

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the top left is a small potted plant with bright green grass-like leaves. To its right is a white computer keyboard. In the bottom right is a white cup of dark coffee on a saucer. Below the keyboard is a black spiral-bound notebook with a pen resting on it. A black binder clip is also on the desk. The text 'IMPORTANCE OF GCSE COURSEWORK' is overlaid in white on black rectangular backgrounds in the center-right area.

IMPORTANCE OF GCSE COURSEWORK

Mrs Rayner & Mrs Kukuk

WHAT IS COURSEWORK?

- A series of assessed tasks which go towards student's 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
- Some subjects, e.g. Child Development will submit their Year 10 Coursework to the exam board in the Summer of Year 10
- 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
- iMedia (Yr 11)
- Music
- Drama
- Art
- Art Textiles
- Marketing & 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 (Levels of control set by exam boards – high level means that students must do the work completely on their own with hint / task sheets, whereas low level means students can have a task sheet to use alongside their work)
- AI - If you do a search on google all AI at the top.

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 STUDIES

- 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



Child Development student who really struggled with being in school and found written exams very hard. The student tried her best on her coursework and attended intervention sessions on offer. Student did not do well in the written exam, however, this student was able to attain a Level 1 Distinction overall in Child Development, paving the way for her current studies as an apprentice at a local Nursery.



TOP TIPS

- Proof reading
- Dictate
- Extracting information from source (students generally struggles with this)
- Mini deadlines
- Resources
- Upgrading
- Use of the library after school and catch-up sessions offered by departments.
- Miss Kennedy running study club on Wednesdays for Y11.