

WILLIAM EDWARDS SCHOOL

KS3 Homework

Parent Guide

1. Overview

Each term students will receive one homework project from their tutor (3 per year). For each term's homework they are required to read a book, and their understanding of the book is tested in some of the homework tasks.

For books, students have an option to either use a book of their own choice, or select one of their Accelerated Reader books from the term. Accelerated Reader books are provided by the Library and distributed during English lessons. To select these books, students undertake a star reading age test within lesson, giving them an age and zone they should get a book from; therefore, supporting individual differentiation throughout the homework.

To support the completion of the homework, the school will provide each pupil with a high quality hard backed project book at no cost. Pupils are expected to maintain the highest standards of presentation in these books, and they will need to be replaced at a cost of £5 if they are lost or damaged. Ultimately, this is an opportunity for your son/daughter to produce a creative record of their developing literacy skills, and should be maintained with pride.

Each literacy project will now be available in 2 bands – a HOT menu, and a MILD menu. Tutors will guide pupils to the appropriate level.

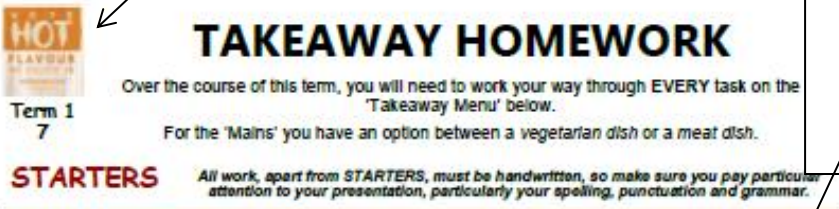
Each literacy project is presented on an A4 sheet, with a series of tasks and challenges. You can access these documents on the school website. An example of how they are set out is shown below:

Below the 'Heat' the Term and Year Group are outlined, indicating when and who each task sheet is for.

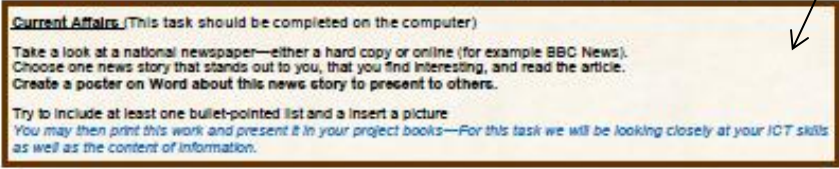
There will be two 'Heats' from September 2015.
 Hot for Sets 1-6
 Mild for Sets 7-9
 Students are allowed to choose the higher heat if they wish to, but must not opt down.

For the 'Starter' students can use the computer. This is the only piece of work they can do it for. Guidance is given to help students build on key but basic ICT skills such as using word, PPT, and Excel.

For the 'Sides', students will be tasked with something to do with study skills – For instance, how to best use their time, how to work in a clear environment.

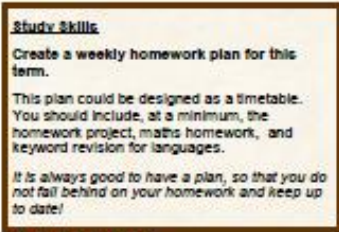
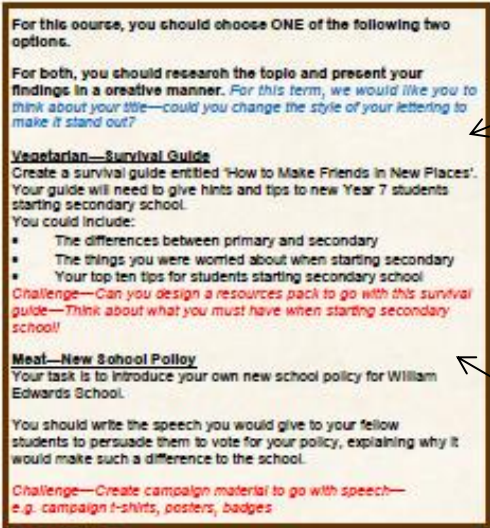


The Mains have a choice of two activities. For this section students can choose which they would rather do.

