

Independent Learning



Independent Learning Expectations

The study of any Level 3 subject entails a significant commitment and requires students to complete a substantial amount of independent study beyond their timetabled lesson time. Students are given some non-contact time during school hours to complete this, but they will also be required to complete further independent study beyond the school day. Our expectation is that students complete at least 5 hours of meaningful independent study per week for each of their subjects, as this is proven to lead to successful final outcomes.

Below are examples of the different forms that independent learning may take:

- Completing reading prior to a lesson
- Consolidating in-class learning via completion of notes/flashcards/mind-maps
- Annotating texts/articles
- Reading and reviewing exemplar answers using a mark scheme
- Watching online lectures/videos whilst note-taking
- Completion of practice questions/exam papers
- Responding to feedback by making improvements to previous work

Subject-specific information on the types of independent learning that may be set can be found in our students' independent learning guides.

Forming Effective Study Habits

We focus on the importance of organisation and self-discipline as part of our personal development programme. All students are provided with an independent study guide, which offers advice on, and examples of, effective consolidation and revision techniques.

Subject teachers will set students consolidation and revision tasks on ClassCharts, however it is important that students complete additional consolidation and revision throughout the year to ensure that they are prepared effectively for their exams and avoid the need to 'cram' at the end of their courses, which is proven to be ineffective.

Maintaining a Healthy Balance

We also recognise and emphasise to our students the importance of taking care of themselves mentally and physically, and of making time for outside interests, relaxation and socialising in addition to their academic commitments. We have a regular focus on mental health and wellbeing, particularly around our assessment and exam periods.

What happens when independent learning becomes an issue?

Independent learning forms such an integral part of success in Level 3 courses that it is necessary to have clear procedures and sanctions in place to ensure that it is happening effectively. These actions include measures that are designed to maximise the time that a student is in school, and to improve their productivity during non-contact time.

These procedures and sanctions are outlined on the next page.

Please note: or some of our BTEC/Certificate qualifications, coursework deadlines are set externally and failure to meet a deadline will result in immediate failure of the course.

Pastoral Support and Wellbeing

It is important to emphasise that alongside the actions outlined on the next page, the student's wellbeing is

always paramount. We will always offer additional pastoral support to students who do not meet independent learning expectations, for example weekly meetings to support with organisation, time management and motivation.

We are also aware that there are occasions where, due to personal circumstances or health issues, a student may not be able to complete independent learning through no fault of their own. In these cases, we will of course support students and they will be exempt from sanctions.

