



Show My Homework A Simple Online Homework Calendar

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Introduction

Show My Homework is a simple online application that enables school teachers to post homework, display it in a simple calendar form, and even assess it online. The site was originally set up for Henry Compton School and its community, but has now become popular among teachers across the world. The purpose of this proposal is to demonstrate why Show My Homework is a suitable e-learning platform to cater to the needs of schools and teachers. All the findings from this proposal are drawn from first-hand experience.



The Motivation Behind Show My Homework

Show My Homework is the brainchild of Naimish Gohil, Assistant Head teacher and IT evangelist at Henry Compton School in West London, UK.

Through his teaching experiences, Naimish realised that:

- *Homework* is an important issue for schools.
- *Teachers* need to be aware of homework set by other teachers, so students don't get overloaded.
- *Students* need to be clear of their homework requirements and deadlines.
- *Parents* should be involved in the homework process so they have some idea about what their children are expected to do. For those parents who do not speak English well, finding out what their children are doing and what's required can be quite daunting.

He also came across these common homework-related problems teachers face:

- A lack of time in class to set homework
- Difficulty maintaining records of homework set
- Time-consuming effort required to collect and mark homework on a regular basis
- No easy way to gauge how much homework is set across the school



Like most teachers, he also encountered a number of homework excuses from students, ranging from the reasonable to the absurd:

- "I thought the deadline was next week"
- "I lost my worksheet"
- "I lost my homework diary"
- "I forgot to write the homework in class"
- "My dog ate my homework"

“*I think it's a good idea. It would prevent a lot of the excuses I receive, for not doing their homework*”

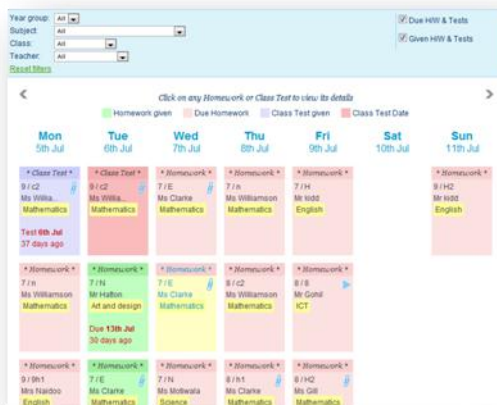
- Ingrid Babb, Citizenship Teacher, Henry Compton

All these factors led Naimish to set up Show My Homework for his school and its community. He realised very quickly that it could also benefit other schools.

Show My Homework: Full List of Features & Benefits

The motto of Show My Homework is simple: teachers can post homework questions online. They can also attach worksheets, web links, and video resources. Students and parents can see these homework questions on their school homework calendar without having to log in. Here is a full list of features Show My Homework has to offer:

- **Create homework questions with just a few clicks**
Teachers can post homework and set deadlines for different subjects and classes by filling out a simple form. These questions are automatically displayed on the school's homework calendar.
- **Add worksheets, web links, and videos to homework questions**
Teachers can add worksheets, web links, and video resources to make their homework questions engaging and interactive for students.
- **Post class tests and exam dates on the homework calendar**
Teachers can post information for class tests and exam dates. This helps students plan their revision ahead of time.
- **View the school homework calendar**
Every school has its own dedicated homework webpage with filter options to easily find homework. Here is an example:
<http://www.showmyhomework.co.uk/henrycompton>



- **Share the school homework calendar**
Teachers can share the school homework calendar link with students and parents. The sharing process is made easier with a “Show My Homework” button embedded on the school website or class blogs. Here are some examples of this in action:
 - Henry Compton School (UK) - <http://www.henrycompton.net>
 - Tunas Muda International School (IN) - <http://www.sekolahtunasmuda.com/stm2/>
 - Timber Ridge School (US) - http://timberidge.typepad.com/mrs_heyburn/



- **Translate homework into 50 languages**
Show My Homework utilises Google Translate to enable homework questions to be translated into different languages.

- **Receive email reminders to collect homework**
To keep teachers from forgetting to collect homework due, they get automatic email reminders in the morning. They also get similar reminders for class tests they have set.

- **Reuse homework questions**
Teacher can save time and effort by reusing homework questions they have created previously. This is especially helpful when a teacher wants to set the same homework for multiple classes.



