

# Parent Guide for Homework



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We have received questions and queries from parents and carers during a recent virtual parents evening, concerning a variety of aspects regarding home learning. We have summarised these below in what we hope will be a helpful guide which will enable you to further support your child

## 1. 'What is my role in home learning?'

Encouragement is a major role. Ensure that your child manages and copes with the workload. Sit with them. Talk to them about the tasks. If they talk through their learning they are more likely to retain the knowledge.

## 2. 'I'm busy and don't have time to help. What can I do?'

It's not essential that you sit with them and work alongside them, but showing an interest is imperative. Ask them what tasks they're undertaking tonight and sound enthusiastic!

## 3. 'I can't help because education has changed since I was at school. I don't know what my child is taught.'

You can support by appearing interested in school: reading the school newsletter; attending parents'/carer evenings, following our social media. Generally, show an interest in school. Check the school website. Google, You Tube, BBC Bitesize are fantastic resources with tutorials that can support in a range of subjects.

## 4. 'I don't know enough about a specific topic to help my child. How can I help?'

Young people thrive on rewards and encouragement. Maybe look at some information together. Help collect information. Supporting is an excellent way of helping. If you need additional support remember you should check the school website, Google, You Tube, BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3> and The Oaks National Academy; <https://www.thenational.academy/> have fantastic resources with tutorials that can support in a range of subjects.

## 5. 'It's noisy and there's no space at home'

The school has several home learning clubs which run. These home learning clubs are fully supervised and supported by our experienced teachers who can offer additional advice and support if required. More details can be found on the website under the parent tab and then GCSE support.

## 6. 'How much home learning should my child be doing?'

Below is how much time your child should be spending on each subject. All home learning is set on Microsoft Teams and you will receive a weekly email, every Sunday, to let you know what has been set and completed by your child.

Year 11 Home Learning	
Week One	Week Two
All subjects will set a minimum of one piece of home learning a week.	

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Each piece of home learning should take approximately one hour each.  
Your child should also be completing regular revision for all subjects they are sitting a GCSE in. As a guide, approximately one hour a night.

## 7. 'My child doesn't tell me about home learning. What can I do?'

Log in to Microsoft Teams to track and monitor your child's home learning and for any notices from their class teachers. If you are still unsure you can ask your child's form tutor. You could also your child open questions about today's learning at school.

## 8. 'All my child seems to do is finish off work done in class'

It is important from time to time to finish off classwork. However, home learning should take many forms. If you aren't sure – ask or send in a query. You could phone the school 0121 4649901 or send an email to [enquiry@bwa.kevibham.org](mailto:enquiry@bwa.kevibham.org), making sure you state in the subject, homework query.

## 9. 'My child spends more time than is necessary on their home learning.'

Pupils work at different speeds. However, if they are spending an unreasonable amount of time on tasks make a note in their planners– or simply write='x has spent 30 minutes on this task'. The teacher will then take charge of the situation.

## 10. 'My child finds the home learning too easy and/or finishes it too quickly.'

As previously stated pupils work at different speeds, however, should your child be finding the work too easy or completing quickly, they can always ask for additional extension activities. It is also worthwhile checking the quality of the work that is completed as well. Should the work remain unchallenging please inform the class teacher in the first instance.

## 11. My child is easily distracted

Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.) Schedule a regular study time. Some children work best in the afternoon, following a snack and rest period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.

## 12. 'My child's home learning is set irregularly and/or then it doesn't always get marked.'

The first thing to do would be to talk to your child and make sure of the facts. If there is an issue, tell us via the class teacher in the first instance, or directly via the form tutor. If you do not feel you get a suitable response, please refer on to the Head of Subject or Faculty.

## Finally,

Home learning is used to support classwork. It is an attempt to help your child become independent learners and more importantly form a base of good practice which can be built on in future years King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy regards home learning as an integral part of the learning process.

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## Microsoft Teams: Guidance for Parents and Guardians

### What does my child need to sign in to their Office 365 account?

Your child already has an Office 365 account. As a result, they will be able to access Microsoft Teams for their home learning. All your child has to do is log into their school office account where they'll have access to Microsoft Teams, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and so much more. From this home base, pupils can open Office apps in their web browser.

Microsoft Teams can be accessed online or downloaded to a home or mobile device.

