



Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: Art

Year Group: GCSE

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Why is independent learning in Art important?

Independent learning skills in art are vital in producing successful art work and in helping students to achieve their potential. One of the key areas of success that we feel very proud of in the Art department is the variety of outcomes that students produce at every level and this is a result of students learning to develop their own ideas in a personal way both in class and at home. Pupils are positively encouraged to choose the themes, artists, materials, techniques and paths that their coursework follows, whilst being guided on that 'journey' in tutorial style lessons.

Homework is a key part of this and has a variety of uses; for students to continue coursework started in the lesson, make more in depth research, engage with artists/themes more closely, develop their own ideas, experiment or improve skills in a particular media/technique. For students at GCSE level this work is a continuation of their individual coursework.

How will independent learning be set?

'Whole class homeworks' are rarely set, although we do expect students to continue with at least 2 hours of their coursework each week and to continue to make progress. Regular smaller deadlines are set for example to complete research and studies, developmental work or final responses. These help to break down the projects into chunks but still allow and encourage students to develop their work according to their own interests. Students should not wait for 'homework' it is always ongoing!

What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

We expect students to automatically keep up with work both in class and at home and to always bring their sketchbooks and recent work to every lesson.

What help and support is available?

Support is always available in lessons in one to one tutorials and if students want to spend more time in the department, the Booster session on Wednesdays is an opportunity to do extra work or talk to a teacher in a quieter time. Peer support is also used in lessons during assessment sessions, students discuss each others' work and give it a grade as well as grading their own before the teacher assesses it. The art rooms are often available at other times too. We have a well stocked art library in the department and computers for independent research. Information about projects, ideas, artists and the Assessment Objectives can be found on the Fronter pages for year 10 and 11.

What work can be completed in addition to the set tasks?

In Art there is always room for more work! Extend and stretch yourself by going beyond the minimum '6 studies' or '3 developmentals' set for each project. Find more artists, make more studies or written responses to their work, experiment with a new material/technique, try printmaking, photography, photoshop, collage, acrylic, oils, mixed media. Get out and about with your camera or visit an art exhibition. Use your sketchbook like a 'journal' of your project recording your ideas.