

Why Home Study is Important

(a guide for scholars & parents)

When, as parents or carers, we choose a secondary school for our children, we are looking for the best. Whether this is the best academic education, the best extra-curricular provision or the best pastoral support. At Nova, we want to provide your child with the best because we have high standards and we care for your child's future.

In the highest-achieving schools in the country, students from Year 7 onwards can expect more than an hour of home study per day and even more once they reach Year 10. We want our Nova scholars, your children, to make greater progress than these students. Independent home study plays a vital part in helping scholars retain and recall the facts that enable tough problem solving and the practicing of vital skills in all subjects.

Home Study Expectations

Scholars in years 7, 8 and 9 at Nova are expected to complete 1 hour of home study each week in each of the following subject areas; English, mathematics, science, humanities and languages. This will either be completed via an online platform (such as Bedrock, Seneca, Sparx or Languagenut) or in booklets provided to our scholars.

In year 10 and year 11, scholars will be completing 1½ hours of home study each week for English, mathematics and science, and 1 hour each week for their option subjects. Year 11s will, of course, be spending additional time on revision too.

Students in Key Stage 3 receive 55 minute detentions on the same day for each piece of missed home study. Students in Key Stage 4 receive 75 minute detentions on the same day for each piece of missed home study (they stay until 5pm if they miss two pieces).

Keeping Track of Home Study

Home study tasks are set on epraise. Epraise is a really helpful website. By clicking on the “planner,” scholars can see their home study tasks. They can also find them listed under the “classnotes” button.

Teachers give the instructions for the task, the due date, and attach documents if necessary (for example, knowledge organisers). You can open the documents by clicking the little cloud logo labelled ‘Download.’

Scholars can keep track of their home study by clicking on the red button marked ‘not done’. This changes it to a green ‘done’ symbol. That way, you and they can see what tasks still need completing. Of course, their teacher will still decide if the home study is completed to the expected standard!

Supporting your Child

It is essential that families support their children with their home study. Here are suggestions that families should take to support their child.

- Look at the home study tasks set on epraise for your child
- Ensure your child has access to the internet to complete home study on Bedrock, Seneca, Sparx and Languagenut (ask about them accessing Study Base in school if this would help)
- Check your child’s completion of their home study tasks
- Provide a calm quiet space to complete home study, free from distractions such as TV, mobile phones or the internet (except for completing home study tasks)
- Ensure that your child is asleep by 9:30 - 10:00pm and that they have no access to electronic equipment in their bedroom
- Encourage your child to attend Study Base if they need some support, or a place to work