



### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Montmorency Secondary College's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting homework.

### POLICY

Montmorency Secondary College expects students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing homework tasks. Homework has a positive effect on learning and is an important part of reinforcing the concepts that are introduced in class. It also plays a significant role in building work ethic, self-discipline and responsibility.

Teachers at Montmorency Secondary College are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students. Homework assigned across different learning areas will be coordinated by teachers to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

#### Years 7 to 9

Generally, students will be expected to spend between 45 and 90 minutes per day on homework tasks. Homework must be co-ordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload and may be set during weekends and school vacations.

Homework tasks at Years 7 – 9 may consist of, but not limited to, independent reading on a daily basis, tasks, such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research.

Where no formal homework is set, it is expected that students read. To assist students in this, the Resource Centre is available for student use out of school hours.

#### Years 10 to 12

Generally, students can expect homework tasks in Years 10-12 to increase in order to take into account the expected level of independence and initiative of students.

At Year 11 and Year 12, students are expected to spend an increased amount of time completing homework tasks in preparation for VCE and VCAL.

Students can expect to spend between 90 minutes to 3 hours of homework per weeknight, and further study on weekends, particularly during VCE assessment periods.



Homework may consist of reading, research, assignments, assessment tasks and independent projects.

Homework schedules will be discussed with each student individually, with opportunities available for parents to discuss homework issues with the College.

Students will be provided with formal opportunities to build organisation and planning skills. To assist students in this, the Resource Centre and Year 12 Study Centre are available for student use out of school hours.

### Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility between the College, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Montmorency Secondary College will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the College's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- ensuring students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school. Diaries may be electronic.

It is expected that teachers will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.



# MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE

## HOMEWORK POLICY

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's Homework Policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring students keep a homework diary
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

### Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Montmorency Secondary College understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their teachers or Year Level Coordinator.

### Homework Club for Year 7, 8 and 9 Students at Montmorency Secondary College

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend Homework Club which currently runs on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in the Resource Centre between 3:20 and 4.15pm.

Homework Club on Monday has a Maths and Science focus. A number of Maths and Science teachers attend this session to assist students with their work. Attendance is purely voluntary.



Homework Club on Wednesday operates in the following way.

- a) Any student who wishes to avail themselves of the opportunity to go to Homework Club where they can undertake homework and receive teacher assistance at school can do so.
- b) Any student who gets behind with homework and or assignments in a teacher's class can be booked into Homework Club by their teacher to assist them to catch up on this work at this time.
- c) Some parents/guardians book their son/daughter into Homework Club on a permanent basis in order for them to keep up to date with their homework.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - [Homework Guidelines](#)
  - [Homework Expectations](#)

### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 and is scheduled for review in May 2022.

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Endorsed 8/5/2019  
Shane Penrose  
College Council President