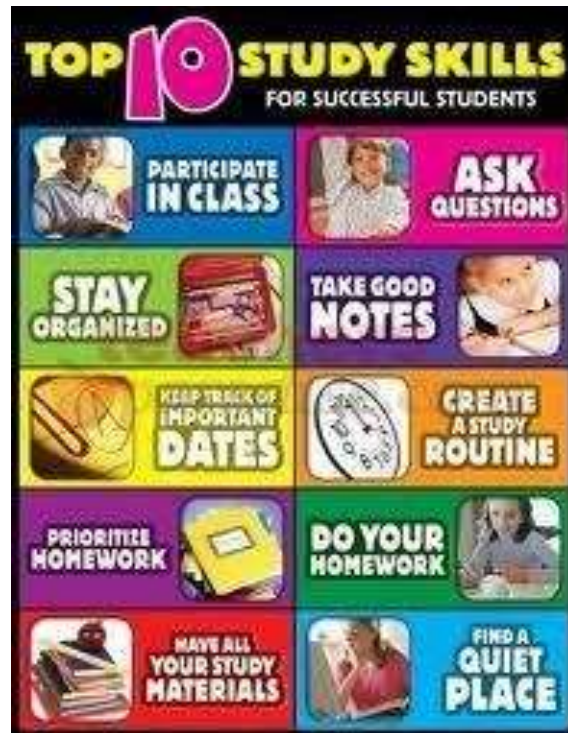# TYPICAL HOMEWORK AND OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNING TASKS

FOUNDATION STAGE

ENGLISH FACULTY

Typical tasks
1. Punctuation/ grammar exercises 2. Learning how to spell key words/common errors 3. Reading a range of fiction 4. Reading newspaper and magazine articles 5. Drafting or re-drafting a piece of writing 6. Keeping a diary for writing practice

Examples of extension tasks

•   Guide them towards extra punctuation and grammar practice on
       www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar
       BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv (English Language)
       BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zykdmp3 (English Literature)
       BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z7pfb9q (Media Studies)
•   Encourage them to read widely. Suggest that they read different genres, different authors. Encourage visits to a local library.
•   Encourage letter writing to pen-friends, or relatives

How can parents help

•   Test their spelling
•   Read with them and share opinions on what you read
•   Talk through homework tasks and encourage them to proof-read their work
•   If research homework is set help them to sift through the mass of information available.
      •   Listen to any scheduled individual talks and ask them questions that require them
    to   develop their ideas further.

MATHEMATICS FACULTY

Typical tasks
1. Researching a topic for study in class 2. consolidate classroom learning through further examples 3. MyMaths activities 4. Revision for tests through completing questions, chapter reviews, 5. Self assessment: reviewing of performance against targets.
Examples of extension tasks
- MyMaths booster pack activities www.mymaths.co.uk   - Optional challenge/extension questions at end of homework activities   - UK Maths challenge for gifted and talented mathematics students ⬜ Functional Maths: open ended investigations   - Useful websites: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zqhs34j www.emaths.org.uk www.mathsguru.co.uk http://nrich.maths.org
How can parents help
- Encourage a positive and "can do" attitude towards Mathematics   - Look at your child's work on a regular basis so that you can see progress of your child. ⬜ Help your child if you can but please annotate any help given by writing a note/comment in their exercise book.   - Ensure students have correct equipment for lessons that include: natural display scientific calculator, pair of compasses, protractor, ruler and books.   - Functional Skills: Get your child to relate Mathematics to real life eg reading bus timetables, estimating shopping bills and finding best buys at the supermarket etc   - Help your child to be able to read from an analogue clock and promptly recall times tables and basic number bonds.

SCIENCE FACULTY

Typical tasks
- Consolidate work covered in class using the online text book, available through the VLE or through book stores   - Complete practical write-ups at home   - Answer extended questions based on work covered in class   - Research and/or prepare presentation of a given topic   - Learn work thoroughly for tests
Examples of extension tasks

- Work through the Boardworks presentations via the VLE
- Login to the VLE and follow some of the links to revision and extension resources http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=214138 BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zng4d2p
- Work through the Badger tasks that are appropriate to the topic being covered and are available through the VLE
- Visit the Science and/or Natural History Museums
- Visit the Greenwich Observatory planetarium and exhibits

- View television programs on Science topics being studied
- Book a visit to the At-Bristol interactive Science discovery centre http://www.at-bristol.org.uk/

How can parents help

You can help even if Science is strange to you:
- Encourage and support your son or daughter to follow activities available through the VLE
- Ask your son or daughter to explain an idea to you.
- Help your son or daughter to revise for topic tests, perhaps by testing them or allowing them to test you
- Encourage your son or daughter to contact a teacher if they find a particular idea difficult.

