BAR LANE
OLD BASFORD
NOTTINGHAM
NG6 0HT

PRINCIPAL: GEMMA JOHNSON

T +44 (0)115 913 1338
E enquiries@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk
www.ellisguilfordschool.org.uk

ELLIS GUILFORD SCHOOL
Creative Education Trust

5th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Homework Guidance and Support

Homework is an important part of your child's school journey. Together, we can support your child to achieve highly. Homework plays a vital role in reinforcing classroom learning, building independent study habits, and preparing children for future academic success. We aim to ensure that homework is purposeful, manageable, and supports your child's progress.

We are writing to share our homework policy and outline when homework will begin for each year group.

Homework Schedule

Year 7

To support a smooth transition into secondary school, no homework has been set until after the October half-term. From this week, children in Year 7 will begin homework across all subjects.

- Maths, English and Science homework will be set online using a platform called Sparx, which supports fluency, literacy and independent learning.
- In all other subjects, children will complete paper-based knowledge quizzes designed to consolidate learning and prepare them for future assessments. These will be handed out weekly in lessons.
- Children have been taught how to log into Sparx and supported in using the platform effectively.

Year 8 and Year 9

From this week, children in Years 8 and 9 will have the following homework arrangements:

- Science homework will now be set on Sparx, joining Maths and English on Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader.
- In all other subjects, children will complete weekly paper-based knowledge quizzes, designed to consolidate learning and prepare them for future assessments.

Year 10 and Year 11

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Homework is already being set across all subjects. Children are expected to complete two 30-minute pieces of homework per GCSE subject each week. This will include a range of tasks such as:

- Sparx Maths and Reader
- Knowledge quizzes
- Extended writing
- Exam practice
- Revision activities to support GCSE preparation and deepen understanding across the curriculum.

Homework Tracking via Class Charts

All homework will be set on Class Charts, allowing parents and carers to support their child in tracking weekly homework tasks. We encourage regular checks to help maintain consistency and organisation.

Homework Incentives

To encourage consistency and effort, children across all year groups will be awarded Guilford Gold for completing their homework. These rewards recognise commitment and responsibility, and contribute to our wider culture of achievement and celebration.

Using Planners

Children are expected to record when it is set and due in their planners. This helps them stay organised and ensures they can manage their time effectively. We ask parents to check planners regularly and support their child in maintaining good homework habits.

How to Access the Online Platforms:

1. Open a web page and go to: portal.cetcloud.org.uk
2. Your child will need to use their school username and password (the same details they use for school computers).
3. Click on the application Sparx.
4. Select ‘Log in with Microsoft’ or ‘Continue with Microsoft’.

Additional Support for Homework

We are committed to supporting children with their homework beyond the classroom:

- The school library is open every evening until 4pm, providing access to Chromebooks and quiet spaces for focused study.
- The EGScellence Centre for Key Stage 4 will be opening soon, offering targeted support and a dedicated space for homework and revision. Watch this space!

- Individual subjects also offer Ellis Electives after school, giving children further opportunities to receive guidance and complete homework in a supportive environment. These can be signed up to via Arbor.

If you have any questions or concerns about homework, please do not hesitate to contact me: Jordan.Platten@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support,

Kindest regards,

Mrs J Platten
Assistant Principal