Homework Policy; or
What to do when your child comes home and says
I’ve got no homework!

What is homework?
Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practising, extending and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline. (DET Homework policy 2000)

However, due to continuous scientific and technological innovations, it is well known that across all fields, what we know today will be redundant within the next decade. For example, in the technology field, two and a half years and for psychology, seven years is the expected norm for the turnover of knowledge. Obviously, remembering, reading and summarising are important but certainly no longer enough.

Homework is anything that can help a student improve their school learning specifically, as well as, their lifelong learning skills.

For example, playing a few games of Scrabble with adults or friends can assist with improving a child’s spelling, vocabulary, use of the dictionary and a Thesaurus. These are very important research and literacy skills which will assist them in their school work and in their lives.

How much homework should my child be doing?
In Stage 4 (Years 7 & 8)  1 to 1 1/2 hours and 20 minutes reading per day.
In Stage 5 (Years 9 & 10)  2 to 2 1/2 hours and 30 minutes reading per day.
In Stage 6 (Years 11 & 12)  3 to 3 1/2 hours per day.
For all students, daily revision of the work done in class is essential!

Studying for tests and exams can form part of this time; but in Stage 6 studying should definitely be additional to these times.

In addition,
✓  Homework Books are distributed each term to Year 7 and 8 students; and to Year 9 students in term 1; based on Literacy and Numeracy requirements.
✓  The RaD (Reading and Doing) program is a part of the Year 7 – 9 curriculum and is linked to the Premier’s Reading Challenge. It focuses on students reading a minimum number of narrative texts and then presenting a book report for teacher feedback.
So here are some **general suggestions** devised by KHS teachers to help you deal with the dreaded, *but I don’t have any homework!*

- **✓** Read – anything - for twenty minutes and then have your child explain it or teach it to you or a sibling.

- **✓** Read fiction and novels as often as possible to extend vocabulary and grammar skills.

- **✓** Review all the work for each subject that you have daily. Use highlighters and post it notes to record any questions or problems and ask your teachers next lesson for assistance.

- **✓** Check your diary on a daily basis and look ahead – what tests or projects are coming due – what can you do tonight to prepare for this? Don’t leave things to the last minute!

- **✓** Encourage them to learn to meditate.

- **✓** Visit a gallery, go to a concert or festival and discuss or make journal entries about it.

- **✓** Listen to some music they don’t usually listen to ABCFM and Community radio stations are good alternatives to the usual commercial music offerings.

- **✓** Take up a hobby and master it.

- **✓** Make an art work, play some music, write in a journal, as a way of relaxing or reflecting on their lives or recent experiences.

- **✓** Keep a journal, with photos, recordings, ticket stubs, wrappers, drawings and text, whenever they travel, go to new places, or have new experiences.

- **✓** Use the internet to research an area or topic that your child is weak in or that they are passionate about.

- **✓** Watch one TV episode and spend ten minutes explaining it to you. *The Simpsons* is good for this – ask them to explain why it is funny.

- **✓** Teach them to cook something; have them prepare a meal for the family.

- **✓** Learn to play chess and join a chess club.

- **✓** Build a jigsaw puzzle. Turn a picture or one of your drawings into a jigsaw puzzle.

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**All students should use their school diary to record their homework commitments.**
Here are **school specific suggestions** devised by us to help you assist your child with improving their overall results. Encourage your child to:

- Read over the notes and work you they did in class today. Use a highlighter and post-it notes to highlight things they don’t understand and write questions on the post-it notes. Take these to school and ask the teacher to help.
- Read or watch something related to a school topic or unit and write a report on it or explain it to you. For example – write up a report on the weekend football match for PDHPE; write a report on the *Kokoda Trail* documentary for history; write a report on the current debate regarding the federal government’s *Work Choices* legislation for Economics or Commerce.
- Read, Read, Read!!!
- Make sure their folders and notebooks are organised, that all work is in place and nothing is missing. They may like to redo their notes on the computer and keep them filed there. This is a good way of revising and finding out what you don’t know.
- Divide the work needed to do for an assessment task or research project into chunks. Plan to do at least one of these chunks every couple of days.
- Work with a buddy – they can trade skills. For example, one is strong in maths and the other in English. By teaching and explaining to each other they each improve.

*Practicing for you presentation before the actual event is important!*
Here are some **subject specific suggestions** devised by us to help you assist your child with improving their results.

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**Creative and Performing Arts**

Homework is for reinforcing student understanding from class work and the practice of particular skills and researching information in preparation for class work.

Homework includes:
- ✓ research assignments;
- ✓ collecting stimulus material;
- ✓ practising either musical or artistic skills;
- ✓ making or designing something eg. an art work.

In addition:
- ✓ wide reading on various art and music topics is important and encouraged;
- ✓ visiting galleries, exhibitions and concerts will also improve students’ outcomes as these experiences enrich and expand perceptions of the world around them.

