



Independent Study Information

Homework/Prep is an important part of your daughter's or son's education at school and will be set on a regular basis.

Assessment in St John's College must be viewed in its modern context.

Many parents would view assessment as the means by which they and their children's teachers

- know how well pupils are doing
- what they must do to improve
- what is the extent of their achievement - the value which the school has added - and
- ultimately the standards which they have attained over a period of time.

Assessment for Learning has led to a further dimension:

- that assessment data should be used to inform the process of planning teaching and learning, in order to improve achievement further.

Consequently our Assessment Policy and system must serve all these objectives.

How will we achieve this quite complex set of objectives in practice?

Regular planned appropriate homework, other class assessment assignments - many of these examples of Independent Learning - can serve as formative assessments which will achieve some or all of the objectives listed above. A variety of such assessments will require marking which shows pupils how to improve, and will encourage achievement by personal and helpful comment in the process of marking, and of pupil self-evaluation.

Managers - Heads of Department, Subject Coordinators - will supervise Subject Teachers in the use of this data, primarily to see that pupils know what to do to improve and to see that planning and, ultimately in importance, teaching is informed. Thus it is for Heads of Departments (Subject leaders) to primarily monitor these assessments, and to see that these are discussed with parents.

It is the responsibility of members of the SLT to see that their section of the school is making good progress. They should check that Heads of Departments are carrying out this monitoring exercise; and, with the pupils' Form Tutor, identify examples where underachievement is taking place.

The summative assessments after Christmas and in the Summer provide a rigorous indication of how progress is being achieved, how pupils are performing, both in relation to recognised agreed standards and in relation to their peers, and this data is the basic data which should be used in ensuring that pupils are performing at least as well as and mostly better than the predictions of their cognitive ability would suggest (CAT tests).

The data collected in the twice annual reports, followed by reporting to parents and personal timetabled private discussions with parents, as well as the review which takes place between the pupil's Form teacher and the pupil, combine to provide the necessary basis for monitoring progress of individuals, and for the performance of departments to be monitored.

Parents and pupils receive a copy of the Homework Timetable at the start of the academic year.

Objectives of Homework.

- to encourage pupils to develop the practice of independent study
- to develop perseverance, self-discipline and organisation
- to involve parents and other adults in pupils' work
- to allow further practice of skills learnt in the classroom
- to consolidate and revise previously learnt knowledge
- to permit further ground to be covered and more rapid progress to be made
- to open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not necessarily accessible in the classroom
- to prepare for forthcoming lesson / topic areas, tests or examinations.

A more detailed assessment policy can be found under the policies section of the website.