

4th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Focus on Building Independent Learning skills

Happy New Year to all our parents and carers.

As we begin a New Year we would like to share with you our strategic focus on building independence in our learners. The ability to learn or work on something independently is a key skill that is essential for not only school success, but for life after school.

This year, we have shared resources with our students through the use of Google classroom. Every subject and every class has a Google classroom where students can find the learning resources from every lesson and use them at home to help support their learning. Home learning is an intrinsic part of our curriculum. We value home learning as it helps develop effective study routines, reinforces knowledge and understanding and helps embed key concepts in students' long term memory. Completing home learning is a minimum requirement in any school.

As educators, we have seen year on year that hard work pays off. Students who put in the bare minimum effort are often disappointed when it comes to Results Day. We want to help develop a work ethic in our students that will help them not only achieve great academic success, but build the skills they need to succeed in an ever changing world. Jobs are no longer guaranteed for life and we want our students to have developed the key skills of determination, independence, resilience and personal responsibility to help prepare them for the future. In a competitive market, doing the bare minimum, will not bring the success or economic prosperity that we hope for our young people. To succeed in any area of life, we have to put in more personal effort. This is the same in education. We can teach students the essential curriculum and set home learning to help develop their knowledge, but to really understand something thoroughly or excel in a certain skill, students need to practice independently.

To help foster independence, resourcefulness and creativity we will be sharing Independent study tasks that students can access from home. These will be a range of resources, links and suggestions to wider reading or ideas to help enrich the curriculum and will allow students to explore their own interests, leading to a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

We recommend that students in **Key Stage 3 complete 15 minutes of independent study per day** and 10 minutes of reading their 15 x 15 book. **Students in Key Stage 4 complete 30 minutes in Year 10 building to 45 minutes in Year 11.**

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Key Stage 3 Suggested Independent Study Guide

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Maths	English	Science	Geography	History

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	MFL	Technology	Music/ Drama	Character and Culture	PE/ Art

Key Stage 4 Suggested Independent Study Guide

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Maths	English Language	Science	Option 1	Option 2

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Maths	English Literature	Science	Option 3	Option 4

Students do not have to follow the above guide, Key Stage 3 students may wish to focus on subjects they enjoy the most. Sanctions will not be issued but students will be rewarded through pride points which will be double weighted for completion of independent study.

Home learning and interventions

Home learning is set on a Monday morning at 9am and students have at least a week before the home learning is due in. Students can access support with their home learning through our home learning club which runs on a Tuesday and Thursday after school. The significant majority of our students work hard on their home learning and complete this to a wonderful standard. However, some students are yet to develop their right mind set when it comes to taking personal responsibility for their learning at home. Students who miss a deadline or do not complete their learning to the best ability are required to catch up on the missed learning in lunch time Faculty interventions. The interventions are run by specialist teachers who offer further help and assistance to ensure students can understand the learning task. Students have previously been collected for these interventions, but to help develop personal responsibility, students will now be notified in the morning and expected to get there themselves. Failure to attend lunch time intervention or complete work to the required standard will result in an after school intervention on a Tuesday or Thursday.

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The school believes interventions are a valuable tool in reinforcing independent learning skills. Parents/carers will be given at least 48 hours' notice of an after school intervention. Any student who misses an intervention for whatever reason, must serve the intervention at the next available date. A truanted intervention will result in a school centred suspension. There will be no exemptions from the after-school intervention system. If your child has a medical appointment, parents/carers must inform the school and rearrange the intervention. It will not be possible for a student to rearrange it themselves. If your child is absent on the day of a scheduled intervention, it will be rearranged to the next session automatically.

Please take some time with your child to look through the independent learning tasks that are shared with students in each google classroom. We hope that with encouragement and support we can help develop these essential life learning skills in all our learners.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Watts
Principal

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