

MANAGING HOMEWORK AND STUDYING

In moving from primary school to high school, there is a considerable difference in the expectations placed upon students to independently manage homework and study.

Homework refers to work set by the teacher, including assignments, assessment tasks and completion of class work, which extends and enriches learning. **Study** is the work initiated by students themselves to revise materials already completed which helps consolidate understanding, prepare for assessments and broaden learning. Study is a skill that for many students needs to be taught and not something that they would probably not have had much practice with in primary school.

The expectations for your child when he/she is in Year Seven will be different to what he/she is used to at primary school. When your child is in Year Seven, they will be expected to do a certain amount of homework throughout the week.

The information regarding a study timetable, study environment, Student Handbook and time management outlined previously contribute to effective study habits. The role of the parent is to help the child to set up a study timetable and then help him/her to stick to it. Younger students are not necessarily internally motivated by the drive to succeed but rather external motivators such as not getting a detention or getting to go on the computer after completing homework. As a parent, you may need to provide rewards for your child when they stick to a study timetable.

The following information outlines further tips for improving study habits including how to take notes in class and then how you can remember what you learn for tests. If you combine these tips with an effective study timetable and regular use of the Student Handbook, you will be more organised and better able to study effectively.

NOTE TAKING

If you take good notes at school, it will make your study at home much easier! You may like to try some of the following to improve your note taking at school:

- **Don't write down every word** that the teacher says but do write down important information that the teacher puts on the board and examples.
- Use **abbreviations** such as + for and, # for number, +ve for positive etc.
- Use lots of **space** and good paper.
- **File** your notes and keep them neat.
- **Look over** your notes the same day!

MEMORY

Remembering things is an important part of study. Unfortunately it takes a fair bit of effort to move things in our brains from short term memory to long term memory. Try to:

- **Repeat**, repeat and repeat!
- Use **flash cards**
- Work with someone else or try to **teach someone** the information (e.g. parents)