



**IMPORTANCE OF
GCSE
COURSEWORK**

Mrs Rowland & Mrs Kukuk

WHAT IS COURSEWORK?

- A series of assessed tasks which go towards students final grade of their qualification
- The tasks are set by the exam board
- These assessments must take place before the summer exams in Year 11
- Each qualification will vary of when the work is due to be submitted to the exam board – some must be submitted in year 10
- These can be either marked internally then externally moderated or they can be marked by an external examiner

GCSE SUBJECTS AT LHS WHICH HAVE COURSEWORK

Design and Technology
Food and Nutrition (Yr 11)
GCSE PE
Health and Fitness (Yr 11)
iMedia (Yr 11)
Music
Drama
Art
Art Textiles
Marketing and Enterprise

Sport Studies
3D Art & Design (Yr 9)
Hospitality
Child Development
IT (Yr 9)
Media (Yr 9)
Travel & Tourism (Yr 9)

BENEFITS OF COURSEWORK

- Students are able to secure marks before going into the exam, so it can ease the pressure of the written exam
- Teacher predictions tend to be more accurate as we have a good picture for how the student has already performed
- Students are able to refine their work, rather than just being assessed on their performance on one day (exam)
- Some coursework is quite flexible in the way that students can present their work, therefore it can support different learning styles and abilities
- Not having the pressure to 'remember' lots of information which some students find hard
- Support with spelling
- With most subjects the students can use resources to support them

STRUGGLES OF COURSEWORK

- Most coursework is quite time consuming and requires a lot of effort
- It is usually worked on for a long period of time so students sometimes lose motivation
- Because a lot of it is completed before year 11, and just the nature of the work, some students struggle to see it as 'real'
- Teacher input is really limited – students sometimes struggle with the reduced amount of support that can be given

PLAGIARISM

- When doing research, students must read the information and interpret it and reference the source
- Students often find extracting information difficult.
- Exam boards are very specific in their instructions that students' work will be checked for plagiarism (and they do!)
- Students are at risk of losing marks due to plagiarism.
- Different subjects can have different control methods so what one teacher may be able to do is not necessarily what another can

FEEDBACK

- Teachers are usually quite limited in the feedback that they can give to the students, as dictated by exam boards and will vary depending on the subject
- However all teachers will be able to give some form of feedback, it is imperative that students use this in order to upgrade their work
- Students should take every opportunity to make their work the best that it can be
- Teachers spend a lot of time marking and writing feedback, the expectation is that students will act on it to improve the work

RESOURCES

- The amount and type of resources and support that can be given to students will vary from course to course
- However all subjects will be able to provide some form of support document
- These may include:
 - WAGOLLS (What a Good One Looks Like)
 - Sentence starters
 - Structure
 - Ideas of where to research
 - Success criteria
 - Mark schemes
- It is really important that students use these examples

CASE STUDY 1

- Drama student who was a very talented performer, but who didn't enjoy the written side of it at all
- She got full marks in her performance giving her a grade 9 for that part of the assessment
- She got a 3 in her written coursework
- That gave her a 5 overall in the unit

TOP TIPS

- Proof reading
- Dictate
- Extracting information from source
- Mini deadlines
- Resources
- Upgrading

