8. What tasks will be set for Study?

Teachers will set Study in a range of forms. This may include;

GCSEpod assignments/quizzes
Retrieval questions
Tasks based around literacy
Research projects
Case Study analysis
Note annotations/revision notes

9. Study for year 10 and 11

For year 10 and year 11 – students should engage with research, reading, exam/retrieval questions, producing revision notes and completing past examination papers as provided by their subject teachers.

10. Knowledge: The knowledge gained through study will be assessed through weekly Knowledge Checks and Daily Recaps during DNAs.

- a. The Knowledge Checks should be short questions with 80% of the allocated marks available to recall recent learning and 20% give an opportunity to recall learning from previous topics
- b. Knowledge Checks should be marked in class for instant feedback and to give the opportunity for the student to write a self-assessment based on their performance.
- c. The subject leader and the classroom teacher will track the scores of the Knowledge Checks as a way of monitoring students' progress and planning timely interventions. These will be tracked and held centrally by the senior leadership team of the Academy.
- d. If students are repeatedly scoring low marks in their Knowledge Check, this indicates that the student is not engaging adequately with the requirements of study.

10.1 Knowledge organisers: Knowledge Organisers specify in meticulous detail the exact facts, dates, characters, concepts and precise definitions that all pupils are expected to master in long term memory. They organise onto no more than two pages of A4 the most vital, useful subject knowledge for each unit of work.

11. Monitoring and evaluation:

Teachers will log completion of Study onto SIMs, this central tracking will enable key staff such as Mentors and Excellence Leaders to have an insight. It will also allow parents to be informed of completion rates via a letter sent home every half term.

Departments will decide what tasks are set for Study and how often they will be set. Subject Leaders will monitor the setting and completion of Study during their book trawls. This will involve looking at a sample of Practice Books from students alongside Teacher Feedback Books. This will be done half termly and findings reported to Academy Teaching and Learning Lead. Another monitoring activity will take place at the end of each term by Lead Practitioners to evaluate the scrutiny done by HODs.

12. Parental engagement

Once a term parents will be asked to sign a "Parent Book-Review" sticker which will be placed inside the Practice Books. Parents will be able to see the quality of Study being set, the learning and progress being made by their child and in turn increase parental engagement.