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ST IVES SCHOOL

Every Child, Inspiring Learning, Every Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share some updates to our Key Stage 3 home learning strategy for next year, which we have refined based on valuable feedback from our parent survey earlier this year, alongside our internal review undertaken with teaching teams. We sincerely thank all parents who contributed their insights and suggestions, helping us enhance our approach to support our students' academic growth and wellbeing.

Changes to Home Learning Strategy:

Based on your feedback, we are introducing two key changes to our home learning strategy:

1. Daily Reviews with Hinge Questions: To help students reinforce their learning more effectively, we are now basing daily reviews around a hinge question provided by the teacher at the end of each lesson. This focused recall practice encourages students to reflect on the day's key concepts, aiding the transfer of information from working memory to long-term memory. Students can complete their reviews in various formats, including handwritten notes, digital entries on the iPad, drawings, or voice notes. This activity should take approximately 20 minutes each day.

2. Introduction of a Written Task in Year 8 and Year 9: We are adding a new written task for Year 8 and Year 9 students. This 30-minute writing task, set in their English lessons once a fortnight, will help students build resilience in extended writing and support their handwriting skills. This addition increases the amount of home learning slightly, preparing students for the transition to Key Stage 4.

Home Learning Expectations:

Year Group	Daily Review	Independent Reading	Sparx Maths	Writing Task	Optional MFL (LanguageGym)
Year 7	20 mins/day	20 mins, 4 times/week	30 mins/week	-	-
Year 8	20 mins/day	20 mins, 4 times/week	30 mins/week	30 mins, fortnightly	Optional
Year 9	20 mins/day	20 mins, 4 times/week	30 mins/week	30 mins, fortnightly	Optional

Headteacher: Mr S Homer MEng



Monitoring and Feedback:

We will closely monitor home learning tasks to ensure student progress and engagement:

- Sparx Maths: Monitored by the student's maths teacher.
- Writing Task: Monitored by the student's English teacher.
- Daily Review and Independent Reading: Monitored by the student's form tutor.

Teachers will provide regular feedback to support students in their home learning efforts, helping them to improve and stay on track.

Rewards:

To motivate and acknowledge students' dedication to home learning, we will implement a rewards system:

- Weekly Positive Points: Students will receive positive points each week for completing their home learning tasks.
- Half-Termly Rewards: At the end of each half term, students with the highest home learning points will be rewarded with various trips and activities.

We believe these updates will help our students reinforce their learning, develop independent study habits, and better prepare them for future academic challenges. We appreciate your continued support and collaboration in your child's education.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Kate Jones
Deputy Headteacher