



19th June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to write to you to introduce *Show My Homework*, the new way we will be setting, recording and monitoring home learning at Thamesmead School.

We have studied how we approach home learning and found that we can improve the communication between teachers and home, getting rid of the uncertainty around what has been set, the deadline and the quality expected that can sometimes occur. With *Show My Homework* parents and carers will be better able to support their children and will be able to avoid any challenging conversations around home learning that can take place. In short, we hope you will feel more empowered and 'in the know'. Moreover, we are very excited about its potential impact on the achievement, organisation and confidence of our students.

We will be starting with a year 7 and 8 pilot until the summer holiday. From September we will be rolling *Show My Homework* out to our new year 7s and years 10 and 11. This will allow us to launch the system with the maximum buy-in from our students and help them to manage this positive change.

Benefits:

- Parents and students can view the home learning online at any time. This can be done with or independent from your child. You no longer need to see their planners.
- Web links and resources can be attached with ease to the home learning to aid in its completion.
- The website is easy to use to enable students to stay organised and parents informed about tasks and deadlines.
- Free apps are available for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, and Android devices, on which all home learning can be viewed.
- Automated notifications will be sent to both parents and students before home learning is due (from September).

The roll-out:

Year 7 and 8 students will be introduced to the system in their Computer Science lessons and in tutor time this week (w/c 18th June) and next week (w/c 25th June). This will be a 'bedding-in' period to ensure all of our students are confident with the system. They will be shown how to login, navigate the system and download key material.

The website can be accessed via Google search or by simply going to our website <http://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk> and clicking the Show My Homework tab at the top. Our school site can also be accessed via the company website at <https://www.teamsatchel.com/>.



For now, we would like parents to just use the open access website that allows them to see all of the home learning set in school without a login. Drop down arrow filters can be used to narrow down by teacher, year group and subject so you can see exactly what applies to your child.

From September parents and carers will be issued with a PIN to use on the *Show My Homework* app/website, in order to have a focused page just relevant to their child.

We will be running an **information event** on *Show My Homework* on Wednesday 4th July at 5pm in the School Hall. This is for any parents who wish to drop by and get a quick demonstration on how to use the website or for those less confident with the system. If you would like to attend please let us know at: a.harman@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

Issues with internet access:

Please also note that we will still be running home learning club after school every day for students to get support with their work or for those students without access to IT equipment at home.

If you know your child will not have access to the Internet or IT equipment (phone, tablet, PC) at home, please let us know at a.harman@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk. We will arrange to print off homework for collection each day or to help install the *Show My Homework* app onto phones. Your child can ask their tutor to help in morning tutor time as well.

Home learning policy:

Alongside this we have launched a new Home Learning policy that can be viewed on the school website from next week. This outlines the type, duration, expectations and frequency of home learning in each subject.

Replacing the planners:

From September we will have phased out the school planner. Here is an outline of where you will find the functions of the planner in future.

Function	Where will it be found next year?
Home learning: setting, monitoring and deadlines	<i>Show My Homework</i>
School to parent communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Portal* • School email • Text message • Phone



Parent to school communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School email Addresses found on Parent Portal [Pathway: LOGIN- GENERAL - CONTACT OUR STAFF] Website: https://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/ Phone: 01932 219400 Written note/letter to the tutor
Academic information (e.g. target grades)	Data reports sent home every term.
Timetable	Show My Homework Students will be issued with a paper copy. Replacements of this copy can be obtained at the PCS office.
Key dates / school news	Updated on https://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/ and weekly in Thamesmead Talk
Staff	https://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/about-us/staff/
Internet safety advice	https://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/internet-safety/

*Although we hope your children do not get any sanctions, from September these will now be communicated exclusively on the **Parent Portal** under the 'behaviour' tab. This function has been available for the past few years however we will now be adding information about the reasons for the sanction so parents can address this with their child. This is the same website that parents use to book Progress Review appointments so it will hopefully be familiar to you.

If you are not doing so already, please do build the habit of checking Parent Portal regularly. We suggest parents and guardians save the page to their desktop or phone screen so it can be accessed easily. Parent Portal login details can be reset by contacting the school office on: info@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

If you have any questions you can get in touch with us here at: a.harman@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk or on 01932 219400.

Equally, if we are not available please don't hesitate to get in touch with the team at *Show My Homework*, who are always happy to help. Just email help@showmyhomework.co.uk or call 0207 197 9550.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Capozzi
 Assistant Headteacher