### What are the best devices for my child to use with Office 365?

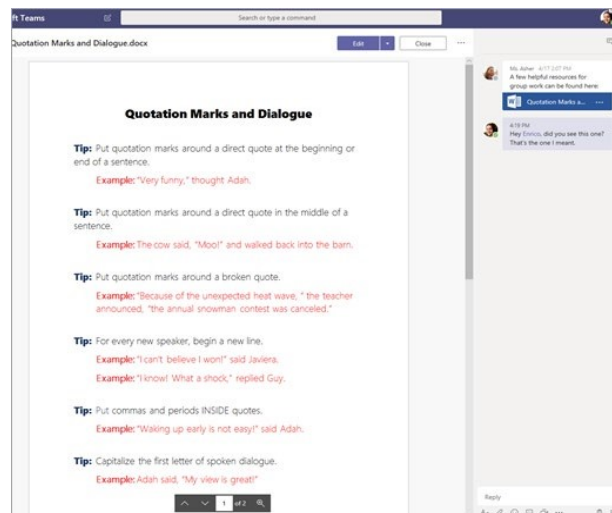
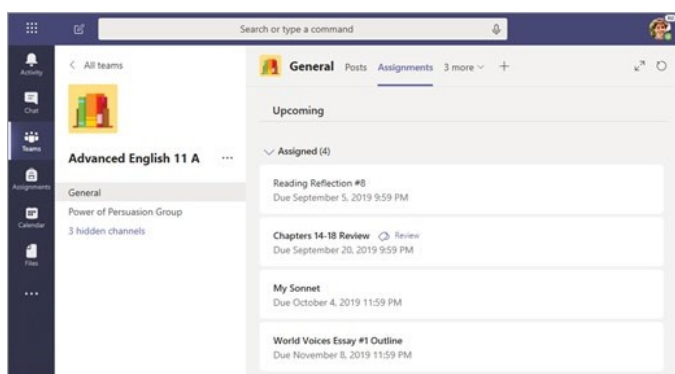
As long as devices are connected to your home internet, Microsoft Teams will work on your home computer, laptops, tablets and even your child's mobile phone.

### How does my pupil join a team? How do they know if they're part of their class' team?

To explore Teams and see the class teams they're in, your child can sign in to their school Office 365. Pupils will also receive an email notification when they've been added to a team or when a new piece of home learning has been set.

### Can my child study, work, and complete home learning on teams?

With the **Assignments** app built right into Teams, your child can see work their teachers have assigned them, submit that work, and see their grades and feedback.



### How does my child hand in home learning using Teams?

Your child can turn in their home learning by navigating to the **Assignments** tab in the **General** channel of their class team, then selecting an assignment. They can attach any appropriate work and select **'Turn in'**.

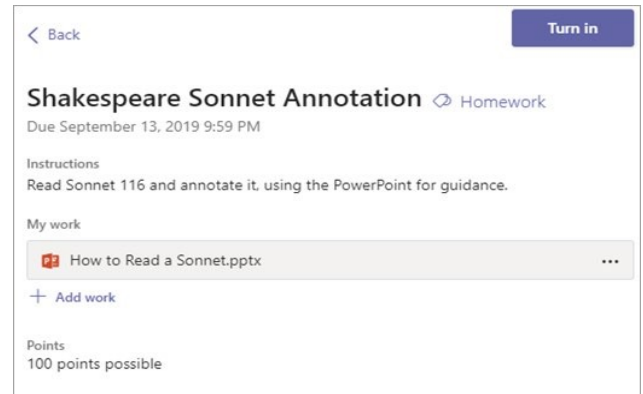
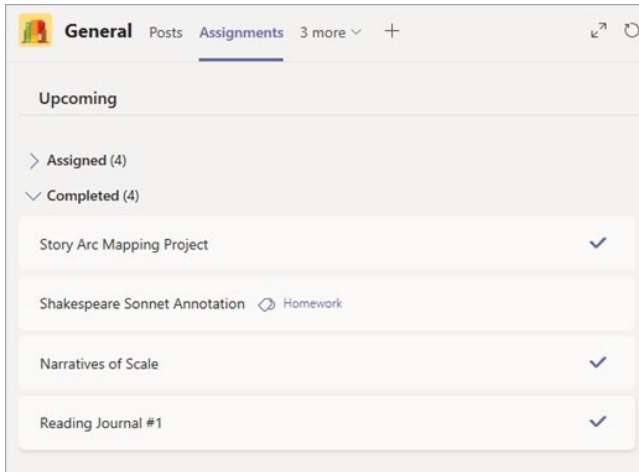
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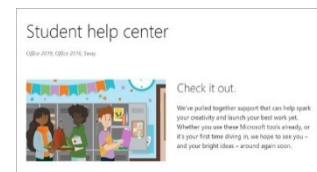
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## Where can my pupil access help on how to best use Microsoft Education tools?

Your child has a help centre made just for them! From covering the basics of using Teams all the way to project ideas, this pupil help centre is all about showing pupils how they can leverage Office 365 for their learning, engagement, and creativity.

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/student-help-center>



## How can a parent check on a child's progress?

You will receive a weekly email explaining what home learning (assignments) your child has been set. It will also let you know how many pieces of work your child has completed and how many pieces they still need to do. It is important that you update the school if you change your email so we can communicate with you about your child's home learning.

