



'Communication' on Show My Homework (SMHW)

Good communication is essential when it comes to the challenges of assessment in schools. It's also vital in a much wider context: managing day to day life. There are many different skills of communication that can be applied across the curriculum and in society. There is an opportunity to revise these skills every week via the SMHW (Show My Homework) application. This year's programme will begin when Year 7 students are able to access SMHW on the 23rd September.

This element of the 'Communication' programme was previously known as 'Form Time Literacy' and it is now in its third year. The programme has been supported very well by students and parents over the last two years.

When accessing any text, it's important to read it closely and select the relevant details. The reader needs to consider the impact of word choice and of the variety of techniques that are employed by a writer to engage the reader. The reader needs to consider inference and implication. They need to establish meaning in a text.

The 'Communication' programme that is provided to John Spence students via SMHW supports your children in the development of these skills. Each task is appropriate for the year group and age range to which it has been set. A simpler version of the set text will also be provided each week to ensure accessibility for all of our students.

In addition, the 'Communication' resources have been carefully selected to provide a wide range of reading opportunities for the young people at John Spence. A variety of fiction and non-fiction texts are included in the programme. A ten question quiz, issued every week, guides the student and supports their ability to analyse the effectiveness of a text.

They are also short and accessible resources that enable our students to explore a variety of texts from different writers, different times and different contexts. The joy of reading is developed and promoted.

A writing task is also issued every week. These tasks are typical of the challenges that are posed in English assessments. They also help to build key skills of written communication that can be applied across the curriculum and in the wider world.

At Key Stage 3, ten spellings will be issued every week. These spellings will be provided to the students via the 'Daily Information' sheets in form time. We will also publish them via SMHW so that parents and carers can display them in the home. The spellings are drawn from different areas of the curriculum and are acknowledged 'high frequency' words.

In order to support your child, it would be great if you could discuss the 'Communication' resources that are available via SMHW with them. We'd like you to encourage your child to complete as many of these challenges as they can. The reading activities should take about half an hour to access properly whilst the writing activities should take roughly 45 minutes. We don't expect every activity to be completed every week, although some students do rise to this challenge. Even if a deadline is missed, it is possible to access the challenge via the calendar option and the assignment can be submitted late. We are very flexible and would rather a task was submitted late than not at all.

We will provide feedback via the SMHW application for the reading and spelling responses and via email for the written responses that we receive.

Please don't hesitate to contact me about this element of the 'Communication' programme via email at david.gibson@ntlp.org.uk. This is also the email address that should be used for the submission of written 'Communication' responses.

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