



Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: History

Year Group: 7-9

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Why is independent learning in history important?

Independent Learning is vital in History. It gives pupils the chance to research and discover more about the past on their own and to take part in more extended enquiries. It is also an opportunity for pupils to try use their historical skills on their own to see how well they have understood concepts and ideas and to see their ability to explain and communicate their answers.

How will independent learning be set?

Independent work will be set as ongoing enquiries. Each half-term will have a key task that will take a number of weeks to work on properly. This will be supplemented by a number of additional tasks that support the main enquiry. Pupils get a choice of different areas to study but must complete the main enquiry. Teachers will give guidance on how this work should be progressing and suggested tasks each week. All independent work is set on Fronter and is well resourced. Occasionally one off weekly tasks will also be set, when necessary.

What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

Staff expect all students to complete their Independent Enquiries to their very highest standard. The final deadlines for these extended tasks will be published on Fronter and in planners, though teachers will often ask to look at drafts or progress being made half-way through the set time period for the work. The supplementary tasks are designed to support the main task and are a great addition. We expect students to have completed some of these tasks too.

What help and support is available?

There is a wealth of support material on Fronter. The school library is also familiar with our Independent Learning work and has very good resources. The History Department is open every lunchtime for homework club where a member of staff will be able to help and give more resources.

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

The main independent learning enquiries are set up to give a wide range of options for pupils to explore and study. Therefore there will always be options to study. However, history is a subject where options for further study are always available and we encourage students to try to find out about topics beyond those set in class. There are links from Fronter to good websites, such as BBC History. The school library also has excellent resources on a wide range of topics, so books can always be taken out and read. History documentaries are always being shown on TV too and the newspapers are always full of interesting reads relating to history. As well as this pupils can always spend time working on their feedback given in exercise books, doing spelling corrections, redrafting answers etc.