



Independent Learning Guidance for Parents

Department: Science

Year Group: 10-11

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Why is independent learning important in Science?

At KS4 students in Science are set homework tasks that consolidate the material covered in lessons or tasks that involve the preparation of material for future learning activities. They will also be given tasks that relate directly to controlled assessments. The ability to learn independently is crucial at KS4, with real GCSE exams being taken each year. Students need the ability to work on their own areas of weakness between lessons if they are to succeed in these important exams.

How will independent learning be set?

Homework tasks make take the form of a worksheet, a research task or a longer term project depending upon which topic is being studied. Some homework will be given with a view to developing revision skills. Homework is set according to a regular timetable of which pupils are made aware. It will also be published on Fronter.

What expectations do staff have of the work being completed?

All homework must be completed on time. If there are unforeseen circumstances at home that result in a student not being able to complete the homework, the parent should write a note in the planner to the teacher. The student will then be given an extension to the deadline.

Repeated late submission of homework will result in a departmental detention.

What help and support is available?

All Science teachers are available on request at lunchtime to assist with specific homework tasks. There are a multitude of links on FRONTER to websites that can provide guidance on tasks. The ICT rooms are available during lunchtime in order for pupils to complete ICT based homework if they do not have this facility at home. Homework Club runs during lunchtimes in the Learning Support Room where Teaching Assistants can help with any homework.

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

If no specific homework is recorded in their planner by students, then they are expected to be reading around the subject or carrying out some research in preparation for future lessons. There are a multitude of links on FRONTER (Year 10 – Science and Year 11 – Science) that enable students to undertake these activities and consolidate the material covered in lessons or undertake further extension activities. These include:-

- (1) Links to newspapers that report on developments in science
- (2) A selection of Powerpoint presentations dealing with some of the more demanding topics
- (3) A practical scientific skills workbook which students can use to work through independently e.g. designing tables and drawing valid graphs.
- (4) A link to www.bbcbitessize.org.uk which covers a wide range of interactive KS3 and KS4 Science activities.
- (5) A link to the Royal Society of Chemistry website for students. There are many different activities and games that relate closely to the curriculum on this website.

The table below indicates the approximate date students will be undertaking the various topics. Homework will be based around these topic areas. The textbook is organised into these topic areas which makes it easy for parents and pupils to find relevant material.

Timetable detailing the coverage of topics in Year 10 Science

Topic	Title	Textbook page refs	Approximate timing
B1	Understanding Organisms	P8-44	September to January
C1	Carbon Chemistry	P96-138	
P1	Energy for the Home	P184-226	
B2	Understanding our environment	P52-90	February to May
C2	Chemical Resources	P140-182	
P2	Living for the future	P228-270	

Timetable detailing the coverage of topics in Year 11 Science

Topic	Title	Textbook page refs	Approximate timing
B3	Living and Growing	P8-50	September to January
C3	Chemical economics	P96-138	
P3	Forces for transport	P184-226	
B4	It's a green world	P52-94	February to May
C4	The periodic table	P140-182	
P4	Radiation for life	P228-270	