Maths Homework Help Sheet for Parents

This help sheet is designed to give you some key information to help you to assist your child with their Maths homework.

*Homework Expectations*

*Students in Years 7 and 8 will receive one piece of homework per week from their Maths teacher.*

*Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will receive two pieces of homework per week. One which will have a skills focus and one which will have an exam focus.*

Why do we give students homework?

This is something that our students often ask, here are a few reasons that will help your child understand why homework is essential for learning.

* Homework reinforces the learning that has been done in class, embedding skills and allowing your child to meet their full potential.
* It helps your child to develop an independent work ethic which will be crucial when your child reaches year 11 and is revising for their GCSE exams.
* Homework is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to be involved in their child’s homework.

What if my child is struggling with their homework and I can’t help?

It is important that your child understands that it is ok to be stuck and that there are several strategies that they can use to help them.

* Look up the skill online. There are several useful websites on the back of this sheet.
* Look back at the work that has been done in class.

If your child is struggling with their homework and feel that they cannot complete it, it is vital that they tell their maths teacher. It is important that they can tell their teacher what it was that made their homework difficult. Encourage them to write a short message to their teacher telling them which bits of their homework they didn’t understand.

What other things can Parents and Carers do to help their child with homework?

There are several things that you can do to help your child to do their homework.

* Find a nice quiet place from them to work. Ideally at a desk or table
* Make sure that they don’t have anything distracting them e.g. Mobile Phones
* Encourage your child to have a regular time in which they will complete their homework and make sure they stick to it.
* Each half term your child will be given a maths assessment. Encourage them to spend some time in the week revising for assessments using some of the websites on the back of this pamphlet.

Calculations which your child should be practising

Calculations that your child will be expected to be able to use fluently are the four rules of number. By this we mean add, subtract, multiply and divide. The methods that we require your child to be using are likely to be the same methods that you used when you were at school.

Column Addition and Subtraction

We always ask the students to write the place value above their calculations to help them to understand where to put numbers.

Example:

If we want to do the calculation 147 + 82 If we want to do 276 - 59

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | H | T | U |
|  | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| - | 0 | 5 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | H | T | U |
|  | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| + | 0 | 8 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |

Note that any spaces that are left are filled with zeros.

**It is important that we call these calculations and not sums.**

Multiplication

We have two methods of multiplication that we teach the students. The first is a method that we use if the students need to build their confidence with multiplication, the second is what we hope every student will be using by year 11 as it is far more efficient.

Example:

Method 1: The Place Value Grid

If we want to calculate 342 × 35 we need to first of all **partition** the numbers. This means splitting it up into its hundreds, ten and units.

For this example 342 becomes 300, 40, 2 and 35 becomes 30, 5.

Now we put this into a grid and multiply

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| × | 300 | 40 | 2 |
| 30 | **9000** | **1200** | **60** |
| 5 | **1500** | **200** | **10** |

We now use the column method to add the 6 blue numbers in the grid together.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | T | H | T | U |
|  | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| + | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 0 |

Method 2: Long Multiplication

This is the method that you are likely to have used when in school.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | H | T | U |
|  | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| × |  | 3 | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |

To see a video clip of how to do a long multiplication calculation click this link: Video of Multiplication

Division

When doing division we use two different methods: Short Division and Long Division.

Your child we recognise what we call the “bus stop” method.

Example of Short Division:

If we wanted to calculate 484 ÷ 4=

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 |

Example of Long Division:

If we wanted to calculate 1081 ÷ 23

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| 23 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1 |
| - | 0 | 9 | 2 |  |
|  |  | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| - |  | 1 | 6 | 1 |
|  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |

4 x 23 =92

8 x 23 = 161

To see a video showing you how to do long division click here: Video Long Division

Useful Websites that will help your child progress further in Mathematics

[www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) Username: grangecomp Password: numbers

[www.justmaths.com](http://www.justmaths.com) Username: GrangeStudent Password: Grange

[www.corbettmaths.com](http://www.corbettmaths.com)

[www.hegartymaths.com](http://www.hegartymaths.com)

[www.mathsgenie.com](http://www.mathsgenie.com)