15th September 2017

Dear Parent or Carer

I hope your child/children have settled in well over the past two weeks at Oxford Spires Academy.

One of the major differences between primary and secondary school is the learning that is completed beyond the classroom. Every student at Oxford Spires Academy is expected to complete home learning tasks in all of their subjects. Home learning is the work your child does away from their teachers and the classroom. It is crucial for developing their ability to work independently, to consolidate what they have learnt in class and to learn how to work through challenging things on their own. This in turn is a very important part of preparing them for exams throughout their career at the academy.

What do we expect?

- At OSA a Y7 student should expect to do up to 1 hour per night of home learning Monday – Friday.
- The tasks will be online on Show My Homework. Here the teachers will provide the task(s) with clear instructions and any support materials the students should need.
- SMHW also tells them when the work is due to be handed in. It is very important they learn to honour deadlines.
- We expect students to check SMHW every day as soon as they get home from school and to complete the tasks in order of priority, fully and to the highest standard they can.
- You will also have your own login for SMHW so you will know what work your child has been set and when it is due (see letter attached).

How you can support.

You can help your child to be successful in their Home learning by:

- ensuring they are able to check SMHW (a phone app is also available), check with them where possible
- making sure they can sit at a table and in a quiet room
- making sure distractions are avoided – remove mobile phones (unless needed for SMHW), make sure televisions are off, do not allow social media checking during this time, do not allow younger siblings to be a distraction
- encouraging them to have all books, resources and equipment they will need on the table in front of them
- encouraging them to read every word of the instructions carefully, think back to what they were learning in the lesson and use this
- encouraging THEM to pack their bag for the next day checking everything they need against their timetable
- remembering it is their work not yours!
What to do in case of difficulties

- students should see the teacher as soon as possible and get further support/guidance
- it is essential that they then complete the task – building resilience is very important
- they can ask their tutor to refer them to the Home Learning team who can offer specific and personalised support

I look forward to seeing and hearing about the high quality of home learning that your children are producing across Year 7. Please find attached a copy of your child’s log in details to ‘Show my homework’ and a self-help strategies sheet. Do contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Shelley Baker
Head of Year 7