



Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: D&T

Year Group: 7-9

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Why is independent learning in D&T important?

Independent work in Key stage 3 allows pupils to investigate key areas of Design and Technology. This then encourages them to appreciate the impact that Design and Technology has on the wider world and understand how designers and technologists have a responsibility to be sensitive to the needs of a range of people in society and the impact on the environment of their designs.

How will independent learning be set?

Tasks will be set once a week in each module of Design and Technology. Homework should be submitted on A4 or A3 (when appropriate paper). Types of homework may follow one of the themes below:

1. Key Words - Pupils are asked to find the definitions of a number of Key Words e.g. System, Mechanism, Perspective, Proportion, Biodegradable etc.
2. Investigation work – Research into relevant topics e.g. Items in the Home made from Plastics, Wood, and Fabrics; production process of cotton, felt, wool etc; Healthy Eating, Vegetarianism etc.
3. Tools and Equipment – Identify specific tools used to mark out materials, or for preparation of food etc.
4. Famous Designers/Technologists – Investigate the life and work of a famous designer/ artist / technologist e.g. James Dyson, Charles Babbage, Zaha Hadid, Claes Oldenburg etc.
5. Sustainability – Investigate why some products are better than others because of environmental impact / energy use etc.

What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

- Staff will expect all independent to be completed by the given deadline. In the majority of cases pupils will be allowed one week to complete their D+T homework. The work should be presented neatly in the format expected by the class teacher. Either A4 or A3 (when appropriate) paper should be used.
- If a problem arises which means Homework is not completed, a note from parents should be submitted.
- It should be attempted on the night that it is set so that help can be sought if needed before the due date.
- Help from parents may be sought but the task should be completed by the pupil in order to gauge a realistic picture of the pupil's level and ability and to encourage independent learning.
- Pupils are encouraged to use ICT to complete independent work and facilities in school are available for them to use during break and lunchtimes. However, pupils may still complete their work by hand as long as they take care with the overall quality and presentation of material. They should always strive to complete their work as neatly as possible and to ensure that they maintain a high standard of presentation as this is very important in a 'visual' subject such as Design and Technology.

What help and support is available?

- Pupils will be able to access the school network from home via FRONTER or they can use the ICT facilities in break or lunchtimes.
- The school library has a number of text books relating to Designing and Technology that may be helpful.
- Teachers are available to answer any questions relating to independent work during lessons, break and lunchtimes.
- Homework Club runs during lunchtimes in the Learning Support Room where Teaching Assistants can help with any independent work.

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

Pupils are encouraged to take a wider interest in the way Design and Technology is used in everyday life. Many children have access to a broad range of products that have been designed and manufactured that help them do work or to entertain them during their leisure time.

Pupils need to explore interests that will increase their awareness of D+T. e.g. Model making, Cookery, Drawing and Cartooning, Craft work, Use of construction kits etc.

Pupils can also look at a number of websites and do exercises that that will help them to have a greater knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology.

www.technologystudent.com

www.apple.com

www.designcouncil.org.uk

www.alessi.co.uk

www.designmuseum.org

www.cartooningbasics.com

www.bbcgoodfood.com

www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/

www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/eatwell-plate.aspx

www.nutrition.org.uk/