

HOMWORK DIRECT THE SANCTUARY FOR STUDENTS



Robespierre's Obituary

A short but interesting article that offers a unique perspective on the French Revolution and the role of Robespierre.

[See the homework](#)



The Singapore Diaries

Over 100 days of diary entries, a personal and candid account of life in Singapore during the Japanese occupation.

[See the diary](#)



Comparison of British India and British Hong Kong

From the Hong Kong perspective, an interesting and detailed comparison of British India and British Hong Kong.

[Read the homework](#)



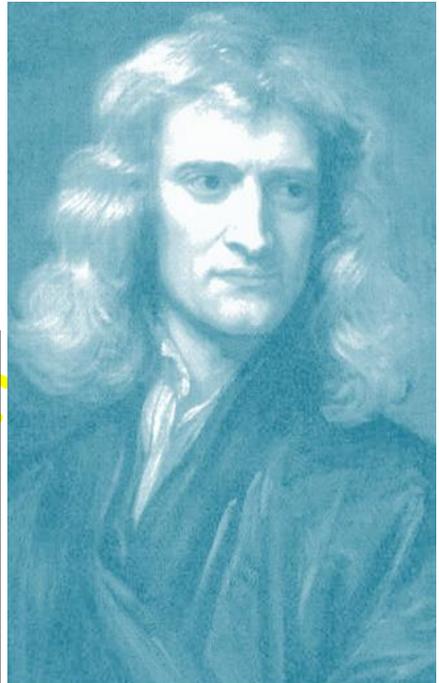
Why was health so poor in Victorian times?



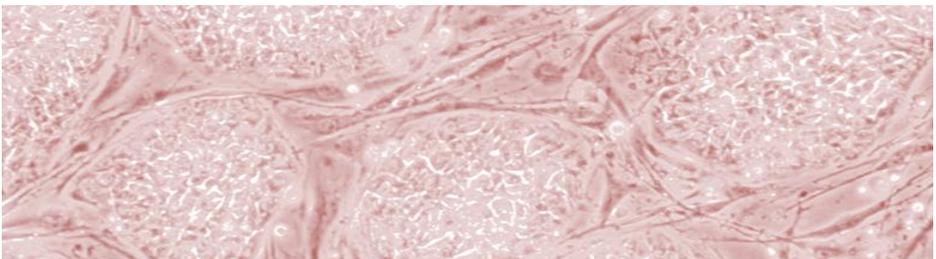
Austrian Archduke Assassinated



How does Blackadder depict the officers of the First World War?



A New Sanctuary: Replacing the Homework Shed





A New Sanctuary:

Replacing the Homework Shed

ROBIN STANLEY TAYLOR

This document follows Component One of the green paper "Education, Entertainment & Enlightenment: An online media project for the summer of 2015" as well as "The Homework Shed: Review of Suitability".

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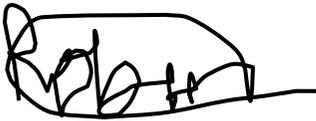
Foreword

The task of finding a suitable format and location for the Homework Shed has troubled me for well over a year now, and progress so far has largely eluded me. In May 2014 I conducted a review (Which I believe only one person actually read!) of the suitability of the existing Puzl website and found it to be severely lacking in all areas – but especially in ease of updating. I had planned to use July and August of that year to create an entirely new website, but searching for a suitable host (and information on how to code) took too long and ultimately the project got nowhere.

Earlier this year I began planning for a massive web project which would see the Homework Shed finally replaced, as well as the production of a series of recorded lectures and discussions on the 10th anniversary of the revival of Doctor Who, and the launch of a new political discussion and education series in the wake of the general election. A green paper on this was published in June, but nobody could be coaxed into any commitments for it – not even those who had been enthusiastic when verbally informed four days previously. The project therefore died before it could even be christened with a name.

Despite seeming to trip over at every possible hurdle, I have decided to persevere with Component One of the project as described in the green paper.

At the point of writing this white paper I have already found a new host (Wix.com) and established a prototype website to which I have begun transferring the content from Puzl. This document exists to give information on what has already been accomplished, and to set out a programme of what I intend to do in the coming weeks. I might potentially be able to complete this alone, but your (Now extremely belated!) contributions remain welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Taylor', enclosed within a hand-drawn, irregular rectangular border.