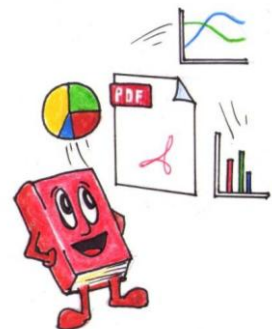
- **Draw inspiration from the Homework Directory**
The Homework Directory is a collection of questions posted by teachers on Show My Homework. Teachers can find relevant questions with filter options. These questions are also available to reuse. At the moment it contains over 2000 questions.
- **Hand in Homework Online**
Show My Homework facilitates online assessment of homework. When teachers create homework questions, they have the option to let students submit their work online. They can subsequently assess the submitted pieces of work and provide feedback.

“
The facility (student submission) looks very useful, and is well laid out. As an ancient curmudgeon, I was expecting to see tweaks I could recommend, but I can't, so “Well done!”

- Peter Broome, Head teacher, Galena Organisation UK

- **View the Report Card**
Students have access to a Report Card view listing all their online submissions and the feedback they have received. Teachers also have their own Report Card view where they can keep track of class results and review progress.
- **SMS notification for students**
Show My Homework is on the verge of introducing feedback to students via SMS for homework they have submitted online.

- **View School-wide Homework Statistics**
This view provides visual insight into how homework is set across the school by its teachers, across different subjects and classes.



Additional Benefits of Show My Homework:

- **It saves time** – For example, teachers can set homework for an entire term and not have to worry about it during teaching time in class.
- **It has a simple, intuitive user interface** – Easy sign-up and no training required.
- **It engages parents** – Gives them easy access to their child's homework.
- **It is simple to implement** – Software as a service with no installation effort.
- **It is effortless to maintain** - No hardware or software updates required.
- **It reduces your carbon footprint** – Reduces paper usage and printing costs.
- **It is accessible anywhere** – Works just fine as long as there is an internet connection, even dialup!
- **It is IE6 compatible** – Works in all modern browsers including IE6.
- **It is simple and safe for students to use** - Students can access Show My Homework via their existing accounts on Facebook, Hotmail, Yahoo, and Gmail.

“

Dear Naimish, I've just been looking around the 'show my homework' site and it looks really accessible. We need to find a solution to some of our homework issues in school and this looks like it would be really helpful!”

- Ann Webb, Head teacher, Eaton Banks

Future Developments

- Facebook App
- Android App
- iPhone App
- Blackberry App
- Online Discussion Forum
- Multiple Choice Tests
- QR Codes

Virtual Learning Environments Vs Show My Homework

There are a number of sophisticated, feature loaded Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) on the market today. These solutions serve their purpose as a school-wide e-learning tool only if they are utilised with the appropriate investment of time, effort, and money.

During the course of a single school day, teachers have many responsibilities and decisions to make. This makes them hesitant towards investing their precious time learning a new technology unless there is an immediate benefit. They would much rather use their spare time for planning lessons.

“

Think this is a super idea. Would save a lot of time and paper too!! Better as opposed to Fronter that requires you putting all the questions, tasks etc. Can't think of any disadvantages, so I'm all for it!”

- Vishanee Naidoo, English Teacher, Henry Compton

Known issues with VLE implementation: Time, Effort, and Cost

From Naimish's personal experience as an educator, he is aware of what it takes to deliver a feasible and effective e-learning solution that works for all teachers on an everyday basis. Having gone through training for a number of VLEs, he has come across the following issues:

- Complexity of the VLEs
- Feature overload
- Multiple trainings sessions
- Commitment from all staff
- Large monetary investment for implementation, training and maintenance

Show My Homework – A Feasible Solution

In contrast to a VLE, Show My Homework is a much simpler and intuitive online homework application. It consists of a focused set of valuable features carefully thought-out by a teacher for teachers. Its ease of use means that it does not involve any training costs, open or hidden. It works well at an individual teacher level, but can also be applied at school level with minimum effort. Based on our current set of users, Show My Homework has proved to be effective even in schools which have already invested in VLEs. It is thus establishing itself firmly as the preferred virtual learning environment of choice among teachers.

“*Think this is a super idea. Would save a lot of time and paper too!! Better as opposed to Fronter that requires you putting all the questions, tasks etc. Can't think of any disadvantages, so I'm all for it!*”

- Vishanee Naidoo, English Teacher, Henry Compton

Security – We Take It Seriously

With Show My Homework, you can store and manage homework with confidence. It provides a 99.9% up-time guarantee, up-time redundant storage, and configurable permissions. Security is of utmost importance to us here at Show My Homework. We thus commit extensive resources towards implementing, monitoring, and maintaining our security infrastructure including constant monitoring of production systems, ongoing threat assessment, rapid deployment of the latest security technologies, and the secure use of highly scalable and redundant online infrastructures. We have gone above and beyond the guidelines set by the erstwhile BECTA (British Educational Communications and Technology Agency) based on the “Good practice in information handling: Data encryption” document published (Version 2, March 20th 2009).

