

23rd October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, Nova is a school which prides itself on having high expectations. It's also important to me, as the headteacher, that we are a school which listens to constructive feedback that our parents give us and takes action where it is required.

Over the past few weeks, we have been thinking very carefully about our approach to home study and some of the feedback which you have been providing us with, so that we can work in partnership to bring the best out of your child.

The expectation of students is that, at Key Stage 3, each piece of home study should take 30 minutes. Students should also be completing 30 minutes personal reading each evening. The table below shows our expectations at Key Stage 4.

Year 10	Year 11
English 1½ hours	English 1½ hours
Maths 1½ hours	Maths 1½ hours
Science 1½ hours	Science 1½ hours
Option A 45 minutes	Option A 1 hour
Option B 45 minutes	Option B 1 hour
Option C 45 minutes	Option C 1 hour
Option D 45 minutes	

To generate these expectations, we have looked at what the best performing schools require of their students. However, we have heard of some students working beyond the allocated amount of time which may be preventing them from participating in our SuperNova extra-curricular activities or the clubs they have previously been involved with outside of school.

If your child has worked hard for the required amount of time for the piece of home study on which they are working, please put a note in their home study book to indicate to their teacher that this is the case. This will mean that teachers are not allocating detentions to your child when you know they have done all they possibly can in the time available.

If your child has been struggling with a piece of work, we would rather know this and be able to take action in our teaching than for you to complete the homework for them in order to avoid a detention.

It is also important that your child checks the home study they have been given early in the seven days which they have to complete it so that they can seek out guidance from their teacher if necessary, rather than leaving this until the night before the home study is due in.

Hegarty Maths:

When our maths teachers look at the information from the Hegarty website, they can see:

- How many times the child has watched the video
- The amount of time the child has spent on the task
- The percentage the child has scored on the test
- How many times the test was taken

Our students also make notes on the task, including their workings out, which the teachers check too.

It is by looking at all of this information that the teacher will make a decision as to whether the child has completed the home study task to a sufficient standard. The advice is that students should aim to score 80% or above. However, it is possible that a child may have worked for the allocated amount of time but may not have reached the 80% level as they have struggled with the work. Our teachers will take this into consideration by looking at the other information they have available. It is also possible that a student may have achieved 80%, even though their home study was not completed well enough because students must also show their working out in their Hegarty home study books, alongside the worked examples from the video they've watched. Again, the teacher will be able to see this through the amount of time spent on the task and be able to make a decision as to whether the child has put enough effort into the work.

It is worth keeping in mind that the overwhelming majority of tasks on Hegarty which are set are sequenced to match the lessons students have had in class. There are occasions, as students move through the school, when our teachers will set something which students have learnt some time ago that they may have begun to forget so that their memories are refreshed or which students are about to focus on as preparation for a sequence of lessons. This will be taken into consideration when gauging the quality of students' responses in these tasks.

Home study support

In addition to their teachers, there are three sources of support which our students can draw on:

- Access to the LRC after school until 4pm every day
- Hegarty home study club – after school until 4pm in SB9 on Thursdays
- SEND home study club in SD5 every day after school until 4.05 pm (including Tuesdays)

I hope that this has clarified our expectations for you and please do let us know if there are further questions which you have about your child's home study.

Your sincerely



Nick Wells
Headteacher