

# Homework Policy

## Introduction

At Penola Catholic College, we believe that homework is essential to a student's academic development in order to:

- Reinforce learning undertaken at school, enabling the student to review, consolidate and extend their understandings of the day's work
- Establish regular study and revision routines
- Encourage parents to be involved with their son or daughter's work
- Create and maintain independent learning and research skills
- Promote efficient work skills and positive attitudes
- Develop responsibility and accountability for learning and the completion of tasks

## Principles

- Students benefit from completing appropriate homework tasks on a regular basis. Homework assists individuals to develop organisational and time-management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Homework provides further opportunities for parents to participate in their son or daughter's education. Parents, in partnership with the College, should encourage their children to establish and maintain good homework patterns.
- A College Planner is used as a means of documenting all homework as well as listing due dates for all assessable tasks. The College Planner also provides an important means of communication between parents and the College.
- Parents are encouraged to check daily, both the contents and their child's use of the College Planner. The Planner has a place for parents to sign and make comments. It is recommended that parents sign their child's planner weekly.
- Communication between parents, students and teachers also occurs through a phone call, through letters generated via Synergetic, through MyPenola and via email.
- Failure to complete homework is cause for concern and is noted and communicated via any of the above mentioned methods.
- Teachers endeavour to spread the workload evenly throughout each term; however, there will be times, invariably towards the end of each term, when workloads will increase.

## Homework should

- Be appropriate to the skill level and age of the student
- Be challenging and reinforce the learning that is taking place
- Be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the College curriculum
- Be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- Be balanced with a diverse range of recreational activities across the week

## In the Middle Years of School (Years 7 – 9)

- Homework should include a minimum of 20 minutes of independent reading on a daily basis

- Subject teachers, led by Heads of Learning and Year Level Co-ordinators, collaborate regarding the timing and the amount of major assignments set to avoid unreasonable workloads
- Homework may include tasks such as continuation of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research, study and revision, preparatory reading and extension tasks
- Students are guided by teachers on how to complete a study timetable during pastoral sessions.
- Parents can expect some homework to be set over the Term holidays.

## In the Senior Years of School (Years 10 – 12)

- Homework will generally increase on weeknights, with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak periods for Senior Students. At this level, students should be largely independent learners.
- Students are encouraged to include Study as part of their daily program. This includes work which is not required by the subject teacher, but will reinforce concepts learned and assist with preparation for examinations and other assessment tasks.
- Students should expect to be asked to complete some homework tasks during school holidays in preparation for the coming term, including the reading of set texts.
- Care should be taken to ensure that undue pressure is not placed upon students during these years and that a balance is maintained between the demands of study and other recreational activities. This can generally be achieved through good organization and planning and builds on the effective study habits established in the Middle Years.
- A small amount of part-time paid employment (up to a maximum of 8 – 10 hours per week) can provide a welcome break from study and a source of personal growth. Any greater work commitment effectively precludes an appropriate balance of homework/study, part-time work, recreation and family life.

## Recommended minimum Homework/Study times per night

Students are expected to read novels, newspapers, magazines etc. for at least 20 to 30 minutes per night as part of homework. Effective reading develops with practice and is the foundation of all homework.

Year 7	1 hour
Year 8	1 to 1.5 hours
Year 9	1.5 to 2 hours
Year 10	1.5 to 2 hours
Year 11	2 to 2.5 hours, plus 3 – 4 hours per weekend
Year 12	2.5 to 3 hours, plus 4 – 6 hours per weekend

## Homework Club

A voluntary Homework Club operates on each Campus on one or two afternoons per week from 3.20 – 4.30 p.m., offering students a quiet study environment with assistance as requested from the supervising teachers.

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Approved by Board

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