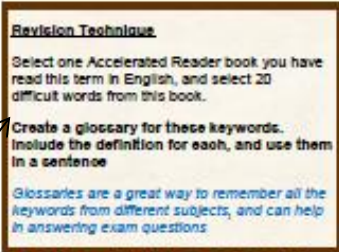


Both 'Mains' activities can be followed up by completing the 'Challenges' below. If aiming for Gold Efforts these will be very beneficial!

SIDES **MAINS**

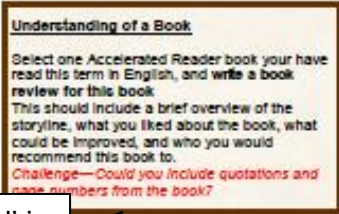



DESSERTS



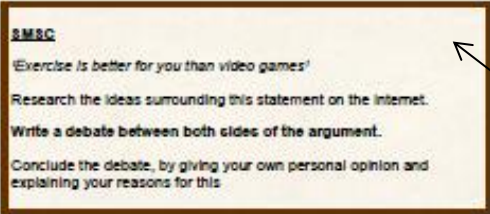
For the 'Desserts' students will be tasked with something to do with revision techniques – For instance, creating a revision mind map or flashcards

SOMETHING SPECIAL



The 'Something Special' is comprehension work now based on one of the students Accelerated Reader books. This programme helps student's select appropriate books for their reading age, therefore lending to individual differentiation through the homework sheets.

DRINKS



The 'Drinks' contains the activity which encourages pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

These tasks must all be handwritten, unless otherwise specified
 Typing means spell check/grammar check – not useful!
 Computers can only be used for research and gathering pictures, and any research should be presented in the pupil's own words.

At the front of each project book, students will be able to record and show their progress throughout KS3. This will be set out as shown below:

This table will allow students to record their effort and literacy marks throughout KS3

Effort / Literacy Marks	Project 1		Project 2		Project 3	
Year 7						
Year 8						
Year 9						

This table will show students for which SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural) values they have researched, studied and produced work.

SMSC			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 7	Healthy Lifestyles Diet and Exercise	Core Values and Life Choices	Roles and Responsibilities of Parents, Carers and Children Positive Relationships Dealing with Breakdowns in Relationships
Year 8	Being an assertive user of NHS Drugs Awareness	Discrimination Stereotypes	Media and Stereotyping Safe Use of IT Unwanted Attention
Year 9	Mental Health Local Health Services	British Law and Religious Expectations	

SKILLS							
Basic Word Skills	Using bold/italic and underline	Use of bullet points	Inserting a picture or shape	Using a header and footer	Indent text	Inserting a table and merging cells	Wrapping text around a picture or shape
Basic Power Point Skills	Inserting a new slide	Creating a background	Using slide transitions	Writing slide notes	Printing multiple slides on 1 page	Inserting a table	Formatting cells on a table with colour
Study Skills	Self-reflection on subject knowledge	Planning homework or revision time	Good strategies for effective study time	Memory techniques	Textbook study methods	Test taking strategies	Learning styles - VAK
Revision Techniques	Keyword glossaries	Mind-maps	Flashcards	Question cards	Revision clocks	Use of websites	Pictures and diagrams association

This table will allow students to see the skills they have developed throughout the KS3 homework. These will be checked off and stamped to show their progression through the homework projects.