Robin Taylor, 23rd July 2015



Executive Summary

- A website (Homework Direct Alpha or HWD-A) has already been established, hosted by Wix.com.
- The new website has multiple placeholder elements (including the logo). It is far easier to edit and maintain than hws2.
- A new domain name is to be registered.
- All content from hws2 is to be carried over to HWD-A.
- Work from GCSE is to be uploaded, continuing hws2's original plan.
- Measures will be established to allow external readers to submit their own contributions.
- This project will stick to the principles set out in the green paper.
- HTML insertions will be used to construct a new comment section.
- Hws2 will be closed to casual readers, but the site may be retained as extra digital storage space.
- A rebrand will be considered, including a new logo and colour scheme.
- The project will eventually become too large to remain as a single person enterprise.
- Jobs will be split by faculty and by production stage.
- HWD-A should be fully operational by 2016.

Basic Website Information

Name	Homework Direct (Alpha)
Motto	The Sanctuary for Students
Logo (placeholder)	A dark red square, with "HOMEWORK DIRECT" written on it in bold white Courier New. "THE SANCTUARY FOR STUDENTS" written in smaller type underneath.
Host	www.wix.com
Address (pro tempore)	www.scwebops.wix.com/homeworkdirect-alpha
Established	22 nd July 2015
Status	Active, incomplete
Founder/Owner	Robin Taylor
Purpose/Function	A digital archive of model responses to homework tasks set in Years 7 to 11 which pupils can use as a guide.

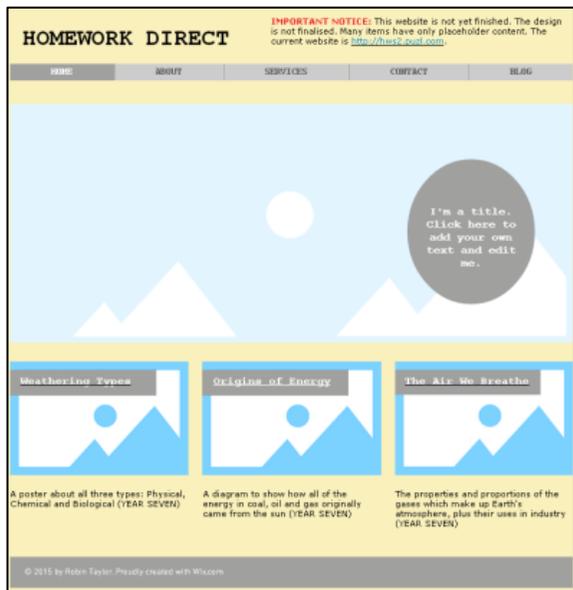
Current Status

An experimental website has been established and the articles from the homework shed have begun to be uploaded along with some new features. The address currently in use is:

www.scwebops.wix.com/homeworkdirect-alpha. Wix, bizarrely, turns the creator's username into the subdomain and then puts the website title afterwards.

This is only a temporary measure, and it is hoped that soon the site can be moved to a new domain which I have not yet registered (the desired name is www.homeworkdirect.com).

At this early stage, much of the site's widgets are only placeholders for images and information which have yet to be uploaded. This is expected to take a long time, as many of the photographs still in use on the old website may be under copyright and



I want to see them phased out in favour of public domain pictures, or my own graphical creations.

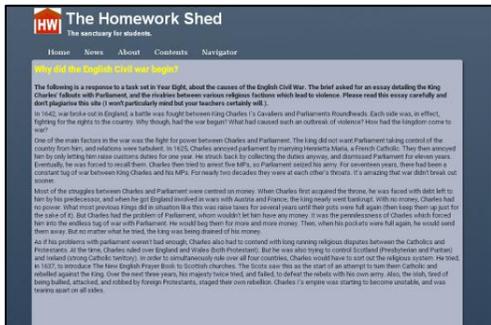
Already the new host has demonstrated its superiority over the old in terms of editing difficulty: Pages on HWD-A can be duplicated, so that a template can be used, removing the need on the previous version to painstakingly copy across each individual element from one page to another. Also, custom font styles can be created and automatically imposed across the site, so format changes can be done with relative ease. Whereas adding a new article on hws2 could often take upward of an hour, on HWD-A it can be accomplished in around five minutes.

Wix also gives the option of a blog, which I am using for the purpose of both announcing new articles and gazetting structural changes. This will take over the functions of the "News" section which has been neglected since December 2012.

Another significant improvement is that the pages are more responsive to changes in screen size, thus averting the problem of hws2 whereby text or images could disappear or be obscured when the page was zoomed in or out.

Overall the new provision is more than satisfactory.

Further Content



When movement of existing content from hws2 has been completed, more articles will be mined from my own schoolbooks, in particular expanding on the range of GCSE material available. When

that section of the project has been completed, the remit of the site will be broadened to include tutorials on methods (particularly useful in mathematics (where essay or research type questions are rarely set).

The principles of intellectual expansion and external contribution (as laid out on page 6 of the green paper) will not be abandoned. I retain the goal of allowing clients to send in their own work to be published on the website in order that the range of subject knowledge covered can be greater than it is now - and updates will occur more frequently.



