

CMG/DLL

15th September 2009

Dear Parents

At St Ambrose Barlow we see homework as an integral part of the work of the school, which can be made up of a variety of tasks, not all necessarily of a written nature. It is work which is set outside of lesson time but need not necessarily be completed at home, but in the school library during Homework Club or in research in the local environment or community.

We expect that homework will:-

- develop perseverance and self-discipline;
- encourage pupils to study independently and develop the skills of organisation;
- to extend classwork and allow more rapid progress to be made;
- to allow practice, where it is needed, of skills in the classroom.

In order to achieve these aims, all subjects will set homework on a regular basis and all pupils are expected to complete homework and hand it in on time. A homework timetable is given to all pupils at the start of each year and this is copied into their diary/planner. This year we have designed and purchased high quality diaries which are an improvement on previous years. The diaries were expensive to purchase but, we feel, worth it. To replace a lost diary would cost £4.00, therefore, I ask that you encourage your child to look after them.

Coursework is a particular concern in Years 10 and 11 where boys especially do not apply themselves consistently in completing work and meeting deadlines. This leads to workload congestion and a 'last minute' approach which does not allow them to achieve the highest grades possible.

We hope that you will encourage your child to use their diary/planner sensibly and we ask you please to:-

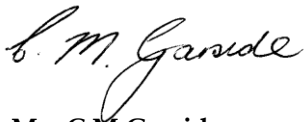
- feel free to communicate with form and subject tutors through the diary/planner;
- check that your child is recording homework as in the example attached;
- check that homework recorded corresponds to homework completed;
- discuss the work set and completed with your child
diary/planner at least once a week.

I trust you will encourage your child to record and complete their homework correctly and I ask you to acknowledge receipt of this letter in your child's diary/planner.

I would ask that you monitor your child's homework. If you believe that there is a deficit in the amount of homework being set, please contact either your child's Pupil Progress Co-ordinator or Subject Departmental Leader at any time.

As you are aware, we will not authorise any holiday during term time. Your child's education will be adversely affected if they miss school and direct contact with their teachers. Work copied up is often not understood and teachers cannot be expected to continually repeat work for every child who is on holiday throughout the year. May I thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. M. Garside".

Mrs C M Garside
Headteacher