

Dalkeith High School Senior Phase Home Learning Policy 2016-17

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

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 Senior Phase, **home learning is vital** in ensuring attainment of qualifications. Failure to engage in appropriate study at home can prevent candidates from successfully completing their National Qualifications and may jeopardise their presentation for the exam.

Home learning in the Senior Phase is focused on:

- **Preparing** for internal assessment activities (e.g. class tests, folio submission, presentation and practical activities)
- **Developing** the skills required to perform effectively in the external examinations (e.g. essay writing, past paper questions)
- **Revising** key knowledge and understanding (e.g. vocabulary lists, timelines)

How can I support my child in their home learning in the Senior Phase?

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 comments/feedback/marks/grades have you been getting in class? Are you happy with these?
- What have you and your teacher discussed during your learner conversations?
- What assessment deadlines do you have coming up?
- How are you managing to balance your studies with extra-curricular/ work/ family commitments? Are there any changes we can make to improve things?

Learners in the Senior Phase are given support in organising their study time through the PSE programme and by class teachers. Tracking and Monitoring Reports and Concerns Letters highlight areas in which there are issues which impact on learning. Many departments offer study clubs and information on these can be found on our website www.dalkeith.mgfl.net

The SQA website www.sqa.org.uk has subject specific pages which are open to parents/carers to enable a better understanding of what each qualifications entails.

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.