Protection at the facilities level

Show My Homework hosts its servers at an enterprise-grade data centre with ongoing audits, 24 x 7 x 365 monitoring and video surveillance, on-site security staff, mantraps, with strict access controls. All power and site environmental systems are in an N+1 redundant configuration to ensure fault tolerance. Multiple power feeds, UPS devices, and onsite backup diesel generators ensure continuous operation and robust infrastructure. Data is automatically backed up to a geographically separated site.

Protection at the network level

Servers reside behind a sophisticated firewall that selectively grants access to network resources. An Intrusion Detection System (IDS) continuously monitors network traffic to scan for the latest threats. Additionally, Show My Homework utilizes multiple internet backbone connections to provide routing redundancy and high performance connectivity. External penetration testing is performed to validate system functioning and security.

Protection at the application level

A user's Show My Homework account is accessible only with that user's given email address and password. The school's Homework Calendar page is public via a URL that can be shared as a hyperlink. All data and file names are encoded once they arrive on our servers.

Protection at the user level

Show My Homework uses proven password and privilege techniques to validate access to all application data. For example, administrators control user privileges, limiting what they can see and do on Show My Homework and can set granular access permissions with a single click.

Privacy, Data Protection, CRB Checks – It Matters To Us

Show My Homework takes diligent care regarding privacy, data protection and CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks. All members of staff with access to the Show My Homework database are CRB-checked. Show My Homework is also registered with the Information Commissioners Office.

User verification process

Show My Homework is accessible through the internet and thus has no control over who visits the website. There is thus a possibility that a student might sign up as a teacher representing a school. However, we have certain measures in place to allow us to take action against users abusing the system:

1. On the teacher sign up form, there is an explicit checkbox that asks the user to confirm they are a member of the teaching staff at the school they are signing up to. The Terms of Service within the agreement state that Show My Homework will contact the school via Telephone, Email, or Fax, to verify the user's identity.
2. Administrators at Show My Homework have access to a list of users signing up on a daily basis. Any user registered with details that seem suspicious to us is immediately flagged. Until their account is verified, they are frozen out of the system.
3. If a user fails our verification process or posts inappropriate content, Show My Homework administrators can delete their account and everything they have published.

If you would like further information about our security measures and data centre partners we use, please contact Naimish Gohil via email at: Naimish@showmyhomework.co.uk

Testimonials

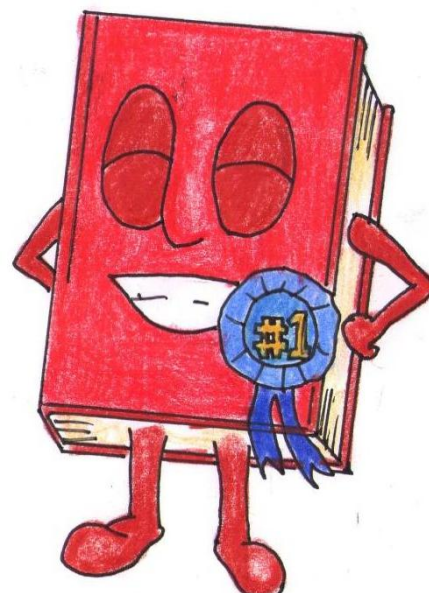
"Brilliant idea, it's already started to work really well for my classes!"

- Timothy Kidd, English Teacher, Henry Compton School

"Dear Naimish,

Forgot to say would you like to come into school here in September to discuss how we might be able to take some of your ideas forward in this high performing girls grammar school I am very impressed by all you have achieved so far We are the lead school for Sutton in the Engineering Diploma and this might well help with delivery. Good wishes"

- Martin Walden, Sutton Local Education Authority



"Hi Naimish, homework website idea sound good. I get loads of parents ringing me saying that they can't read what's written in their son's diary"

- Graham Quantrell, Transition Co-ordinator, Henry Compton School

"Hi Naimish,

Excellent resource! I will make it known to other teachers."

