



23 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope your child is enjoying their last week of their very first half term here at The Castle School and I hope they enjoyed their first curriculum enrichment days, last week.

Thank you for your feedback, patience and commitment with homework this half term. The vision of having a consistent and equitable homework strategy has been the heart of the pilot and we are looking forward to next half term with some slight improvements based on your feedback.

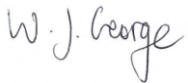
I thought it would be useful to share what we have done based on your feedback as indicated in the table below:

You said...	We did...
The volume of homework was becoming unmanageable.	There will be a maximum of two subjects per evening.
Teachers were not checking the homework.	Reminded colleagues of the importance of checking homework, visited lessons with a focus on homework being checked and offered a CPD session on this.
The set and due dates on ClassCharts was causing confusion.	Removed homework from ClassCharts and focussed on the homework timetable in the booklet which specifies when and what should be completed each evening instead, with homework being collected in the next or nearest lesson. Only three subjects will use Class Charts for homework – Art, Food and Music.
Some of the print was too small.	Made sure the formatting was more accessible.
The volume of homework has been greater than previous years with another child who currently attends the school.	The timetable for the homework pilot has built on previous years homework timetables – this reinforces the need for a consistent and equitable homework strategy.
Some of the homework has not been taught in lessons.	For the next half term, we have made sure it is practice of what has been taught, however, there is also evidence that a ‘flipped learning’ approach has a positive effect on progress and some subjects value this such as History.
The homework is taking longer than 30 minutes per subject.	Have made it clear that spending 30 minutes and stopping is fine. Students will not be sanctioned if they should do this.
The homework has been set one day and due the next.	The homework booklet is given out at the start of the half term so the students can plan where there may be extracurricular activities or busy periods. Therefore, the homework is set at the start of the half term.

We will be giving students their homework booklets and knowledge organisers today and tomorrow, but there is no expectation that students need to do this over the half term holiday – we feel students should enjoy their half term and come back feeling refreshed. Alternatively, if your child does want to start to get ahead that is okay too.

In the meantime, I wish you and your child a pleasant half term when it arrives and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. J. George".

Mr W George
Associate Assistant Headteacher