



We call homework, independent study. You need to set IS every week for years 7 -11, following the guidelines agreed with your Curriculum leader. Use the student handbook for pupils to write down every piece of IS work you give: they must name the subject, what they have to do and when it is to be handed in.

Rationale

Independent study is a key part of making students more proactive and self sufficient in assessing and controlling their own learning. It is intended to increase students' autonomy and organisational skills. They can complete Independent study in ways which suit their own circumstances and learning styles. Independent study is a major vehicle for Assessment for Learning: it is marked using clear criteria and informs students of where they are and how they can improve. Parents and carers can play a key part in IS both in terms of having a greater understanding of their child's learning and in supporting the school in implementing this policy effectively.

Purposes

- Encourage students to take charge of their own learning.
- Motivate students to do their best and make good progress.
- Inform students what they have to do to do to improve their work and what they have achieved.
- Allows staff to gather information which informs planning, teaching and target setting.
- Tracks students' achievement and progress.
- Incorporates the best practice associated with AfL.

Guidelines

Years 10 -11

You need to set IS every week for years 10-11, following the guidelines agreed with your Curriculum Leader. Use the student handbook for pupils to write down every piece of IS work you give: they must name the subject, what they have to do and when it is to be handed in.

Years 7- 9

- Fortnightly IS timetable.
- In one half of the IS weeks students will be given work to do for all of these subjects: English, Maths, MFL and Science.
- In the other half of IS weeks subjects will take turns to set project tasks. This means that

students will concentrate on just one subject for that week and the task will take 4 to 5 hours. They will be given one week to complete the task.

- Set substantial tasks which develop independent learning
- Tasks to be differentiated 3 ways
- Part of AFL and can be used to contribute to end of unit assessment
- IS is a learning issue and the emphasis of our response should be on encouraging and rewarding high quality work
- The roles of the LRC and learning platform are crucial
- Set clear achievement criteria beforehand which are linked to NC levels and mark work accordingly
- Mark and return IS no more than ten days after it has been completed
- Write informative comments identifying what has been done well and how to improve
- Give guidance on how to improve literacy, numeracy and ICT
- Encourage and reward high quality work