There is a two pronged approach to homework for KS3 pupils:

All pupils are expected to complete daily independent tasks such as MathsWatch, independent reading or any of the French activities listed below.

The second prong is that all pupils complete activities related to their upcoming assessments in every subject using resources found on Foldr and guided by the ‘how to’ guides also found in that location.

**Daily Activities for Key Stage 3 Pupils:**

**MathsWatch**

MathsWatch is an online learning tool which allows students to further embed learning from the classroom. It is also the system upon which Team Maths sets homework assignments and through which students can revise. Each student has a unique login and username, which are used to login and access their account. Their homework assignments are listed there, and they can complete these over a number of sittings. If they are struggling with a question, by scrolling down they can use the helpful videos, or alternatively can attend the MathsWatch club on Tuesday after school, or see their teacher.

Use of MathsWatch is an excellent supplement to student learning, in addition to helping students to highlight areas of weakness. Progress and usage is rewarded through certificates, assembly announcements and enrichment badges.

**Independent Reading**

There is a list of Recommended Reads for each year available on the school website and all of these books are also available in our library. Every book that is taken out by a student, returned on time and reviewed will result in 1 point being allocated to that form with regard to winning the KS3 challenge and corresponding reward event. All student form groups are provided with a full library catalogue from which they are required to choose an age appropriate text. These texts are then delivered to students during form time. Following this students are required to read their chosen text during form time and at home in order to strengthen their literacy skills and reading ability— a skill vital to future exam success in all subject areas. Parents can keep track of texts being read by students via reading records which have been provided to all Key Stage 3 Pupils. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor reading records on a weekly basis to ensure sufficient reading is being completed and to work in partnership with the school as we aim to drive literacy standards up at Hodge Hill College.

Consistent reading at the pupils reading age and above brings several benefits such as vocabulary expansion, memory improvement, stronger analytical thinking skills and better
writing skills which will be valuable for progression within all subjects. Alongside the practical gains for success in school, reading is also a great tool for stress reduction and can provide mental stimulation keeping the brain strong and healthy.

**Key Stage 4 Form Time Debate Programme:**

For the 2019/20 academic year Hodge Hill College has introduced a Form Time Debate Programme which will form the basis of all group sessions outside of scheduled assemblies for all Key Stage 4 Pupils. The programme centres around a Debate resource provided to all form tutors and form groups around which students will debate a wide variety of SMSC *(Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural)* themes and ideas related to current affairs within our media and as part of broadsheet newspaper articles.

During the course of the academic year, students will be required to sharpen skills vital to GCSE success, including building a coherent argument and weighing up and selecting evidence in order to strengthen an argument. During a fortnightly debate cycle, students will read a high quality article, find, refine and utilise evidence and debate some of the most hotly contested issues of our day. This is then followed by an evaluation process within which students reflect upon and take stock of their findings during the course of the debate. Debate within form time is fast proving to be a great way to build relationships, team spirit and to introduce a competitive edge into form time in an area within which has flourished within recent years. The inspiration for our form time debate programme was borne out of our great successes in recent times as a subscribing school to the ‘Debate Mate’ organisation of which we have been a member since 2012.