



***Homework  
Information  
Booklet  
For Parents  
2016/2017***

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information to parents/carers on homework requirements for subjects studied at Portree High School.

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## Art & Design

Year Group	Homework Information
S1/S2/S3	Written work based on artists and styles is discussed; in class we set homework tasks or drawings on A4 paper. This relates to the topic for classwork.
S4 – S6	National 4/5: Homework is ongoing and is used for course work – for example, for investigation sketches, photos, searching on the internet.
S5/S6	National 5/Higher: Homework is ongoing and is used for course work – for example, for investigation sketches: photos, searching on the internet. Homework is also set for the Art and Design written element of the exam.
All Years	Small amounts of practical work can be completed at home but the main body of work <b>MUST be witnessed by your Art teacher.</b>

### **Best use of the Homework Planner – Teacher Communicating with Home**

To note what homework has to be done and when it is to be completed.

To note all artwork deadlines to aid meeting these.

To note additional opportunities for artwork after school or lunchtimes.

To note all assessment dates.

### **Additional Information** (equipment to use at home)

Access to the internet.

Drawing equipment – e.g. soft pencils, colouring pencils, watercolours, chalks.

Collage materials – 3D experimenting.

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Use planner for communicating with teacher.

Encourage access to galleries and exhibitions.

Encourage creative drawing, painting and crafts at home – e.g. portrait sitting and landscape work.

Check written homework is completed well and on time.

## *Business Management*

Year Group	Homework Information
S5-S6	Practise questions as a reinforcement of course topics and preparation for assessment.

### **Best Use of the Homework Planner**

To note all assessment dates.

For a reminder of unit assessment dates.

Course notes and on-line learning allow students to work from home.

Practice papers are available.

Watch The Apprentice!

## *Drama*

Year Group	Homework Information
S1 & S2	Homework will be given as required to support the learning in the classroom. Homework will be given at the end of a block of work and allow students to review their learning within the project.
S3	Homework will be given as required to support the learning in the classroom. It will usually take the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Written evaluation work</li> <li>➤ Preparation of ideas for scenes</li> <li>➤ Personal planning or rehearsal time</li> <li>➤ Group rehearsal</li> </ul> When group rehearsal is set students will have access to rehearsal space either after school or at lunchtime.
<b>EXAMINATION COURSES</b>	
NATIONAL 4/5 S4 – S6 NATIONAL 4/5 S4 – S6	Homework will be given regularly and usually take the form of either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Written evaluation work</li> <li>➤ Preparation of ideas for scenes</li> <li>➤ Personal planning or rehearsal time</li> <li>➤ Group rehearsal</li> <li>➤ Design work</li> </ul> When group rehearsal is set students will have access to rehearsal space either after school or at lunchtime. The intensity of rehearsal required will increase markedly prior to unit tests and examinations.

<b>HIGHER/ADVANCED HIGHER</b>	<p>Homework set will vary between the following types of task depending on the unit of study being undertaken at the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Research</li> <li>➤ Reading of set texts</li> <li>➤ Performance rehearsals</li> <li>➤ Essay writing</li> <li>➤ Scripting/reworking of themes and concepts for performance</li> </ul> <p>Formal deadlines will be set for essays as appropriate. Students are expected to take responsibility for keeping an on-going record of rehearsals/planning sessions after each drama lesson. Tutorials and after school/lunchtime rehearsal space is available on request.</p>
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### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

- Each week, check with the student if they have homework, what it is and when it is due in
- Check that it has been completed
- As we get closer to unit and final exam deadlines there will be homework help tutorials that students can attend. Parents should encourage students to make full use of these
- Visit the theatre, cinema, dance and music productions when possible and/or watch TV dramas together to help students talk about storylines, characterisation and acting technique
- Encourage pupils to read and listen to audio tapes or radio plays

