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| You SaidThank you to the parents who attended. It is really important to us as a school that we are able to have a meaningful dialogue in order to further develop ways to support the students at the Nottingham Free School in all aspects of their education. Below is a summary of the key points raised by parents at the meeting and some others that we have been made aware of regarding homework.**Parents’ Forum Update: Homework 20/10/14** | We Did |
| We are concerned about volume of homework | * A small number of parents have raised this issue. Many others have said that the volume of homework is not an issue, and in some cases, that there is not enough homework.
* Pupils have very different experiences of homework at primary and this often impacts upon how they feel about homework at secondary school. It is perfectly normal for each individual to need some transition time to get used to completing homework in the best way.
* The homework timetable was shared as a guideline of when pupils should expect to do homework. A copy is also available on the school website and on the PPT. However, this should only be used as a guideline and many students will learn their own methods to prioritise and organise pieces of work.
* We will be completing an audit of the quantity of homework set by staff.
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| We are concerned with how long students are spending on each piece of homework  | * We strongly recommend that pupils do not spend more than 30 minutes on one piece of homework. This has been made clear to pupils on several occasions but will continue to be reinforced by staff. At the same time we must reinforce the need for perseverance and challenge in students’ learning and that sometimes a bit longer than 30 minutes is fine to get the work done.
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| What if my son/daughter cannot complete homework in the time available | * We recommend that you contact the class teacher. You can write a note in the pupil planner to the class teacher or email them. You could also write on the piece of work.
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| We have come across some unclear guidelines on homework in the student planner | * A few different instances were discussed and have been raised. Subject staff are aware of issues raised and staff have been asked to give students ample time to record homework.
* Staff have also been asked to record all homework set on ‘Insight’ with a view to a parent reading it with relevant attachments if possible.
* We will be completing an audit of the quality of homework set by staff.
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| We are not sure students are using study support properly | * We can reassure you that the majority of pupils are working well in study support and are able to gain support from staff members in this time.
* We will be reinforcing study support expectations after half term and will be running a special study support session on homework 10/11/14
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| We don’t think all pupils have the necessary skills to organise homework | * The parent’ forum completed a card sort where they were asked to prioritise different homework’s in a given week. One parent suggested we do this activity with the pupils which we will do in the special study support session on homework 10/11/14
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| We don’t feel all pupils are aware of the different study skills needed for different types of homework | * Staff have been asked to make it very clear what exactly is expected and what skills/strategies can be used to compete homework.
* We will also be addressing study skills at the special study support session on homework 10/11/14
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| Some students are worrying a lot about homework | * We reassured parents that when real issues arise with the completion of homework arise that the pupils’ first port of call should be their class teacher, who will always be willing to help. We also wanted to give parents the same confidence in knowing that they can tell their children they have done enough at times and write a note to the class teacher.
* For some individual pupils we have put in some organisational support through their tutors. There are also some pupils who will be given some homework mentoring once a week.
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| Sanctions | * We shared the sanctions system whereby students are given one chance to bring in a forgotten or incomplete homework. These are always recorded on PARS (our student data system) but not sanctioned. If the homework remains outstanding then a small detention will be issued. If homework is persistently late or missing parents will be contacted.
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