

**Practice Learning Strategy**

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Outlined in this letter is our approach to ‘Practice Learning’ (homework) setting here at The Suthers School. We know that the strategy around home learning is a difficult one to perfect for all learners so we’re working hard to put an offer in place to support students and find the right balance for all.

We will be introducing students to the term ‘Practice Learning’ instead of referring to Homework or Home Learning tasks. Practice Learning reflects the nature of the consolidation, pre-learning and recall style designed activities that teachers will be setting for students to complete outside of the classroom. The focus on ‘practice’ is the first step in students understanding that learning in addition to the curriculum content delivered in classrooms is an independent step to enhancing and securing their knowledge, helping them to achieve their best. Further work will be carried out with students as part of our character development work to explain and implement this outlook.

**KS3 Practice Learning**

The expectation for students in KS3 is to receive and complete one piece of homework for each of the core subjects (English, maths and science) per week, and one piece of homework from all other subjects every other week as part of a rotation. Students will typically be given a week to complete each piece of practice learning. The following table outlines how this will be set over this half term.

Week Commencing	Independent study focus
Autumn Term 1	
19 <sup>th</sup> September	English, Maths, Science, French, DT, History, Drama, Computing
26 <sup>th</sup> September	English, Maths, Science, Geography, Social Studies, Art, Music
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	English, Maths, Science, French, DT, History, Drama, Computing
10 <sup>th</sup> October	English, Maths, Science, Geography, Social Studies, Art, Music
17 <sup>th</sup> October	English, Maths, Science, French, DT, History, Drama, Computing
Autumn Term 2	
31 <sup>st</sup> October	English, Maths, Science, Geography, Social Studies, Art, Music
7 <sup>th</sup> November	English, Maths, Science, French, DT, History, Drama, Computing

As part of practice learning at KS3, students have been given a vocabulary learning letter including five key terms to learn for every subject they study. Every half term for students in KS3, Subject Leads across school will be sharing the top five key vocabulary terms that students need to know for their learning in school. Vocabulary development is integral to knowledge development and ability to access the curriculum as well as providing a useful way for students to develop further literacy skills such as spelling and language understanding. You will see that on one side of the document are the key terms for each subject, students are only required to learn the words from subjects they study; students will only be learning one of the three DT areas at a time. On the reverse are activities that students can complete to help them learn the definitions, spelling and develop a secure understanding of the key vocabulary terms through application. Teachers will be directing students to complete specific activities as part of the homework policy in place but additional learning of these words at any time is encouraged. All students will be provided with a vocabulary book, which can act as a space to record their work on learning their words as well as an autonomous tool to be used in class and at home to record the definitions of new language they come across. We’ll be holding a Spelling Bee at the end of each half term based on these words, with additional challenge vocabulary, for any students who are keen to be involved and celebrate their language strengths. This will be an exciting event held through our form time programme. Vocabulary is integral to learning at KS4 and teachers will

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continue to guide students through their language learning in lesson time and through weekly practice learning activities.

### **KS4 Practice Learning**

At KS4, students will be set a practice learning task every week for their core subjects and chosen options. Students at KS4 can supplement their set learning tasks with independent revision using GCSE pod and Seneca Learning. The impact independent revision and additional learning can have on success at KS4 is widely recognised and all teachers offer bespoke and further learning tasks to aid students in their success.

### **Communicating Practice Learning**

Practice Learning tasks are set by teachers as part of their lesson time with students. Students are directed to write their learning in their planners and any printed resources will be given to students. If students struggle with writing clearly in their planners, teachers are directed to print instructions or write tasks in for students. This is to support with parents and carers being able to check planners and monitor students completing their practice learning activities. Teachers also use Teams as a means of communicating Practice Learning and further resources are often set using this platform.

### **Support in school**

As part of our offer to support students with their practice learning, we have opportunities for students to complete their learning tasks and activities in school. On a Wednesday afternoon, 3pm-4pm our Study Hall session runs where students can be supported to complete their set practice learning. Please see our enrichment offer for further details on this.

We also have The Fern (library) open two lunchtimes per week for every year group in school to access and work independently in.

If students are struggling with any aspect of practice learning, they are encouraged to speak to their class teachers and their form tutors who will always endeavour to work with students to ensure their success.

If you have any further questions regarding Practice Learning, please do get in touch.

Yours faithfully

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