

Independent Learning Policy

Aim of the Academy

To provide unique and enriching opportunities for all.

This policy is linked to:

Curriculum Policy

Marking Policy

Positive Discipline Policy

Principles

A well-managed independent learning programme helps students to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning and to succeed in an ever changing and developing world of employment. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and self-discipline and can encourage parents and carers to become involved with their child's education.

Purposes

- ✓ To enable students to study beyond the classroom environment
- ✓ To provide a rigorous approach to the setting and monitoring of homework
- ✓ To promote independent study
- ✓ To provide information about student achievement for teachers, Heads of Faculty, House Tutors, Heads of House, parents/carers and student files
- ✓ To support and develop a home-academy partnership
- ✓ To support students who are absent from the academy
- ✓ To allow personalised learning for those students in the ACE or IC
- ✓ To enable student voice

Guidelines

The amount and type of independent learning

Guidelines for the amount of independent learning:

Key Stage 3 1 to 1.5 hours a day

Key Stage 4 1.5 to 2.5 hours a day

There are three main types of independent learning

1. Independent Study

Students will be encouraged to use the resources provided by the Academy to support their learning and to prepare themselves for up-coming assessments

2. Termly Projects

Projects are organised by Heads of Faculty

3. Work set by subject staff

Subject staff will set homework according to a published homework timetable.

Setting and recording homework

Heads of Faculty are responsible for overseeing and monitoring the setting of homework in their subject areas. It is the responsibility of subject teachers to set homework according to the homework timetable and guidelines. Students are responsible for recording the homework. Parents/carers and House Tutors are to sign the planner on a weekly basis to monitor its completion.

Feedback on homework

Homework will be marked in accordance with the academy marking policy. Students should be informed of the strengths within their work and how they could improve it. If appropriate a National Curriculum level or GCSE equivalent grade should be awarded.

Support for students and parents/carers

The first and most important type of support for students is advice from academy staff. Staff will provide opportunities for independent learning and explain the success criteria they will be looking for. In addition, The Langley Academy will support students and parents/carers by providing the following:

- Access for all students to digital media with personalised online revision and examination.
- A homework timetable which parents/carers and students can download from the Academy website.
- A calendar of events for parents/carers to gain information about managing successful independent learning provision with students in all Key Stages.
- Support and guidance on appropriate resources to support and extend class based learning which students can adapt to their individual needs.
- Support and guidance in the completion of examination coursework and portfolio work for practical examination subjects.
- Reading lists to guide independent study, enrichment and examination preparation.
- Suggested local destinations to enrich and inspire learners, e.g. landmarks, museums and galleries.
- Suggestions for research and investigation to support in-class study, e.g. Internet based resources, documentary, text, and media.

Home/Academy partnership

Parents and carers are encouraged to talk to their children about the day and help them to reflect on their learning. They can support the academy by emphasising:

- The importance of reading for at least half an hour a day.
- The significance of constantly reviewing work.
- The need for learning and revising work in the lead up to assessments.
- The value of completing all homework.

Rewarding independent learning

- ✓ House Tutors will monitor the use of the Planner and will award House Points according to the Positive Discipline Policy.

- ✓ Subject staff will record the completion of homework and award House Points according to the Positive Discipline Policy.

Heads of Faculty will organise the assessment of termly projects and the awarding and recording of House Points.

Guidelines for staff

Staff should consider the following:

- differentiating according to the students' needs
- promoting a choice of activity
- setting work by learning style
- independent learning should extend learning

The following are examples of independent learning that could be encouraged.

- Visits to a museum or library
- Relating topics to Science/key foci
- On-line resources
- Research
- Model making
- Reading
- Watching relevant television programs
- Producing mind-maps
- Presentations
- Explaining to a parent/carer
- Visiting the theatre
- Essay writing
- Drafting work
- Revising
- Designing
- Completing coursework

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