

Lisnagarvey High School

Warren Gardens
Lisburn
BT28 1HN



School Values
Mutual Respect
Success for All
Meeting the Needs of Individuals
Caring and Responsible

Principal – Jim Sheerin

Ref JS/LM/CB *JS*

29 August 2024



Dear Parent/Carer,

English Homework Procedures and Bedrock Learning

As part of the school's ongoing commitment to literacy, we have continued to invest in the digital literacy improvement platform called **Bedrock Learning**, which we will be using as part of our curriculum to teach students the language skills they need to succeed at school and beyond – with specific focusses on vocabulary, reading and writing.

Students in Years 8-10 will continue to get one literacy period per week, during which every pupil will log in to Bedrock and engage in literacy lessons. Your child's literacy teacher will track their progress, as will their English teacher. As well as the obvious educational benefits of engaging with Bedrock, for subjects across the curriculum, pupils will be rewarded in various ways throughout the year. Bedrock celebration events include assemblies with certificates and prizes, spot prizes from their teachers, postcards posted home, a pizza party and more.

As an added incentive, the weekly English homework will consist of completing **a minimum of one hour on Bedrock per week** (including the 35 minutes they get in school). Here are some very important points to note regarding Bedrock as homework for English:

- When your child is logging into Bedrock, they should type 'Bedrock Learning' into the search bar on Google. **They should log in through the Bedrock Learning website** rather than using links, otherwise they may be presented with an 'access denied' message from the website.
- **Bedrock will be set every Wednesday on Google Classroom and will be due for the following Wednesday morning at 8.45am. This gives pupils a full calendar week to complete their hour. This can be done in shorter bursts of time e.g. 15 minutes, four times per week. We have kept the deadline the same day for everyone, to simplify things as much as possible for students.**
- Your child's Bedrock account will show a timer of time spent for the week at the top of their screen. **Please do not use this as a guide** - the Bedrock timer uses the calendar week (ie Monday-Sunday), so it is not an accurate reflection of their time. Your child should just keep their own record of the time they have spent working on Bedrock, Wednesday to Wednesday – **this is the timeframe that teachers will use when checking the system.**
- We have taken every step to empower students to be able to complete their Bedrock learning each week; as well as the literacy period each pupil gets, **the school library will be open before and after school every day, for anyone who wishes to use the laptops to complete their homework.** This means that lack of online access at home is not a hinderance to anyone in terms of engaging with Bedrock and completing their weekly homework. Pupils who struggle to access the internet at home, must utilise this service.
- Tablets and desktop or laptop computers are the best way to access Bedrock; smartphones are discouraged.
- We also offer **Bedrock Club on a Monday**, for anyone wishing to receive some additional support with the program.

- It is important to note that **one hour is the minimum time your child should spend each week**, so if your child does not complete at least one hour, it constitutes **homework not being done**; this means that their English teacher will set an **after-school detention**, as per Departmental policy. **Detentions cannot be done at break or lunchtimes** because teachers require breaks during their working day. The Departmental Detention is centralised and the day cannot be changed. **The day for English Departmental Detention for the year 2024-25 will be a Thursday 3.30pm-3.55pm.**
- Please note that the process of setting detentions on our system is time-consuming, so, should there be a **valid reason** why your child did not complete the homework, please ensure a **note is sent in on the Wednesday it is due** – not doing so adds undue pressure to teachers' workload. If your child's teacher does not receive the note on the due date, a detention will be set.
- Please be assured that we are in regular contact with Bedrock and we have been assured that the **data we receive regarding time spent on the app is accurate**, down to the very second! This has been, and continues to be, tested on a regular basis by their software engineers. However, **pupils should not rely on the timer that appears on their own profile**: they should simply look at the times when they start and finish.
- It should be noted that, **on some occasions**, your child will also receive other homework for English, but this will not be a frequent occurrence and will only be where the teacher feels it is necessary, for the additional benefit of students e.g. coming up to exams.

Bedrock is tailored to the individual's ability, so a placement test is completed when they first engage with the programme, to ascertain the level at which the student is working. As your child progresses through the curriculum they will study hundreds of words, whilst reading fiction and non-fiction texts regularly.

As their parent/carer, you can follow their progress by viewing their Knowledge Organiser within the Bedrock platform. You can also receive weekly progress reports on your child's progress via email when you create your Bedrock parent account.

To create your Bedrock Learning Parent Account:

- **Step 1:** Visit app.bedrocklearning.org
- **Step 2:** Click on the 'Guardian sign up' button, then click 'School access code'.
- **Step 3:** Complete the Guardian sign-up form and enter **your child's access code**:
- **Step 4:** Check your email for your password and log in (be sure to check your junk folder if no email arrives).

Students will be given their login details by their teacher. It is essential that your child carefully stores their login details as their teacher will not be able to access this easily, should they be lost.

Your child's username is:

Your child's password is:

School access code for parent/guardian signup:

You can find out more information about Bedrock Learning at www.bedrocklearning.org. You can also find additional help for parents at help.bedrocklearning.org.

We hope you and your child find this resource helpful.

L Murray

Mrs L. Murray
Head of English

M Clarke

Mrs M. Clarke
Teacher of English