Homework Policy

S1 to S3

1. **Personal Reading Programme**

Homework tasks for pupils in S1,2 and 3 will predominantly involve pupils in reading for enjoyment and in thinking/writing/talking about what is being read.

Pupils have access to the library during class time in English and some dedicated time for personal reading. S1/2/3 pupils also have time for personal reading in registration twice a week.

We encourage pupils not only to undertake the Strathaven Academy Reading Challenge which is to read 30 texts across the session but to read a wide variety of texts including high quality journalism.

A Reading Challenge booklet is issued to all pupils in S1-S3. The Reading Challenge booklet is used to foster engagement with, and enjoyment in, personal reading. The good habits that the regular tasks encourage are invaluable in terms of organisation, taking responsibility for progress and preparing for life in the senior school where pupils will be required to read sophisticated texts independently across the curriculum.

**English homework for all pupils S1 to S3:** Pupils should be reading at home for **at least 10 minutes per day** and should complete **at least 2 tasks** from the Reading Challenge Booklet **per month**.

**Drama homework for S2 pupils:** S2 pupils will complete **1 Reading Challenge** task per session.

1. **Class Homework**

Pupils will also be set tasks to prepare for, or to consolidate, class work. This will be set by individual class teachers as and when such tasks are appropriate to the class work being undertaken.

In English this may involve:

* Reading of class texts
* Preparation for individual talk assessments – preparation and practice of presentations or for participation in group discussion
* Research for projects or cross-curricular work
* Completion of a class work task
* Extension work on course content
* Revision of core English skills
* Completion or redrafting of written work

In Drama this may involve:

* Reviewing key vocabulary
* Learning lines
* Preparing for assessment

1. **Additional Homework**

Should pupils wish to undertake additional English tasks outwith school there are a selection of spelling, language, writing, close reading and analysis tasks in the ‘Rich Tasks’ folders in the Homework section of the Strathaven Academy website.

S4-S6

1. **Personal Reading**

Pupils engaged in working towards any of the National qualifications are encouraged to read regularly and widely especially quality journalism from broadsheet newspapers. Pupils who wish to read online should be directed to the following sites:

**http://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree**

**http://www.theguardian.com/observer**

**http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/**

**http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/**

**http://www.independent.co.uk/voices**

Reading assessments at all levels and Reading in exams at National 5 and Higher National 6 levels require pupils to respond to questions testing their ability to understand, analyse and evaluate challenging journalism.

Pupils can access a generic homework task which can be used with any article on the Homework page of the Strathaven Academy website.

1. **Regular class homework**

Regular homework will be set, marked and returned by class teachers.

This will primarily consist of deadlines for each stage of the folio preparation process which encourages pupils to take responsibility for their learning, set targets and work to deadlines.

* National 4 AVUs should be completed by the end of March.
* National 5 and Higher National 6 Discursive essays should be completed to final draft stage by Christmas.
* National 5 Creative essays should be completed to final draft stage by the end of February.
* Higher National 6 Creative essays should be completed to final draft stage by mid-March.
* Advanced Higher Dissertation and Creative Writing Folios should be completed by Spring Break.

**In English** pupils may also be set homework tasks arising from class work which might include:

* Preparation for assessment in Critical Essay/ Scottish text/ RUAE/ Dissertation/ Textual Analysis
* Preparation of solo presentation/group discussion assessment
* Reading/revision of class texts

**In Drama** pupils may also be set homework tasks arising from class work which might include:

* Preparation for assessment in Set Text/Performance Analysis
* Preparation for practical assessment – learning lines/enhancing folio
* Reading/revision of drama vocabulary and drama texts

1. **Independent Study**

Courses in the senior school must be supported by regular independent study at home. When formal homework is not set pupils should use time wisely engaged in a variety of home study tasks. Senior pupils are expected to manage their workload by spreading consolidation and revision across the session.

Meaningful revision tasks in English would be:

* + Revising RUAE question types/formulae
  + Practising with RUAE Past Papers
  + Revising critical essay text/s – key characters, themes, features of style…
  + Using Past Paper questions to practise planning relevant critical essay responses
  + Revising Scottish text (rereading, revising key events/relationships/themes/techniques) and using Past Papers to practise answering textual analysis questions
  + Checking over all written work for spelling, sentencing, punctuation and expression errors
  + Identifying and addressing weaknesses and errors either on their own, using material given by the teacher designed to help or by approaching the class teacher.

Meaningful revision tasks in Drama would be:

* + Practising with Past Papers
  + Revising core texts/vocabulary
  + Identifying key quotes
  + Making use of revision materials on Google Classroom

Pupils are issued with a SCHOLAR username and password and should be using this regularly for revision purposes.

Additional useful revision websites for English:

<http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poetry/tags/sqa-national-5-texts>

<http://www.scotlitangus.com/>

<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning/teachers-librarians/teaching-resources-cpd/senior-phase>

<http://www.brightredpublishing.co.uk/Uploads/InsideCatalogueItems/N5%20English%201-5%2052-65.pdf>

1. **Final revision**

Pupils should engage in meaningful tasks in the lead up to exams. These may be suggested by the class teacher. If not, pupils can access the Task a Day activities for Nat 5 and Higher on the Resources page on the Strathaven website.