

Parents' Forum – 17 May 2017

Last night, I held a parents' forum to discuss whether an online homework platform would make students' home learning more effective.

Firstly, we looked at barriers that existed at the moment with setting homework:

- Timetable of homework
- Making homework more interesting
- Writing instructions – Not enough time to write the clear instructions
- Students not writing in homework in enough detail
- Lost homework sheet
- Students' logins not working
- Students not handing homework back in on time
- Homework not always relevant

We then looked at one of the proposed homework platforms called 'Show my Homework'. Parents were extremely positive about it, with the following benefits for students and parents:

- No login needed as the homework platform would be on the Website
- Students and parents can clearly see what homework and tests are planned for several weeks in advance, enabling them to plan their week
- Clear instructions for the student is given and automatic reminders can be sent when homework is due
- More time in lessons learning without worrying about writing down the homework
- Help to organise students more effectively
- Homework could be returned via the platform
- No excuse for homework not being done
- Parents can support students with homework more effectively

Questions raised were:

- **Q) How would homework be marked?**
A) Dependent on the homework and subject both in hard copy form or the platform
- **Q) Would this completely replace the planner?**
A) The planner as it is would be phased out and simplified initially. Possibly keep for younger students and possibly made available for all students to purchase if there was a need
- **Q) Mobile phones – would students need a smart phone?**
A) No, although for some of the lessons where teachers use mobiles smart phones were needed
- **Q) Does this run only on office?**
A) No this is Web based

In summary, this would enable leaders at different levels to have an oversight of what homework is being set, it helps the teacher to plan in advance either termly or even annually what homework they would like to set giving them more time in lessons to teach and most importantly helps students to become more organised and independent learners. Ultimately, it would lead to homework having greater impact on students' learning and progress.

Thank you to those parents who came along and gave valuable input into our decision making process.

Mr Chris Prosser