



Montgomery Learning Bulletin.

Keeping you and your child informed

March, 2017

Mutual Respect, Ambition and Learning

Issue 2.



Upcoming events:-

Year 10 Parents' Evening.

**Thursday, 30th
March, 2017**

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Year 8 Parents' Evening .

**Thursday, 18th
May, 2017**

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**Year 11 GCSE s
Commence**

**Monday, 15th
May,
2017**

Homework—is there any point to it all?

You know that sinking feeling. It's fairly late in the evening and your favourite drama serial is about to start on TV and then you get the call. "Can you help with this homework?" Before you even start a long night of history or incomprehensible maths, there's just about time for an argument about why they didn't ask three hours earlier. It's almost impossible to resist the urge to go into parent mode by asking how they found the time to take enough Snapchat pictures to fill the National Portrait Gallery, post on Facebook or spend ages group texting but couldn't manage to start their homework? Then when you think it's all over, it gets even worse. Somewhere deep into the night, you hear the final stage of the homework trauma. "There's no ink in the printer."

But is there any point to it all? The answer is a resounding YES!

A big study published by the Department for Education found homework made a positive difference.

"The strongest effects were noted for those who reported spending two to three hours doing homework on a typical school night," said the study from researchers at the University of Oxford.

Pupils who did that amount of homework were almost 10 times more likely to achieve five + good GCSEs than students who did not spend any time on homework.

Homework shouldn't just be about completing tasks set by the teacher to be handed in to a specified deadline. What it should also be about is reflecting on that day's learning and being an independent student with a thirst for knowledge and understanding.

Now, some of you might be thinking something similar to the child in the cartoon image below.



To a great extent, we would all agree that a student's life needs balance. Family time, a social life and other activities are important. They are also important for the teacher. However, one of the most regular critical comments we receive from parents is that "homework isn't being set." On the contrary, it is being set, but unfortunately

there are a number of students who don't do it well or who choose not to do it at all. The government used to recommend an hour a week for five to seven-year-olds, rising to 2.5 hours per night for pupils aged between 14 and 16. Here at Montgomery, the amount of homework is incremental across the year groups. The homework schedule can be found at;

<http://www.montgomeryschool.co.uk/Information/policies>

In a recent survey of teachers here at Montgomery, it was found that a disappointingly large cohort of students didn't seem to recognise the need to regularly complete homework set or to meet published deadlines. There needs to be a change in attitude for those concerned.

We endeavour to do our best to help our students complete homework tasks.

Blaming dogs for eating homework has been an excuse in circulation since at least the 1920s, but a recent survey showed the current most popular excuse for homework being destroyed was milk spilled over it at breakfast or "The printer is broken Sir."

There are homework clubs that run after school, many of which are based in IT rooms so students can gain access to the web to complete research or use software programmes to enhance the presentation of their work.