



19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

4aPupil/Pupil/Letters/Home Learning (Homework) update  
19.1.22  
HRO/Fl

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I am writing to keep you informed about some of the changes we will be making to home learning (*homework*) this year. All home learning tasks set will be closely linked to the learning that takes place in class and will help students to develop their knowledge, understanding and thinking skills.

Psychologists have identified a range of strategies that help students learn, many of which seem ideally suited to Home Learning. To ensure home learning assignments are meaningful and productive, they are linked to the learning cycle and prioritise 'thinking' over task completion. Home learning ensures that students are PREPared and there are 4 types of home learning assignment that students can be set:

- **Pre-teaching:** This is when the key knowledge is learnt at home in advance of the lesson. These assignments aim to help students understand the basics of new material through assignments including research. This can help students to digest difficult concepts and allows them to discuss, ask questions and have greater confidence to engage with knowledge in lessons.
- **Reading:**
- **Extending:** This allows students to go beyond the learning in the classroom to consolidate their knowledge through a creative piece of home learning or an assignment that helps them apply their knowledge.
- **Practice:** Having learnt knowledge in class, students will then practice by thinking about and grappling with key ideas and concepts. This practice will help build proficiency and mastery. Retrieval practice is the act of recalling information without having it in front of you. In recent years cognitive psychologists have been comparing retrieval practice with other study methods. Research has shown this is far more effective than re-reading and that retrieval practice cements long-term learning.

In response to the parent survey and in order to make it easier for students and parents/carers to access and succeed with assignments, we will be moving away from 'Teams' and instead setting all home learning through Bromcom. Teachers will upload the instructions and resources for home learning onto Bromcom and pupils will be able to access the **Student Portal** using the following link (<https://www.bromcomvle.com/>) and using their school email Microsoft account login details. All students will be guided through the changes to home learning, as well as how to access it online, in tutor set this week. A real benefit of this move is that the details of students' home learning will be available for all parents and carers to view on MCAS. This is valuable as it means that all information about your child's learning can be accessed on one platform, enabling you to support your child more effectively with home learning. On the reverse of this letter I attach a guide for how to access home learning on MCAS.

I thank you in advance for your support in making these new systems support our students with their learning.

Yours sincerely  
*Hannah Rothwell*  
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Assistant Head

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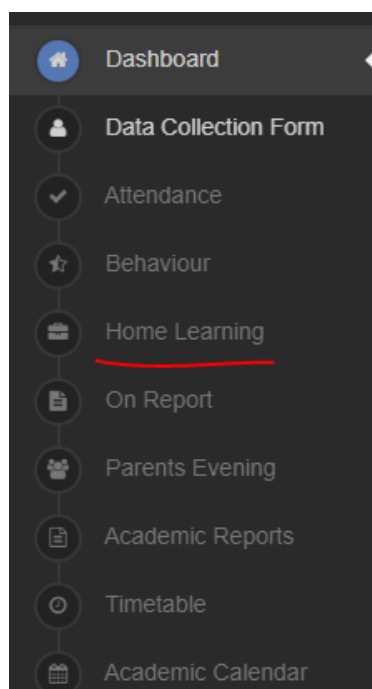
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## Home Learning on MCAS – Parents Guide

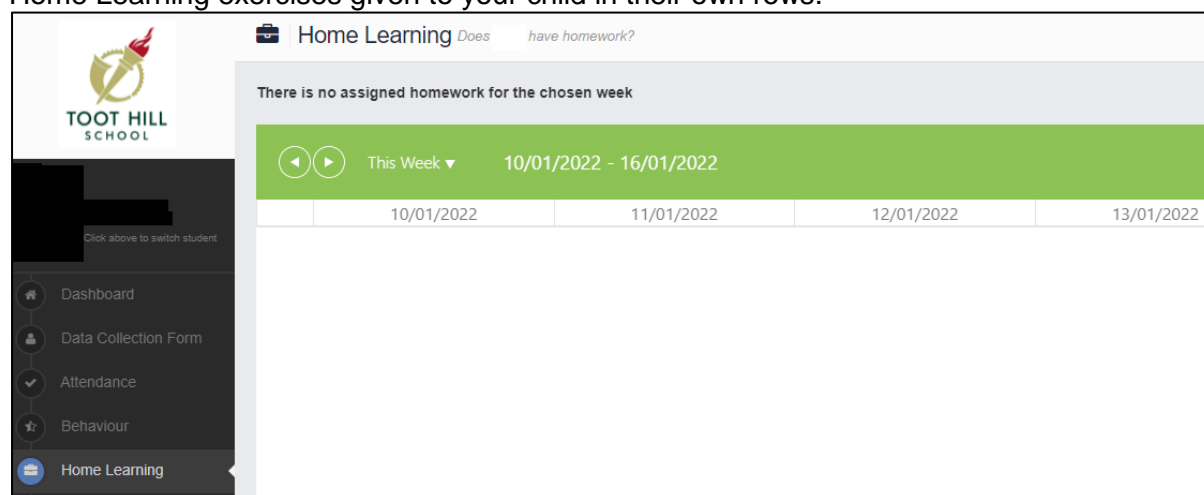
After logging in to MCAS (link below) **Home Learning** can be selected from the right-hand tool-bar:  
<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>



If you are having trouble logging in to MCAS, and are unable to retrieve your log-in details using the 'Forgotten Login Details?' link on the homepage, please contact the below email address:

**[mcas@toothillschool.co.uk](mailto:mcas@toothillschool.co.uk)**

Clicking on Home Learning will bring you to the below page, where you will be able to see all Home Learning exercises given to your child in their own rows.



Clicking on a Home Learning piece will bring up more details, such as the Home Learning title and description, the due date and any resources such as links to websites or attached documents.