## *English*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
S1/S2/S3	<p>The amount of homework your son/daughter will be issued will depend to an extent on which particular topic their class is undertaking at a given time. All S1, S2 and S3 pupils work on a Reading Challenge. This is ongoing throughout their first, second and third years at PHS and involves them reading a variety of books (different genres, different authors) and undertaking tasks related to their chosen book. It is therefore very important that pupils always ‘have a book on the go’.</p> <p>Other homework will involve language work, investigations for a piece of writing or solo talk and practising solo talks.</p>
S4	<p>Throughout S4, your son or daughter will study English with a view to being presented to the SQA at either National 4 or National 5 level.</p> <p>Homework for S4 pupils will broadly consist of skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Analysis and Evaluation</li> <li>➤ Creation and Production</li> <li>➤ Spoken Interaction</li> <li>➤ Production of an exam folio (National 5 only)</li> </ul> <p>Regular reading of literary fiction and quality journalism is to be encouraged.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Depending on how your son or daughter has achieved throughout S4, they can choose to study at Higher or National 5 level. The courses begin in June and at the beginning of the course each pupil is issued with an outline of the coursework and assignment deadlines. At this level of study, it is extremely important that pupils habitually read as much as possible, particularly literary fiction and articles from broadsheet newspapers.</p>
S4/5/6	<p>In addition to producing and managing notes for class texts and undertaking revision on a regular basis, S4/5/6 are expected to prepare and research for solo talks and essays.</p>

### **Best use of the Homework Planner**

Pupils should enter all homework assignments on the due date.

It is useful if parents/carers check pupil planners regularly and sign the appropriate page to indicate that this has been done.

### **REMEMBER.**

For English, there is no such thing as ‘I’ve not got any homework’.

There are very useful websites to visit:

[www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/bitesize/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/bitesize/)

[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)

[http://scholar.hw.ac.uk/Resources/Live\\_Online\\_Sessions/](http://scholar.hw.ac.uk/Resources/Live_Online_Sessions/)

[www.highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/secondary\\_curriculum/](http://www.highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/secondary_curriculum/)

Google Classroom

There are also links to individual class study and homework websites and blogs on the school website.

Visit the English Department pages at:

[www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk](http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk) and on GLOW (Scotland’s national intranet for schools).

Finally, most important of all, **read a book! Read a broad-sheet newspaper!**

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Encourage your son or daughter to read as much as they can, as often as they can and perhaps discuss with them what they have read.

## *Gaelic*

Year Group	Homework Information	
	Learners	Fluent
S1/S2/S3	‘Ceumannan’ course and associated online resources. Vocabulary learning tasks. Online BBC resources.	Reading, Writing and Languages tasks. GM subjects homework club at lunchtime on Wednesday. BBC and Storlann resources.
Nat 4/5  S4- S6	‘Ceumannan’ course and associated online resources. Vocabulary learning tasks. Online SQA and BBC resources including Bitesize.	Topic based Reading and Writing tasks. Online SQA and BBC resources including Bitesize.
Higher/ AH	Preparation for unit tasks in Reading and Writing. Preparation of research project. Online SQA and BBC resources including Bitesize. Scholar.	Preparation for unit tasks in Reading and Writing. Preparation of research project. Online SQA and BBC resources including Bitesize and Làrach nam Bàrd.

### **Best use of the Homework Planner**

As a record of upcoming tasks. As a year planner of study. As a record of achievement and of targets set. As a route of communication between teacher and parents.

### **Additional Information** (equipment to use at home)

Access to computer, internet. Stòr-dàta Briathrachais is available online but it would be useful to own a home copy of a good dictionary – TYS dictionary is currently available at around £12.

### **Useful websites**

[www.storlann.co.uk/ceumannan/index.html](http://www.storlann.co.uk/ceumannan/index.html)

[www.bbc.co.uk/alba/foghlam/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/alba/foghlam/)

[www.learn-gaelic.net](http://www.learn-gaelic.net)

Ceumannan course online

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Check pupil’s planner for assessment deadlines and set homework.

## *Graphic Communication*

Year Group	Homework Information
S1/S2/S3	Verbal responses to research of course topics. Homework sheet as appropriate. 3D Made Easy tutorials to view.
S4	Researching again as above. Revision of knowledge and understanding for final exam. 3D Made Easy tutorials to view.
S5/S6	Specific set homework sheets to reinforce course topics for knowledge and interpretation. 3D Made Easy tutorials to view.

### **Best Use of the Homework Planner**

As a reminder of set/return dates.

### **Additional Information** (equipment to use at home)

The specific software (Autocad) and practical equipment (drawing boards) limits the homework that can be set.