Communication

On hws1 (Webeden), a comment section was available on each individual page, but these were removed following large amounts of spam. No comments widget was provided by Puzl (there was the option of a contact form, but this proved impractical) and so hws2 was left unreachable by anyone not personally familiar with the operator.

On HWD-A there is a capability for inserting Hypertext Mark-up Language, so that effectively custom widgets can be designed. The plan is to utilise this facility to create a new comments section where feedback can be given easily. Should the franchise eventually grow large enough, the creation of a forum (perhaps on a different site), where deeper discussion can be generated will be pursued.

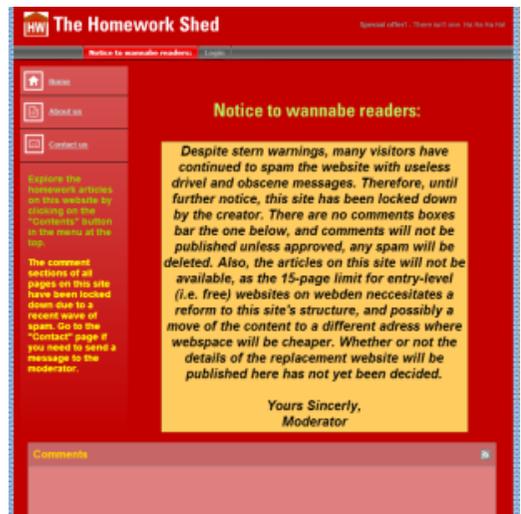


The image shows a comment form interface. At the top, there is a text input field with the placeholder text "Enter your name here" and a dropdown menu currently set to "Guest". Below this is a larger text area with the placeholder text "Enter your comment here". Underneath the text area, the number "2000" is displayed, likely indicating a character limit. At the bottom of the form is a button labeled "+ Emoticon".

Future of Existing Assets

Though hws1 was abandoned for being too restrictive in size, hws2 had the advantage of unlimited free storage. By contrast, Wix allows only 500MB before the user is required to upgrade to a new package (for which a payment is required). Though the webeden site was abandoned long ago (it is still awaiting automatic deletion), the Puzl site could be retained, if only so that the storage space could be used as a digital repository for files which HWD-A could not house. In particular, there is the possibility that large images could be uploaded to hws2 and then hotlinked to the new site.

As far as the face of the operation is concerned, however, hws2 will be closed to casual readers and traffic directed to HWD-A. The homepage of hws2 may need to be blanked off in a manner similar to that used for hws1. This time, though, there will be ample warning given in advance of the event.



Branding, Image and Promotion

In the 2014 Review of Suitability I postulated that the current HW Shed logo – despite its generally positive perception among clients - could be replaced with a new icon so that the new project would not have to inherit a symbol of two earlier failed enterprises, although the motto is to be carried over to continue some aspect of hws2's legacy (and provide proof of succession).

Different iterations of old and new symbols are shown below, though there is still time to recommend others. Decisions also still need to be made regarding colour schemes, publication formatting and other elements of the identity of the project. Welcome screens and business cards cannot move forward until these matters are settled.

For the potential use of video elements in the future, issues will also likely arise regarding what graphical and musical elements would prove the most useful.



Left to right: The Homework Shed's current logo; the placeholder icon for HWD-A; a new logo suggested in the review; another variant devised in 2014.

Personnel

A significant issue with hws1 and 2 was the difficulty of maintaining and updating the website alone. If the project is to successfully expand beyond its current scope then it is necessary to recruit additional help. Essentially the workload would be split into three fundamental functions: the secretary who would handle communications with readers who send in their work, the researcher who would check a product's usability, and the editor who would directly maintain the website.

With further growth, the responsibilities will be further divided according to academic subject areas, with each faculty having its own deputy editor, undersecretary and junior researcher dedicated to specific topics, producing a matrix organisational structure.



Abstract organogram of a possible future corporate

Schedule

All but one of the time checks laid out in the green paper have already been missed, but I remain committed to rapid development.

The timetable below gives an idea of the rate of progress I wish to make.

- August 1st – All feedback obtained and verdicts reached regarding logos, branding and identity.
- August 7th – All content from hws2 successfully carried over to HWD-A
- August 15th – New articles uploaded from GCSE era
- September 1st – HWD-A live and available to users to try
- October 8th – Any user feedback obtained and changes enacted.
- December 1st – Video element projects begun.
- January 1st – Independent domain name acquired, hws2 formally closed, Homework Direct in full operation.



WHITE PAPER ON REPLACING THE HOMEWORK SHED

ROBIN STANLEY TAYLOR

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To be printed as an A5 booklet. Available in PDF on hws2.puzl.com, on www.scwebops.wix.com/homeworkdirect-alpha and by email.