



Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: English

Year Groups: 10&11

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Why is independent learning in English important?

- Provides opportunities for preparation for CA, including reading around the subject.
- Encourages independent thought and develops research skills.
- Allows students to develop tenacity and initiative when approaching tasks without the teacher immediately on hand.
- Encourages students to reflect on their learning and apply skills alone.
- Encourages independent and creative personal responses to the texts we study.

How will independent learning be set?

- The class teacher will explain the task and the student will be expected to copy it into their planners in a clear way that will allow them to understand the task fully when they get home.
- Fronter will also be used for recording tasks.
- Tasks will usually be preparation for controlled assessment (see calendar for dates of Controlled Assessments) or exam so will be on an ongoing basis as dictated by the class teacher.
- There will also be extra tasks and reading available via Fronter in addition to preparation tasks set by the teacher.
- Students should expect one written task a week.

What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

- Independent work should be completed on time without fail.
- A note from a parent is required if homework is unable to be completed.
- Independent work should always be completed to the best of a student's ability and not rushed for completion. This also means students must plan their time effectively to ensure they have sufficient time to complete tasks to an appropriate standard.
- Plagiarism is unacceptable in any independent work (or classwork).
- While help from parents is understandable, the work must be completed by the student in order that their own learning needs are met and to allow the teacher to gauge an accurate picture of the student's ability and level.
- Students should use their notes, exam board guidance and sample answers to prepare their own answers. Tasks should be planned and carefully thought about before beginning.

What help and support is available?

- If they are free, teachers are available at lunchtimes to answer any questions. This should not be left to the last minute though.
- Student's own notes from class are the most valuable resource.
- Once a week there are revision classes for Year 10 and 11 students run by all English teachers
- Once a week there is a controlled assessment drop in run by English teachers at lunchtimes.
- The AQA website has resources, sample answers, past papers and student friendly guides.
- BBC Bitesize also has useful revision resources.
- Fronter contains exemplar work, extra information and resources for each unit of work.
- Revision guides are published on Fronter.

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

- Students will need to have read the set texts for English literature more than once. Discussing these texts with your son/daughter will help to extend their ideas.
- Past papers are available online and from English teachers.
- There is a KS4 reading list on Fronter.
- Read the newspapers. The main exam for English is non-fiction and will ask students to summarise the argument of a piece of writing and to look at how language has been employed for effect. This can be done with any non-fiction text, especially newspaper and magazine articles.
- Plan answers to essay questions – this is the best form of revision for Literature exams and requires students to revise, prioritise ideas and think about what they have learned.
- BBC Bitesize has additional tests and quizzes.
- English Literature will require students to write a short essay about an unseen poem. Providing students with poems to comment on/discuss with you at home can help students to develop their skills and confidence.
- Revision guides and resources, including PowerPoint presentations from lessons, further reading, exemplar answers can all be found on Fronter.