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Encourage students to go over the theoretical parts of the course. This is the work which makes up the written part of their final exam. This is especially important at prelim time and at the final SQA exam.

## *Home Economics*

Year Group	Homework Information
S1/S2	Approximately 3 tasks per term.
S3/S4	Complete appropriate written tasks. Reinforce practical skills learnt in class using recipes available on GLOW.
S5/S6	Due to the practical nature of the Hospitality course there is no formal written homework. However, students must reinforce practical skills learnt in class using recipes available on GLOW.

### **Best use of the Homework Planner**

The Plan of Work for each term is issued in advance to every pupil to ensure they bring the correct equipment each week. Homework tasks are also recorded in their planner.

### **Additional Information** (equipment to use at home)

Internet access for GLOW would be useful for downloading resources.

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Check planner each night for any homework and to check if a box is required for practical lesson.

## Maths

Year Group	Homework Information
S1/S2/S3	<p>Pupils will usually get at least two pieces of homework each week. These will be designed to consolidate what has been learned in class. Most homework will be shared online via Google Classroom.</p> <p>In the lead up to a block test or class topic tests, pupils will be encouraged to undertake extra revision as well as their homework.</p>
S4/S5/S6	<p>Pupils will usually have follow-on homework most nights. Most homework will be shared online via Google Classroom.</p> <p>In the lead up to assessments and prelims pupils are expected to undertake extra study time. We would anticipate pupils spending between 30 minutes to an hour on maths homework/study every day, depending on what level of Maths they are studying.</p>

### Best use of the Homework Planner

Pupils should note homework each day and record the dates for tests. They may also record results of tests. They should note targets at the start of each term and keep track of them.

### Additional Information

It is important that ALL pupils are equipped with a scientific calculator. Access to the internet is helpful as pupils can use various websites which offer good revision materials.

Some good websites are:

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/maths](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/maths)

[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) (for past papers with solutions)

[www.mangahigh.com](http://www.mangahigh.com) (great for games and challenges)

[www.hsn.uk.net](http://www.hsn.uk.net) (for Higher notes and examples)

[www.portreehighschoolmaths.weebly.com](http://www.portreehighschoolmaths.weebly.com)

### What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?

- Check planners regularly and sign
- Encourage pupils to do homework to the best of their ability
- Ensure pupils catch up with work missed through absence. Most work is shared routinely via Google Classroom.
- Strongly encourage your son/daughter to revise well for tests and prelims

## Modern Languages – French

Year Group	Homework Information
S1/S2/S3	Pupils are encouraged to devote short but frequent periods of time at home consolidating what they have learned in class. For example, regular learning of vocabulary and using language websites. S1 and S2 pupils will also receive grammar tasks on a weekly basis. In addition, all pupils may be asked to complete Reading and Writing tasks or practise pronunciation throughout the session. All homework is differentiated as appropriate.
Nat 4/5 S4 – S6	Pupils continue developing four main skills in S4 Reading, Listening, Writing and Talking. National 5 pupils will be assessed externally by SQA and National 4 pupils will be internally assessed throughout. With this in mind, it is imperative that pupils do the following: regularly revise vocabulary and grammar, complete tasks not finished in class, make use of resources (to firm up areas of difficulty, books available from teacher/internet), practise Talking assignments at home and re-draft Writing pieces for the due date. Homework deadlines are usually given as far in advance as possible in order to maximise potential.
Higher	At the beginning of each school term pupils are advised of the course content (both internal and external) as well as target dates and deadlines for assessments. We have one assessment at the end of each unit (Writing, Reading and Listening) for which pupils have to revise. Regular homework is issued as required and pupils are encouraged to continually build their vocabulary base with frequent revision.

### Best use of the Homework Planner

Enter deadlines, target grades, tracking grades and exam dates.

Write your homework assignments on the due date.

### Additional Information

Regular revision means progress. You can access the following websites at home to help improve your performance in the language. You can also read books and watch DVDs in French. Do not hesitate to ask your teacher for further information.

<http://scholar.hw.ac.uk/scotland> (see teacher for login)

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

[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com) (see teacher for details)

[www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/)

[www.tf1.fr](http://www.tf1.fr) (TV channel)

[www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr) (newspapers)

[www.lefigaro.fr](http://www.lefigaro.fr) (newspapers)

[www.m6.fr](http://www.m6.fr) (TV channel)

[www.wikipedia.fr](http://www.wikipedia.fr)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize)

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Encourage pupils to regularly revise vocabulary.