ART FACULTY

Typical tasks

1. Practising drawing skills using a 2B pencil to create tone
2. Practising mark making with pencil
3. Planning 4 different designs for sculpture you will make in class
4. Completing work started in class perhaps by adding colour
5. Collaging papers to create a base for work to follow in class
6. Developing research skills using guidelines and suggested web-sites

Examples of extension tasks

- Using web- sites to conduct further research on artists to support ideas:
- www.tate.org.uk   www.vam.ac..uk
- www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk   www.britishmuseum.org.uk
- www.nationalgallery.org.uk
- Visit a gallery or museum with friends
- Create your own sculpture at home out of re-cycled materials
- Also take photographs of subjects you have been set to draw
- Work on smartening up the presentation of your sketchbook
BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z6f3cdm

How can parents help

- Look in their sketchbooks every week to ensure homework is completed
- Encourage LOOKING at objects, people, landscapes, really studying them and analysing the details visually with them
- Discuss ideas with them ask them what they have found out about artists' work, (not the life of the artist)
- Provide access to a camera and the internet
- Offer technical help with holding, glueing, cutting up etc

PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

Typical tasks for DRAMA
•   Learning specialist drama vocabulary and the correct spelling off by heart (for example, 5 words at a time) •   Research tasks to aid learning in the following lesson (for example to add depth to a character or to find out about a theatrical genre or period) •   Learning lines in preparation for a practical performance •   'Milestone' written task whereby pupils are asked to reflect on their own or another actor's performance ⬜ Writing a script

Examples of extension tasks
•   More extensive evaluation in which the pupils are asked to reflect on their performance and evaluate how they can improve in future performances •   Further or more extensive research on genres and theatre styles (for example, looking for performance footage on the internet, conducting background research on the Globe theatre) ⬜ Reading a whole script for pleasure/interest (for example, where an extract has been used in class) •   Developing a 'working script' that has been started in class

How can parents help
•   Guide them towards extra vocabulary and spelling practise – refer to the Drama Dictionary in the back of the Learning Journals •   Help them research – help them to avoid simply copying and pasting text, try and get them to select specific and key points and present them in their own words. •   Take them to see productions at local theatres in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of theatre both practically and historically. •   Help them to learn their lines for a practical performance, by testing them and reading in for other characters in order to help pupils with their cues.

Typical tasks for MUSIC
•   Researching a topic or genre of music in preparation for a new unit of work •   Researching a topic or genre of music/ culture in support of and to increase understanding of current unit of work being studied •   Creating a factual poster on a given topic area (e.g. Steel Pans for Year 7's learning about Caribbean Music) •   Creating a composer/ artist fact file or biography •   Completing a written evaluation on own composition and performance •   Completing Learning Reflection Journal to review work at the end of a unit (Optional/ Additional task which is suggested where possible- to rehearse music for forthcoming assessment/s, where instruments are available at home)

Examples of extension tasks
⬜ Encourage additional reading around the subject being studied through internet research ⬜ Encourage additional listening through use of YouTube (audio/ video) and investigation of CD collections at home BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zmsvr82

How can parents help

- Help with internet research- assist them in being able to pick out the important pieces of information, particularly when creating a fact file
- Help with longer pieces of writing, specifically when writing an evaluation of the work and performance which has taken place in the lesson- ask them to explain to you what they were asked to do, how they composed the music (what guidelines they were given) and how effectively their music met the given brief. This will help them to plan their writing.
- Check homework through for spelling errors and obvious cut & pasting! Encourage them to read their research to you.
- Encourage good presentation, particularly for posters and fact files which are likely to be displayed.
- Suggest possible listening ideas from your own CDs which might support the topics we are

- studying at KS3.
- If instruments are available at home (particularly keyboards), encourage practice and minipreview performances of the pieces we are studying in lessons.

HUMANITIES FACULTY

Typical tasks for HISTORY
1. Learning key terminology and definitions
2. Completing extended project based work
3. Preparation for milestone assessments
4. Completing target work, glossaries & personal learning checklists

Examples of extension tasks
∟ Guide them towards additional reading or research https://schoolhistory.co.uk/ http://spartacus-educational.com/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/history ∟ Encourage them to read books about history (ie, Horrible Histories) ∟ Get them interested in wider History by watching television series, films based on history. Maybe even watch some of the many documentaries on TV (ie, History, Yesterday, Blighty, National Geographic, etc) ∟ Listen to historical audio books or podcasts ∟ Go to museums and historical sites of interest. Research your family history.

How can parents help
Even if you know very little about History you can help by: - Encourage them to keep their exercise books organised. - For longer pieces of writing and project work help with research, planning and read through the work before it is handed in. - Check that they understand how to use the internet for research by looking for plagiarism (copy & pasting from the internet can be very tempting). - Test them on key terminology and definitions. - Talk to them about what they are learning.

Typical tasks for GEOGRAPHY

1. Complete glossaries.
2. Extended creative writing.
3. Cartographic and graphical analysis.
4. Research case study material
5. Produce poster and presentations on topics / issues

Examples of extension tasks

- http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupID=910590
- http://mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/
- http://www.gatm.org.uk/
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/default.stm
- http://www.radicalgeography.co.uk/KeyStage3.html
- http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/
- http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/education/kids/

Explore these websites to extend your knowledge and learning of Geography

How can parents help

- Help them research a topic and write up their findings in their own words.
- Help with map skills be using the Reading OS map and also navigate whilst out and about.
- Check understanding of key terms in glossaries.