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**English**

- ✓ Homework in English is set as part of the assessment process. Students will need to prepare for, complete, read, view, write, speak and listen; as well as compose and respond to a wide range of texts.
- ✓ Students always have homework for English – whether it is reading some or all of their prescribed text, viewing the prescribed television show or film; or completing written tasks.
- ✓ All students in Years 7 – 10 are expected to read widely and for a minimum of twenty minutes each day.
- ✓ Students should use the school diary to record homework and assignment commitments.

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**History**

- ✓ Write in your reflection journal every week (Years 7-9).
- ✓ Read the newspaper – particularly the World sections
- ✓ Watch more TV! – especially documentary, world, history programs; biographical presentations, ABC and SBS channels.
- ✓ For stage 5 – proof read your assignments before producing the published copy.
- ✓ Buy magazines like the National Geographic, Time etc for wide reading.
- ✓ For Stage 6 – use the internet to source extra information for topics being covered in class.
### Languages

- Listen to, read and write in the language you are studying as much as possible.
- Converse in the language as often as you can – perhaps form a conversation group with a couple of people from the class.
- Complete all home tasks.
- Revise all class work daily.
- Prepare thoroughly for assessment tasks and tests.
- Listen to community radio in the language you are studying.
- Keep an eye out on SBS and World movie channels to view movies or news in the language you are studying.

### Maths

Homework is to reinforce and practise the concepts taught in class.

**There is always homework for maths.**

- Part of a student’s nightly homework process is to mark their work, highlight any errors and then write out worked solutions for these mistakes. Studying these corrections to the errors is the best way to improve.
- All students have Usernames and Passwords to access the ‘Mathsonline’ website. This website has endless revision for students and work is regularly set and always checked by their teacher.

### For PDHPE

- Homework is set regularly and includes completion of class work, research assignments and assessment task work.
- Revision and reflection of the lesson content, and building up a set of study notes from summaries.
- Senior students are expected to reinforce their understanding of course content through the regular completion of blank syllabi, revising glossary terms, writing of summary notes and practice answering past HSC questions.

### Science

- Homework is given on a regular basis in the form of completion of literacy worksheets, classwork, revision exercises and research tasks.
- Senior students are expected to reinforce their understanding of key verbs in the syllabus “dot points” by writing summary notes every fortnight.
- Get involved in science competitions.
- Watch the New Inventors, Mythbusters and current scientific issues presented in the news.
Social Science

Regular homework for all subjects and classes will include;
✓ Completion of work from each lesson, such as worksheets, extension questions, diagrams, charts and maps, notes, and internet research. It is essential to keep student workbooks up to date and in good order to study for tests.
✓ Revision and reflection of the lesson content, and building up a set of study notes from summaries.
✓ Planning, researching and completing assignment tasks in a timely manner.
✓ Monitoring a variety of media material relevant to the topic studied to broaden student knowledge.
✓ Revision and study for tests and examinations.

Homework for Years 7, 8, 9 also includes preparation for:
➢ Semester assignments.
➢ Class tests.
➢ Revision for topic tests and examinations

Homework for Year 10 also includes:
➢ Assessment tasks as per School Certificate Assessment Schedule.
➢ Practice and revision exercises before the S. C. Examination and other tests.

Homework for Stage 6 also includes:
➢ The making of major projects for Business Studies, Economics, Legal Studies, Society & Culture and Geography.
➢ Preparation for assessment tasks.
➢ Practice exercises and completing past papers.

Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Stage 4 TAS
Homework in TAS is part of the assessment process for both Home Economics and Industrial Arts in Year 7 and 8.

The Design booklet is provided by the T.A.S. Faculty for Year 7 and is where students do their homework and then marked by their teacher. As part of homework in these subjects, students are expected to:
✓ revise all class (theory) work;
✓ research an area of interest of ‘Design’ in consultation with their teacher;
✓ provide stimulus material such as drawings, images, pictures; and by watching programs such as ABC Inventors etc to comply with set tasks;
✓ practise computer activities learnt during the class
✓ prepare for tests, assessments, projects and exams.
In Year 8, TAS students in Home Economics and Industrial Arts homework emphasises student initiative and research. These activities build up to a long term (two terms/one semester) assessment task.

In Home Economics, students select a country of choice and research the climate, food, meal patterns, religion and traditions.

Industrial Arts students will be use *google sketchup* to design various items.

In both subjects, students are expected to:
- revise all class (theory) work;
- to use web browsers to research;
- actively practise computer skills that are introduced and learned in class;
- prepare for tests, assessments, projects and exams.

**Stage 5 and 6 TAS**
All TAS subjects have homework that must be completed. Homework involves the following:
- students may be required to complete set tasks in preparation for future lessons;
- completion of class work;
- regular practise and revision of work completed in class;
- prepare for tests, assessments, projects and exams.

**All students should use their school diary to record their homework commitments.**
This site is managed by the San Diego State University and provides some wonderful projects for students to undertake. The projects are not focused on finding answers but rather on making answers; that is, developing the skills of synthesis, judgement, creativity and problem solving; critical skills in all subjects. *These are the skills that turn student results from average to excellent.*

Just go to the site, [http://www.webquest.org/](http://www.webquest.org/) , access the *Find Webquests* page and type in what you are interested in. Everything, from Maths to Space Travel.