Check pupil's planner frequently for an indication of assessment deadlines.

## *Music*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
S1/2	<p>Pupils will not be required to complete homework regularly. If they do receive homework it will be for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project work</b> – completing a research task and producing a poster, powerpoint or short piece of writing</li> <li>• <b>Literacy</b> – pupils may be asked to do extra work on literacy (writing music) at home. This will be related to what we are covering in class at the time</li> <li>• <b>Progress Diaries</b> – all pupils will be issued with a progress diary. Each time they are assessed in class, they will write about how they have done, and their teacher will also add a comment. This will then be sent home for parents to sign and/or add a comment. These <b>must</b> be returned to school timeously</li> </ul>
S3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Literacy</b> – pupils will be given regular music literacy homework (reading and writing music). The exercises will always match what we are doing in class, so pupils are encouraged to bring their school workbooks home to use for support</li> <li>• <b>Practical</b> – pupils are expected to do some practice on each of their chosen two instruments outside of class. If they do not have instruments at home, they should use the class instruments at lunch or after school</li> </ul>
S4 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Literacy</b> – pupils will be given regular music literacy homework (reading and writing music). The exercises will always match what we are doing in class, so pupils are encouraged to bring their school workbooks home to use for support</li> <li>• <b>Practical</b> – pupils are expected to do a significant amount of practice on each of their chosen two instruments outside of class. If they do not have instruments at home, they should use the class instruments at lunch or after school</li> <li>• <b>Project work</b> – pupils must complete a project on the social and cultural influences on Music as part of their coursework. Most of this will be done at home</li> </ul>

## **Best use of the Homework Planner – communication with the teacher from the home**

- All homework to be written in as required
- To note all deadlines/assessments/exam dates, etc.
- To note times of instrumental lessons to help attend lessons on time

## **Additional Information** (equipment to use at home)

Chosen instruments where at all possible should be accessible.

CD player for use with backing tracks, guitar, bass guitar and drumkit.

Please ensure you have adequate resources of pencils for music – pencils are necessary for literacy work.

## **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

- Use planner and Progress Diary for communicating with teacher
- Encourage live music attendance and interest in forming bands
- Encourage listening to a wide variety of music
- Check written homework is completed well and on time

## *PE*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
<b>Core PE S1-S3</b>	Homework is not usually given in S1/2 in written form. Some short written/investigative tasks may be given to S3 pupils. All pupils are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities. Pupils are sometimes asked to research some facts and are encouraged to watch different sporting activities.
<b>S2 Leadership</b>	Short written tasks may be given for the following week.
<b>National 4/5</b>	All pupils are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities to improve their performance assessment grades. Written work is given to complete classroom tasks or to revise classwork. Homework is expected to be completed on time.
<b>S5/S6 Higher</b>	All pupils are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities to improve their performance assessment grades. Written work is given to complete classroom tasks or to revise classwork. Homework is expected to be completed on time.
<b>Skills for Work</b>	Pupils will be expected to complete 'Daily Centre Duties' as part of their course. Pupils will work on 'client fitness' at lunchtimes/after school. Short pieces of written work will also be required. Pupils will also take on 'leadership roles' within the extra-curricular activities in the school.
<b>NPLQ – Pool Lifeguard/SQA Leadership</b>	Pupils will have a 'handbook' to revise from. This should be ongoing. Pupils can also look over practical work within the handbook. Pupils will also take on 'leadership roles' within the extra-curricular activities in the school. Pupils will organise and run inter-house activities during tutor time/lunchtime or after school.

### **Best use of the Homework Planner**

Pupils should note practical PE lessons so that the correct kit is taken into school. The planner should be produced in all theory lessons and any homework recorded in the planner as soon as possible after practical lessons. Important dates should also be recorded e.g. interhouse sporting events.

The planner can be used to record notes requesting pupils to be excused practical sessions. Staff may use the planner to pass information about progress/work to parents and carers.

### **Additional Information**

Internet is advisable for SQA subjects.

Other revision material can be purchased from the PE department e.g. Leckie and Leckie Revision Notes.

