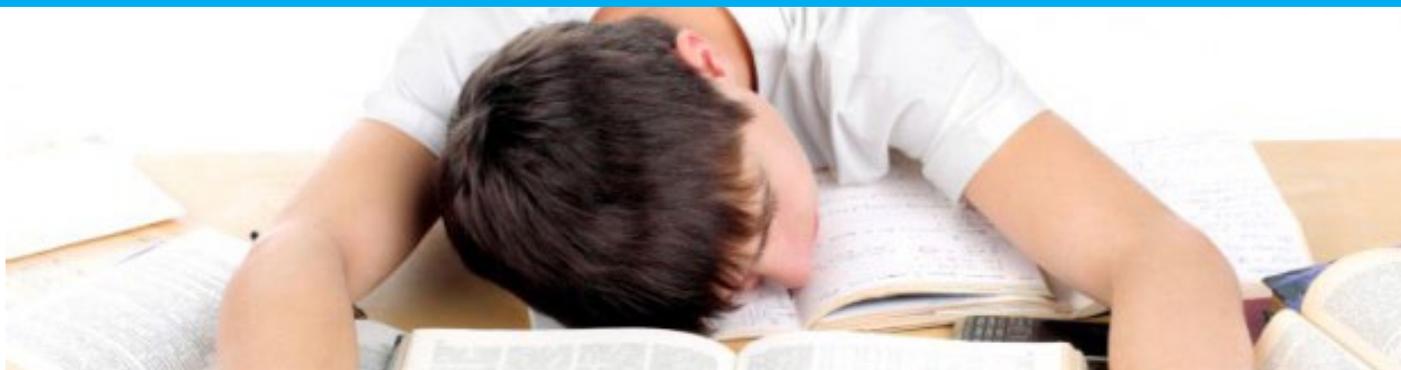


Here in Hong Kong, recently there have been voices that students should not be given homework for school holidays. You are Chris Wong, a secondary student. The editor of your school newspaper has asked for opinions on this issue. Write a letter to the editor to express whether you are FOR or AGAINST it.

Lai Yun Chi



Dear editor,

I am writing to express my opinion on whether students should be given homework for school holidays. I strongly believe that it is necessary to do so. There are numerous reasons why I hold this opinion and I would like to explore a few of them here.

To begin with, holiday is a time for students to take a rest and relax themselves. Students need to work under the gun every school day and even at weekends. Therefore, holidays is meant to be the time for students to go out to play and relax, but not to work hard on homework. Besides, holiday is also a precious time for students to spend time with family. After most school days, barely can students have time to talk with family because they are usually fully occupied by homework. Without homework for school holidays, they can go out with family to enjoy quality family time. In light if it, take France as an example, French President Francois Hollande pledged to forbid homework to improve standards for over-worked French pupils. We can see that French students have a more relaxing and happier school lives while they can still be smart. Therefore, homework is unnecessary to be given for school holidays because it should be the time for students to relax and be with family.

What's more, doing homework on holidays is meaningless. The real purpose of homework is to ensure that students have learnt what the teachers taught in class and check if they get

them learnt or not. In addition, school holidays usually last for at least one to two weeks. Students are expected to submit their homework to their teachers after weeks. The time that teachers explain the homework to students in class, they may have already forgotten what they have learnt. In this sense, it is meaningless to assign/do holiday homework when it cannot facilitate students to learn better.

Someone may claim that homework help students keep themselves abreast of what they have learnt at school. Undoubtedly, practices do make perfect. Doing homework is one of the practical ways to practise the skills that students have learnt, especially some academic subjects like Mathematics. If homework for school holiday is a must, doing revisions would be much preferred to doing lots of drilling-like homework, because the former is more effective than the latter, when it is considered to help consolidate students' understanding of the subject content.

In conclusion, I do not deny that homework is good for students, but I don't think it is necessary to give homework for school holidays. In short, it is more important for students to develop self-discipline that they would do revisions when given no homework on holidays in order to catch up with their learning pace when resuming school from holidays.

Yours faithfully
Chris Wong