Typical tasks for RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Research exercises
- Sorting and ordering tasks
- Article writing
- Empathy, creative and imaginative tasks
- Milestone assessments written or discussion based as set out at the end of each booklet

Examples of extension tasks

- Guide them towards developing their understanding of religious issues
- Encourage them to research and find out about religious character
- Research and reflect on contemporary issues linked to religion in the modern world
- Useful websites: http://www.bbc.co.uk/ http://www.reonline.org.uk/
  BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zh3rkqt

How can parents help

- Please have a close look at the Key Stage 3 Booklet and the curriculum map at the front of students' books to see what your child is studying in class.
- Discuss ideas and issues together, particularly focusing on the key beliefs, practices, feelings of different religious people and ask your child to reflect on their own opinion of the ideas.
- Support with research and use of the internet.
- Read through prepared written tasks.

LANGUAGES FACULTY

Typical tasks for FRENCH & GERMAN

1. Learning vocabulary (for the first learning homework, pupils should write a brief explanation of the method they used and how long they spent. Parents should sign their exercise books in support).
2. Completing grammar exercises on worksheets
3. Reading comprehensions
4. Listening comprehensions
5. Extended writing
6. Translations of short sentences from English into French/German or from French/German into English.
7. Preparation of dialogues
8. Researching aspects of French/German culture (e.g. find out your clothes and shoe size in French; what does a typical French/German person have for breakfast)

Examples of extension tasks

- Guide them towards extra vocabulary eg:
- http://www.linguascope.com
- http://www.bbc.uk/languages/french/mafrance
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german

- http://www.languagesonline.org.uk
- Encourage them to read about French / francophone culture by finding out about regions and towns using English, or French, websites
- Encourage them to read about German culture by finding out about regions and towns using
- English, or German, websites
- Get them interested in developing a wider interest in French/German by giving them readers to take home, read and review
- Go to France/Germany and make them do all the transactions!
- BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zgdqxnb (French)
- BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zcj2tfr (German)

How can parents help

Even if you don't speak a word of French/German you can help:
- Test them on the meanings of French/German words when they have to learn vocab or grammar.
- -Help them to manage their time when learning vocabulary: a little and often is the key. -Help them develop learning techniques: look, cover, write, check is the method used in primary school. How can this method be adapted to help with the learning of a new language?
- If they are doing reading get them to summarise what the text/extract is about in English. Ask them what certain words mean – how spontaneously can they answer you?

TECHNOLOGY AND ICT FACULTY

Typical tasks for TECHNOLOGY

1. Researching a topic for study in class.
2. Expanding design ideas further.
3. Research into materials / existing products.
4. Evaluating work by seeking the views of other people.
5. Self-assessment evaluating their own work and suggesting improvements.
6. Preparing ingredients for a practical food session.

Examples of extension tasks

- Using web sites to explore the work of others
- Watching television programmes eg: 'How is it made' to gain an insight into manufacturing processes, cookery programmes.
- Visits to Design Museums and exhibitions, supermarkets.
- Taking photographs of 'good' design www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/

BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zfr9wmn
(Design Technology) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z6yb4wx
(Product Design) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zb8jmp3
(Food Technology) http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zvkw2hv
(Textiles Technology)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z4qmhyc (Graphics)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zjmygk7 (Architecture)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zy48q6f (Systems and Control)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z2tb4wx (Engineering)

How can parents help

- Encourage an enquiring mind towards Design
- Discuss with your child their work and asking them to explain the principles of what they are trying to achieve.
- Discuss with them what you are thinking if you are about to buy a new product and why

You might be favouring one design over another.

 Discuss with them real life issues and the cause and effect of technology. An example might be a major oil spill and the need for oil verses environmental issues. Encourage students to practise dishes in preparation for the lesson.

Typical tasks for ICT

1. Know ICT terminology and be able to give clear definitions and where they might be used.. 2. Gather research and images for inclusion in an ICT solution which may be completed in lessons.
3. Plan how to solve a problem using an item of ICT software.
4. Evaluate a finished product.
5. Complete worksheets on ICT terminology and uses.

Examples of extension tasks

- Experiment in spare time with a very broad range of applications software so that they become more conversant with the functions and uses of it.
- Encourage to watch educational technology programs on TV.
- Visit websites on technology and follow threads to improve ICT knowledge and future trends.
- Know the functions of ICT hardware and how they are assembled, and know how to find simple faults, such as with printers and memory sticks.
- BBC Bitesize: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z8mtsbk
  (ICT)   http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zvc9q6f
  (Computing)   http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zy48q6f
  (Systems and Control)

How can parents help

- Ensure that they have satisfactory access to ICT devices at home.
- Encourage experimentation with applications software.
- Ensure safe use of the Internet and on-line communities.
- Ensure that a variety of information sources are used when gathering research and that the validity of the information gathered is accurate.