S1-S6 extra-curricular activities are available for all pupils to practise and improve their performance grades. Bus passes are available – please check transport arrangements.

Revision club for theory work after Christmas: Monday 3.30 – 4.30pm. Pupils should inform staff before lunch on the Monday if they intend to attend the revision session.

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Encourage participation in extra-curricular sports in school and in the community.

Encourage the revision of classwork and completion of homework.

When unwell/injured, pupils should bring kit and waterproofs so that they can participate as helper/referee or an alternative activity can be offered.

<http://www.sqa.org.uk>

<http://www.sptape.co.uk>

<http://www.brianmac.co.uk/>

<http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/index.cfm>

<http://www.basketballscotland.co.uk/>

<http://www.badmintonscotland.org.uk/>

Details of other websites will be passed to pupils when appropriate.

## *Science Department*

Homework is an important part of the Science classroom. Below is a general guide for the department, followed by specific information on each subject.

### **Best use of the Homework Planner**

- Note what homework to do and when it is due in
- Record results of tests, tasks and target grades
- Collect positive comments to share with parents

### **Additional Information (equipment to use at home)**

Pens, pencils, coloured pencils/pens, rubber, ruler, internet access and a means of saving/printing off ICT work.

For S1-4, a simple calculator would be useful, both at home and in class.

In S5-6, a scientific calculator would be useful for those in Chemistry and Physics.

### **What Can Parents/ Carers do to Help?**

You could help by:

- Helping pupils when revising for tests. You could get involved in question and answer sessions
- Ordering revision books and helping the pupils to plan a revision schedule
- Helping them to ensure that their homework is completed on time
- Allowing them time to use the internet for work-based activities, such as research and BBC Bitesize

## *Science*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
S1/S2	A mixture of small exercises and larger pieces of work will be set with revision before each end of topic test.

## *Biology*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
S3/S4	Roughly one written homework exercise a fortnight plus additional homework set by teacher and revision for tests.
S5/S6	Each group of chapters has one piece of set homework and a multiple choice question test. The Peerwise website can be used at home to help pupils practise for tests.

## *Chemistry*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
S3-S6	Regular homework exercises to consolidate learning in the class.

## *Physics*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
S3-S6	Regular homework exercises to consolidate learning in the class.

## *Social Subjects – Geography, History, Modern Studies*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
S1-3	Pupils have homework in Social Subjects every week, either set or general revision on condensing notes. Tasks include research papers, newspaper reports and preparation for class assessments/end-of-unit tests: all subjects. For Modern Studies pupils are also expected to study media reports.
Nat 4/5 S4 – S6	Pupils should be completing homework at least twice weekly - either set or general revision on condensing notes. Preparation for short unit assessment questions, end-of-topic tests, research projects and Value Added Assignment. Ongoing revision of sections of topics for end-of-unit assessments.
Higher	Preparation for unit assessments, reports, essays, source analysis questions, writing up data for assignments, extended essay research/practice and exam practice questions under timed conditions.
Advanced Higher	Private research for dissertation at Advanced Higher level.

### **Best use of the Homework Planner**

- Planners should be used by pupils to record tasks, to record deadlines for submission of work and for the purpose of communication with parents in years S1-4
- To record assessment dates, tracking and target grades, etc.

### **Additional Information** (equipment to use at home)

Pens, pencils, coloured pencils, ruler, rubber, calculator, internet access, means of printing and/saving work.

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

Ensure pupil catches up with work missed through absence.  
Check and sign planner weekly.

## *Religious Moral & Philosophical Studies*

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Homework Information</b>
<b>S1/S2</b>	Pupils will be given tasks that consolidate work covered in class and enable them to take time to articulate their ideas and opinions on the various topics.
<b>S3/S4</b>	Pupils will be given small research tasks that enable them to come to class the following week prepared for deeper reflection and analysis.

### **Best use of Homework Planner**

- Record assessment deadlines
- Record homework tasks

### **What Can Parents/Carers do to Help?**

- Parents/Carers could keep a note of assessment dates and projects in order to help pupils manage their workload
- Give the pupil an opportunity to explain the area that they are studying. This will help them consolidate and articulate their ideas
- Discuss current religious, moral and philosophical issues as they arise in the media