



Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: English

Year Groups: KS3

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Why is independent learning in English important?

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

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.
- 'Show my Homework' will also be used for recording tasks.
- Tasks will take a variety of forms: independent research; preparation for the next lesson(s); extending learning started in class; revision for assessments (see calendar for dates); extended writing practice; practice questions and 'opportunity homework' for those who wish to compete extra tasks.
- Tasks will be set regularly, at a time that it will be meaningful to the students.

What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

- Independent work should be completed on time without fail.
- School sanction system will be applied if homework is not 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.
- Tasks should be planned and carefully thought about before beginning.

What help and support is available?

- 'Show my Homework' will record all the necessary details of the task with attachments to any other helpful resources, if possible.
- If they are free, teachers are available at lunchtimes to answer any questions. This should not be left to the last minute though.
- Students' own notes from class are the most valuable resource.
- Reading books can be borrowed from the school library and there are reading lists for each Year group on the School Website.
- BBC Bitesize also has useful resources.
- YouTube has several useful videos but these should be checked before viewing. There are often videos for most of the texts and poems we study.
- English teachers are always happy to advise on any extra resources that can help a student's learning.

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

- Reading for pleasure. Novels are a great way to improve spelling, vocabulary, setting and character ideas. We would expect all students to have a reading book at home and to bring it to designated lessons. We would also expect pupils to be able to use the library with consideration and respect. Reading newspapers, magazines and non-fiction is also extremely useful.
- Students will have at least one class reader a year. They will not need to buy this but their teacher will give them an optional reading list around the subject or genre. Watching film version **may** also help, but they must only discuss/reference the original text in assessments. Discussing these texts with your son/daughter will help to extend their ideas.
- There is a reading list for each Year group on the school website.
- Visiting the theatre and cinema can be expensive but if students have access to these opportunities then it can be very rewarding and helpful to their studies.