

## **Dalkeith High School BGE Home Learning Policy 2017-18**

### **Why is home learning beneficial?**

Used effectively, home learning helps young people to:

- Learn how to **organise** and **manage their time**
- Take more **responsibility** for their own learning
- **Practise and build on** what they have learned in the classroom
- **Develop confidence** in dealing with difficulties and resultant frustrations
- Learn and work **independently** beyond school
- Undertake more in-depth tasks with a focus on **quality not just quantity**

Although the advantages of home learning are clear in both the BGE and the Senior Phase, there are differences between approaches in S1-S3 and S4-S6. This reflects the differing challenges for learners undertaking National Qualifications.

In the BGE, home learning is not always about completing set activities within specified time frames. Home learning is a term which refers to any experiences and activities that encourage learners to:

- Build on key **learner qualities** (e.g. resourceful, resilient, responsible, reflective)
- Practise **key skills** (e.g. understanding, analysing, evaluating, creating)
- **Consolidate** knowledge (e.g. subject specific terminology, revision of key facts)

### **How can I support my child in their home learning in the BGE?**

The most important thing that parents/carers can do at this stage is to have an ongoing dialogue with learners. For the greatest impact, try focusing on specific questions, such as:

- What do you know today that you didn't know yesterday?
- Was there anything you found difficult today? How will you get over that difficulty?
- What was your favourite lesson today? Why was that?
- What can we be doing to help you build on your interest in e.g. Maths/ Drama/ French?
- Are there any areas you are having difficulties with?

Further to this, the Dalkeith High School website [www.dalkeith.mgfl.net](http://www.dalkeith.mgfl.net) has tabs for each department which are linked to home learning activities and resources.

By undertaking the **S1 Home Learning Challenge** (materials are available on the website), learners also have the chance to earn points for their House.

Parents and Carers who wish to know more about supporting learning at home may wish to consult [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome)

DHS is working towards an online home learning system to be piloted during 2017-18. More information on this will be issued during the course of the year.