- Margaret Gartside, Teacher, Kings Mac School

"Dear Naimish,

I think it is a great resource for parents, for teachers and students of course. It takes away all their excuses and criticisms. I visited the website this evening, and it is very easy to use. Very well done"

- Sue Cotton, English Teacher, Henry Compton School

"Dear Mr Gohil, At first glance, your site looks very impressive. I'd certainly be keen to look in to the implications of our school making use of it."

- Andy Davis, Head of ICT at University College School

"Hi Naimish,

I used Show My Homework last night and I just wanted to say how fantastic I think it is. You should be very proud!"

- Naomi Hayes, Media Teacher, Henry Compton School

"I am at a British Forces School Secondary School in Germany and would love the opportunity of registering a page on your site. Can you please advise how I should do this?"

- Barbara Bull, St Peter's Joseph Catholic School.

"Dear Naimish, your homework site looks great. I am a Deputy Head and am thinking I would like to direct colleagues and students to use the site for the academic year 2010/11."

- James Carpenter, Deputy Head, Claves More School

"Good afternoon Naimish,

I saw your website advertised in the NUT magazine and I have cut it out and would like to use this for next year."

- Holly Christopher-Jones, Drama & Performing Arts Specialist, Eartismore School

Hi Naimish

Great site, I will be forwarding this to my daughter's school!

- Helen Doyle, St Joseph's School, Australia

FREE Account Features

FREE FOREVER WITH NOT SET-UP OR TRAINING COSTS

Find Your School & Sign Up



JUST FOR YOU

Your School's very own online homework calendar. Put it straight on your school website, blog, and VLEs.



FREE AS A BIRD

Create unlimited homework questions, class tests and exam dates for students.



MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Translate homework in 50 languages to make it more accessible for students and parents with EAL.



REUSE YOUR HOMEWORK QUESTIONS

Save hours of planning time. Reuse homework questions for your classes with a single click.



ATTACH FILES, WEB LINKS, AND VIDEOS

Make homework questions interesting and engaging for students



BECAUSE IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST

Never forget to collect homework again with a gentle morning reminder.



AD-FREE SERVICE

Because we hate adverts! They ruin the user experience we have worked so hard to create.



INVITE COLLEAGUES

Share the goodness of Show My Homework with colleagues. They'll thank you for it.

Premium Features

FREE FOR 30 DAYS, UPGRADE ANYTIME
TURN ON, TURNOFF ANYTIME



Find Your School & Sign Up



HAND IN HOMEWORK ONLINE

For as little as £2.99 a month, let students hand in homework online. Save yourself hours of time listening to excuses, collecting, printing homework. Try it free for 30 days. You will love marking homework again!



REUSE, REUSE, REUSE

Full access to thousands of homework questions on every subject created by teachers from around the world! Ready for instant use for only 99p per month.



HOMEWORK STATS

Feeling in the dark about homework at your school? Do parents' questions about homework make you feel awkward? You can avoid this by having real-time access to homework statistics at your school, displayed in a visual, friendly format. Print the report as PDF and share it at parents

Special Deals on Premium Features

CALL SALES ON +44 (0)20 8989 8898

OFFER 1 - FOR AN INDIVIDUAL USER - SAVE 5%

Buy ALL Premium Features for 12 months for only **£4.72** per month

OFFER 2 - FOR SMALL DEPARTMENTS - SAVE 25% per user

Buy ALL Premium Features for 2-10 users for 12 months and get a 25% discount per user.

OFFER 3 - FOR SCHOOL-WIDE LICENCE

Getting Show My Homework for your school will be the best software decision you make this year. Go to our [School Plan](#) for more information.

Volume discounts available!!!

How Can I Sign Up?

Show My Homework is a global service serving schools from around the world. Please take one of the actions below to start the simple sign up process:

Find Your School & Sign Up

Button not working? Click this link to sign up:

<http://www.showmyhomework.co.uk>

Contact Details

Company Name: Teacher Centric Ltd

Head Office: Holywell House
Wanstead
London E11 2AL

Company No: 06386690

VAT No: 918 8531 93

Office: +44 (0)20 8989 8898

Skype: showmyhomework

Email: help@showmyhomework.co.uk

Twitter: [@showmyhomework](https://twitter.com/showmyhomework)

Web: <http://www.showmyhomework.co.uk>

Key Contacts: Naimish Gohil

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Email: naimish@showmyhomework.co.uk

Mobile: +44 (0) 7738 421 972

Key Contacts: Jon Tiss

Position: Global Sales Director

Email: jon@showmyhomework.co.uk

Office: +44 (0)20 8989 8898