Once students' work is complete and handed in to their tutors, they will be marked on their effort and literacy. The marking criteria are as follows:

	Effort Assessment Criteria	Literacy Assessment Criteria
Level 1 – Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No effort shown ○ Work not handed in on time ○ Needs constant managing to get work done ○ Not all sections of the homework have been completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Correctly spell most common words ○ Uses a new word, research the meaning and attempt to use it in a sentence. ○ Starting to organise writing into sections, perhaps paragraphs ○ Uses simple sentences ○ Occasionally using FS, CL, ? and ! when needed ○ Started using Apostrophes to show ownership or add an apostrophe +s to a noun or name ○ Does not use homophones correctly
Level 2 – Emerging BRONZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some effort has gone into their homework ○ They attempt to reflect on their work ○ They are attempting to think creatively, but work may be underdeveloped ○ Beginning to use research skills ○ Does not have good presentation ○ Needs a lot of supervision to get work done ○ Some sections of the homework have been completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uses two new words from any subject area, research the meaning and attempt to use them in sentences. ○ Uses simple sentences correctly, beginning to use longer (compound) sentences. ○ Almost always punctuate sentences with FS, CL, ? !, and , when needed ○ Starting using speech marks or inverted commas [“ ”] ○ Correctly spell common words; some errors with more ambitious words ○ Arrange ideas into paragraphs and attempt to use connectives such as after, as before, since, until, when, while, however, similarly, as like ○ Sometimes uses homophones correctly
Level 3 – Developing SILVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good effort on the homework ○ Tried hard with presentation in books ○ Take time to reflect on their work and understand it could improve their achievement ○ Trying hard to think creatively and using research skills ○ Completes homework on time ○ Most sections of the homework have been completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uses 4 or more new words from any subject area, research the meaning and attempt to use them in sentences. ○ Almost always punctuates speech properly ○ Clear and coherent paragraphing ○ Uses a range of simple and compound sentences ○ Uses a complex sentence ○ Spelling generally correct throughout, including some ambitious words ○ Almost always uses homophones correctly
Level 4 – Secure GOLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excellent effort on the homework ○ Clear organisation and exceptional presentation ○ Clear sense of how reflecting on their work helps them to develop as a learner ○ High levels of creativity and research skills shown ○ Shows initiative and independence ○ All sections of the homework have been completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uses 10 or more new words from any subject area, research the meaning and attempt to use them in sentences. ○ Clear paragraphing and varied length for effect ○ Uses a range of simple, compound and complex sentences. ○ Use a range of punctuation correctly throughout – brackets, commas, FS, ?, !, colons, semi-colons, dashes, ellipsis, Speech marks/inverted commas ○ Correct spelling throughout, including ambitious words ○ Always uses homophones correctly
	Overall Effort Level	Overall Literacy Level
	2 stars	
	2 wishes	

2. Deadlines

Students will have a whole term to complete each literacy project. The key dates are outlined below:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Homework Opens	10 th September 2018	14 th January 2019	8 th May 2019
Due Date	30 th November 2018	22 nd March 2019	21 st June 2019

3. Time management

It is suggested that students aim to complete one part of the 'Menu' per week, in order to organise their time effectively. Weekly deadlines for each term are set out below:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Starters	24 th September	28 th January	13 th May
Sides	1 st October	4 th February	20 th May
Drinks	8 th October	11 th February	27 th May
Mains	15 th October	18 th February	3 rd June
Desserts	5 th November	25 th February	10 th June
Something Special	12 th November	4 th March	17 th June

4. Presentation and Creativity

Students are encouraged to show high levels of creativity and presentation. Some examples used last year include:

- Use fancy fonts
- Use pictures to decorate
- Make a collage
- Use lined paper when writing
- Mount your work on card or coloured paper
- Use colouring pencils, felt tips, gel pens
- Form a border around your work
- Create a title page before starting the tasks
- Volcano cakes!

Please refer to the gallery on the school website to see further ideas and suggestions.

5. Help system

Tutors are the first point of call if your child is struggling with the homework; however we also have Homework Club on offer, this will run every evening from 3-4pm in the library.

6. Rewards system

We encourage high effort and literacy levels through the KS3 homework project, and have worked hard to create a reward system that honours the time and commitment students have put into their work:

- Kindle raffle for all Gold Effort winners
- Headteacher's certificate and lunch
- House Leaders letters of recognition
- Fast passes at break times
- Ice cream van passes
- Other opportunities, such as inflatables day