Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School

Independent Learning Policy

Rationale

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School recognises that independent learning is an important part of students' learning; it supports and extends learning begun in class and enables students to develop habits of study and strategies for personal organisation and time management. It is also a means by which parents can support and show a direct interest in their child's learning.

Independent learning tasks will vary according to subjects and learning activities; not all homework will be written exercises. Some may involve practising, drawing or making. Some may involve IT and different types of research. Some could be based around your son / daughter watching a particular TV programme or listening to a podcast, but all tasks set must be purposeful and meet the key principles that we have defined below.

Aims
- To establish a consistent approach to the quality of independent learning tasks that are set
- To provide a whole school framework for departments in developing highly effective independent learning activities whilst allowing a degree of freedom to determine which activities best suit the specific needs of different subject areas and classes within subject areas
- Independent learning will be linked to the child's learning within the classroom and will meet one of the   key purposes determined below

Pupils will be allocated a specific amount of time that they should expect to spend on independent learning over a two week period; this will be managed by teachers to ensure that pupils can plan effectively. In particular, the length of time allocated to completing a task will match the length of the task that has been set.   Independent learning tasks should not be set for the next day, unless it's a short consolidation task or preparation task.

 All independent learning tasks must be purposeful and should fulfil one of the following purposes:

- Developing specific skills (SKILLS)
- Committing information to memory (LEARNING)
- Practising exam technique (EXAM TECHNIQUE)
- Extending or deepening knowledge and understanding of content (EXTENDING)
- Preparing for future learning/assessment (PREPARATION)

Departmental Independent Learning Policy and Practice
Departments will determine which independent learning activities will be consistent across the year groups; these may be related to specific assessment points.

Our systems for monitoring and ensuring that independent learning is effective
Teachers have the responsibility to set independent learning tasks, as per school and department policy, and independent learning tasks are set to support and consolidate learning. It is essential that independent learning tasks, in a similar way to classwork, is challenging and meets the needs of the pupils in the classroom.

All independent learning tasks are set using Google Classrooms and students are asked to take note of the published deadlines. This ensures teaching staff can review and provide feedback in a timely manner. Students who miss deadlines will be directed to our compulsory homework club the following school day until 1615. Parents will receive an insight message notifying them of this.

We have activated a Google Guardian feature across our Google Classroom System. This feature allows parents to receive summary emails about their child's progress in relation to independent learning.

Heads of departments have the responsibility to ensure that there is a clear understanding of independent learning practice and consistency across the department and will monitor the tasks that are set on Google Classroom.

Form tutors and Heads of year have the responsibility to look at independent learning practice over a number of weeks, monitoring practice through the Behaviour for Learning system and student and parent voice.

KS3 Subject	Time allocated/expected
English	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Mathematics	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Science	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Geography	30-60 minutes per fortnight
History	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Religious Education	45-90 minutes per fortnight
MFL	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Art	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Computer Science	30 minutes per fortnight
Design and Technology	30-60 minutes per fortnight
Drama (Year 9 only)	0-30 minutes per fortnight
Music	30 minutes per fortnight

KS4 Subject	Time allocated/expected
English	90-150 minutes per fortnight
Mathematics	90-150 minutes per fortnight
Biology	40-120 minutes per fortnight
Chemistry	40-120 minutes per fortnight
Physics	40-120 minutes per fortnight
Geography	120-160 minutes per fortnight
History	120-160 minutes per fortnight
MFL	60-90 minutes per fortnight
Art	120 minutes per fortnight
Computer Science	120 minutes per fortnight
Design and Technology	90 minutes per fortnight
Drama	120 minutes per fortnight
Food Preparation & Nutrition	90 minutes per fortnight
Music	120 minutes per fortnight
Physical Education	60 minutes per fortnight