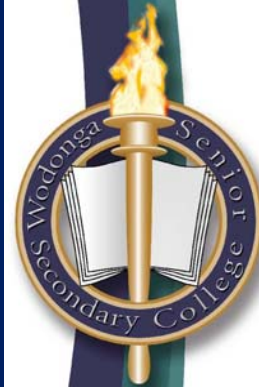


**WODONGA SENIOR
SECONDARY COLLEGE**

HOME STUDY GUIDE

*Creating a home learning environment that
Supports and
encourages learning*

*Families and School working together to improve
student outcomes*



INTRODUCTION

Wodonga Senior Secondary College students continue to achieve at exemplary levels in their VCE/VCAL and VET. However in our quest for continuous improvement of learning, teaching and involvement in extra curricular activities, we believe that we must further our working relationships with students and their families in the environment which is fundamental to their academic success, the home.

Parents and teachers alike are concerned with the changing nature of the workforce, the impact of technology on the workplace and the need for young people to develop skills that enable them access to a range of career paths. Technology presents young people with both opportunities and distractions that need to be understood and managed if they are to gain control of how it will impact on their lives.

We hope that this guide will assist families to support the education of their children by continuing to build an environment at home where learning is fostered and shared. Such an environment will then support student completion of homework that is set by the school.

Peter MacLean
Principal

CREATING THE CULTURE

Much of the learning children do takes place in the home and family environment and this impacts directly on their engagement and success in school based learning. As children grow older those habits and behaviours that supported them when they were young are still valid and extremely important if they are to have success in their secondary education and prepare them for learning throughout their lives.

A strong culture of learning at home includes the following:

- **Family role modelling and engagement with home study**
 - Parents/guardians who read newspapers, magazines, books and share them with their children
 - Parents/guardians who watch or listen to the news and current affairs and discuss issues with their children
 - Parents/guardians who may be studying themselves
 - Families who talk about what is being studied/learned at school or work

MY PERSONAL LEARNING GOALS

These goals are not specific to any particular subject, they are ones that I believe will flow through all of my learning to help me to:

- Improve my learning outcomes and achieve my best
- Enjoy school more
- Make the most of my education

This is a team approach that involves me, my parent/s and my teachers. I will seek their feedback often.

Goal One: _____

Action Plan: What habits and behaviours do I need to focus on? _____

How will I know that I'm getting there? _____

Goal Two: _____

Action Plan: What habits and behaviours do I need to focus on? _____

How will I know that I'm getting there? _____

Goal Three: _____

Action Plan: What habits and behaviours do I need to focus on? _____

How will I know that I'm getting there? _____

Why did I choose these Goals? _____

Student : _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

Pathways Teacher: _____ Date: _____

STUDY TIMETABLE							PHOTOCOPY AS YOU REQUIRE; DOES YOUR STUDY TIMETABLE NEED ANYTHING?										
SUNDAY																	
SATURDAY																	
FRIDAY																	
THURSDAY																	
WEDNESDAY																	
TUESDAY																	
MONDAY																	
	6.00-7.00am	7.00-8.00am	8.00-9.00am	9.00-10.00am	10.00-11.00am	11.00-12.00pm	12.00-1.00pm	1.00-2.00pm	2.00-3.00pm	3.00-4.00pm	4.00-5.00pm	5.00-6.00pm	6.00-7.00pm	7.00-8.00pm	8.00-9.00pm	9.00-10.00pm	10.00-11.00pm

▪ **Knowing your child**

- Under what circumstances they learn best (eg. with company, alone)
- The type of environment they need (eg. access to a computer or not)
- Being aware of what work is really being done (visible study)

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▪ **Agreed controls between parent/guardian and child**

- When to study, watch television, access to computers, use of chat lines, listening to music
- Maintaining a productive dialogue (ongoing communication, support, rewards and encouragement)

▪ **Expectations that learning and study will take place**

▪ **Positive support for their school, teachers and educational programs**

THE NATURE OF HOME STUDY

Home study is a broad term to describe a range of activities that provide learning opportunities for children and support the skills they are developing. They include:

▪ **Family reading**

- Parent modeling
- Establish a consistent reading time. eg half an hour before lights out
- Recognition of valid wide reading types: newspapers, magazines, computers
- Encourage sharing of articles: Read this. What do you think?
- Should take place without loud music to be effective

▪ **Watching Television and listening to the radio**

- Appropriate discussion of what they are watching and listening to
- Encouraging some family viewing
- Engaging in discussion of issues on the news or current affairs programs

▪ **Research**

- Internet: check sources and selection of material
- Books: never to be underestimated
- Newspapers and magazines
- Television
- Family members and friends



▪ **Strong communication within the family**

- Taking time to talk to one another
- Holidays and day trips
- Sporting and cultural activities
- Family functions

▪ **Home study that supports school work:**

- **Revision:** Revision is the continual going over of work studied in and for class, so that content and concepts are firmly entrenched for the student

▪ **Homework is not absent because “nothing has been set”. Revision is a key part of Homework.**

- Revision can include breaking work down into component parts: Summarising!
- End of chapter questions
- Set activities by teachers
- Testing of information by parents eg Periodic Table in Chemistry
- Repeating previous exercises to check on knowledge and skill retention tasks for tests and exams

▪ **Set Homework tasks from classes**

- Completion of class work
- Specific tasks for completion: exercise sheets, projects, research etc
- Revision for tests and exams

STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT HOMEWORK AND HOME STUDY

HOMEWORK DIARY

Wodonga Senior Secondary College ensures that each student has a homework diary to assist in the organisation of home study, to record notice of excursions, upcoming tests and due dates for submission of work and to provide a means of communication between home and school. If families reinforce the use of the Homework Diary it should become a very useful means of supporting their child's education.

▪ **Home Study Plan**

The construction of a Home study plan on a regular basis can be supported with the help of parents. Devising a timetable that enables a student to organise their school, sport, leisure, family and part-time work commitments in consultation with their family is an outcome of the “agreed controls” negotiation.

▪ **Wodonga Senior Secondary College On Line:** www.wssc.vic.edu.au

The Wodonga Senior Secondary College LMS is accessible to students from home via the use of their individual password. Students can login from home using their password.

▪ **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Homework Policy.**

This policy outlines the Departments position on Homework and recommended times for students at each year level. This is available at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/referenceguide/curric/3_23.htm

▪ **Wodonga Senior Secondary College Home Study and Homework Policy.**

This document is enclosed with this booklet. It is based on the Department of Education's policy and provides the guidelines under which this booklet has been developed.

▪ **Recommended times for Home study at each year level:**

Year 10 spend one hour per night, 5 nights a week.

- Students studying **Unit 1 & 2 subjects** should spend between two to two and a half hours **per subject** per week.
- Students studying **Unit 3 & 4 subjects** need to do at least three to four hours of homework **per subject**, each week (outside of normal school hours).

Tips on research on the Internet:

- Bookmark favourites on internet
- Clearly define your research topic
- Use suitable search engines: msn.com and google for Australian information
- Identify the source of the information you find: is a particular viewpoint being expressed or is the information objective?
- Be wary of illegal sites connected to those you are searching
- Be selective of the information you have: What questions are you trying to answer?

Other Sources:

- Don't forget the school and community libraries, newspapers, magazines, home libraries, family and friends as good sources of information.

