

St Dominic's Sixth Form College



Assessment Policy

St Dominic's is a Roman Catholic Sixth Form College committed to the personal and spiritual growth of all its members based on Christian values, academic excellence and high quality pastoral care.

Transition work

Prospective students will complete transition work over the summer holidays and hand it in during their first lesson. The rationale behind this is to 'bridge the gap' between GCSE and A level whilst providing students with a further insight into their chosen subjects. Transition work is completed in all subjects.

Induction work

Induction work is set when students enrol for a course and is completed for the first lesson. The purpose of the assignment is to introduce the student to the either the first topic to be covered or the A level, BTEC or GCSE in general and provides a baseline score to identify students who may need additional support. Induction work is marked by the teacher using an agreed mark scheme, and marks are recorded in the College's central mark book.

Learning Checks

Learning checks are conducted frequently within lessons. They allow for the monitoring of students' progress within a lesson and over time. They are a vital means of identifying where support or consolidation may be needed and also prove useful to students assessing their learning within lessons. Learning checks may or may not carry marks.

Homework

All students are required to complete homework in all subjects. The amount and frequency will depend on the individual subject. However, as a guide students are expected to complete four hours of homework per subject per week. Homework will take many forms but it will include the following, research, reading, note-taking, essay writing, drawing, revising, consolidating and planning. Homework may or may not be marked.

Key Assignments

Students will complete key assignments in every subject each half term. Their frequency and number will depend on the individual subjects. Key assignments can be set to be completed independently outside of the lessons or under timed conditions within class time. The purpose of key assignments is for students to consolidate their learning and to develop the skillset needed for success in the examination. Students are aware in advance of all key assignments that they will need to complete for each half term and instructions for completion and available marks are made known. Key

assignments are assessed by the teacher, using an agreed mark scheme and marks are recorded in the central mark book. Every six weeks these marks feed into an attainment and effort grade for each student. Heads of Subject track the students' progress and identify underachievement in individuals and groups. Timely and appropriate interventions are put in place in response to significant underachievement in the half termly attainment and effort grades.

Mock examinations

Mock exams provide a valuable opportunity for students to sit a formal exam under timed conditions prior to the actual 'AS' and 'A' level examinations in the summer. Further, they serve as an indication of the students' attainment of the assessment objectives set by the exam board. Students will complete a formal mock exam in December and a class based mock in March/April, both of which will be marked by teachers. Heads of subject select 3-5 papers across a range of marks and responses (where relevant) and photocopy. All members of the teaching team for that paper will then meet to ensure the marking is accurate and consistent.

N. Conoboy

Assistant Principal

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