



## **Croydon High School GDST Senior School PREP (Homework) & Academic Rewards Policy**

**Responsibility:** Deputy Head (Academic)  
**Last review:** September 2023  
**Next review:** September 2024

### **The Purpose of PREP**

All homework should follow the PREP model: it should provide an opportunity to:

- Practise
- Reflect
- Explore
- Prepare

It should be an aid to the learning process and not set for its own sake.

All PREP should:

- Require some deep thinking.
- Foster skills needed for the 21st century- e.g. Critical Thinking, Creativity, Problem Solving
- Foster a positive relationship with learning
- Create a culture of self-motivation;
- Develop habits of personal organisation, independent learning, resilience and resourcefulness
- Provide parents with an insight into their child's learning, reaffirming their role as partners and strengthening home-school links

In addition to the PREP work set, each subject also sets *Stretch & Challenge Menus* for each year group. These can be found on *Google Classrooms*. These menus outline optional tasks that stretch pupils in their thinking. They could be reviewed in a variety of ways. For example, this work could feed into an assessment piece or class discussions, it could be used for display, or perhaps form the foundations of an assembly. Giving pupils an element of choice will encourage them to take ownership of their learning, foster self-motivation and help them to cultivate and maintain a real love of learning. Engagement with PREP is reported half-termly as part of pupils' grade sheets.

### **Frequency and Amount**

- PREP must be set in accordance with the published PREP timetable in Years 7-11 and at the teacher's discretion in the Sixth Form;
- In Year 7 & 8 students should have PREP, according to the PREP timetable, which lasts no more than 20 minutes per subject every two weeks. In Year 9, this figure increases to 30 minutes every two weeks. The exceptions are: Maths, English, Geography and Languages who will set work weekly.

- Pupils in the Upper School (Years 10 & 11) will have one PREP lasting one hour per week per subject. All PREP set will be given over a period of time to allow pupils to ensure that the work is of a good quality;
- It is the parents' prerogative to decide when their child has done sufficient work for one evening and parental messages to that effect should be accepted but, the subject teacher should be informed if this becomes a regular occurrence.

### Administration and monitoring of PREP

- In Years 7-11 pupils will record all PREP in their PREP diaries. These will be signed by parents weekly and should be checked on a regular basis by Form Tutors;
- Sixth Form pupils, in a reflection of their increasing independence, are free to document their PREP however they wish;
- All teachers should ensure that all PREP is also available through Google Classroom, which both pupils and parents can access;
- Where PREP has not reached the required standard, pupils should be asked to re-present it. Non-production of PREP will be reported by subject teachers to Form Tutors;
- PREP concerns are also reported home formally via our reporting system (see the 'Assessment, Grading & Reporting Policy');
- Should issues such as the late or non-production of PREP or sub-standard work persist, teachers, the relevant Form Tutor and Head of Year will work together to agree on a plan of action which might include putting the student on a report which monitors engagement and PREP on a lesson-by-lesson basis. Parents are required to sign this report (in Years 7-11) on a weekly basis;
- For Sixth Form, repeated concerns over PREP might be addressed by compulsory attendance at designated study periods (or DSPs, for short) which may be supervised or unsupervised.

### Academic House Points

The character, Athena, is the goddess of wisdom and awareness. Simply put, our academic house points system seeks to promote and celebrate the development of *wisdom* while, in tandem, drawing *awareness* to the qualities needed to achieve it. There are six different types of academic house point:

- ACADEMIC **A**TTAINMENT
- EFFORT & **T**ENACITY
- CRITICAL **T**HINKING & APPLICATION
- INDEPENDENT **L**EARNING
- COMMUN**I**CATION & COLLABORATION
- CREAT**I**VITY

House Points	What might they be awarded for?
ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A high or consistent level of attainment in classwork, PREP or assessment, or for when it is clear that you have made significant academic progress;</li> </ul>
EFFORT & TENACITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In recognition of your effort in a particular activity or over a period of time;</li> <li>● You display a positive attitude in your learning, and you are able to keep going when a task is hard or when you might not have done as well as you wanted to.</li> </ul>
CRITICAL THINKING & APPLICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesise different sources of information;</li> <li>● The ability to apply your knowledge in an unfamiliar context.</li> </ul>
INDEPENDENT LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ability to seek out new knowledge independently of your lessons or teachers, and pursue your own academic interests at a high level.</li> </ul>

<b>COMMUNICATION &amp; COLLABORATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can communicate your ideas and understanding clearly;</li> <li>• You are highly productive when working with others.</li> </ul>
<b>CREATIVITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You demonstrate imaginative and original ideas in your learning.</li> </ul>



Teachers can reward academic house points by sticking the relevant sticker on the corresponding work. These stickers can be found on the top of the pigeonholes which face you as you enter the staffroom. Electronic versions are available [here](#). Pupils are responsible for keeping a tally of the house points they receive in their planner. Totals are collected from each house every half term to contribute to the annual house point competition. Certificates at various milestones are intended to celebrate academic endeavour. A pupil's form tutor awards them a certificate for accruing 5 house points; a pupil's Head of Year presents a certificate for 15 house points; the Head presents a certificate to pupil's achieving 30 house points.