



Independent Learning - Key Stage 3

The approach to Independent Learning

In Year 7 and 8, Biddenham believes it is vital to build good independent learning habits from the outset. As a school we are determined to maintain enjoyment, enthusiasm, curiosity and pride in work.

Year 7 and 8 students are not formally set weekly homework tasks nor do we have a homework timetable as we do not see this as beneficial and therefore any homework tasks set are purposeful. We believe setting homework detracts from our core purpose of securing an effective transition from primary school. Instead, students are shown how to work independently, and given the resources and materials they need to do this.

In addition, they are given multiple opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills across the curriculum in a number of engaging projects. As a school we offer project based learning and oracy, both of which facilitate independent learning and thinking skills:

The main element of independent learning at Key Stage 3 is a termly cross-curricular project. Students in year 7 and 8 are set a project each term, which consolidates and extends the knowledge and skills that they have acquired in their academic subjects, as well as allowing them to explore issues that are important to them personally.

In addition to the projects they undertake, all students will be required to complete any work set by subject teachers. This work will be uploaded onto the Google Classroom so students can work through these tasks independently.

Parent/Carer Involvement

Parents/Carers can monitor their child's tasks by being invited to join the Google Classroom by the class teacher. The school website has many useful resources and tutorials to explain how to use this programme.

We also expect all students to be reading for pleasure, and silent reading takes up a portion of form time. Please support us in encouraging your child to read, ideally by reading with them if possible.

Here are some ways in which you can support your child with independent learning at home:

- Discuss homework regularly with your child.
- Provide encouragement and support for your child when they take responsibility for organising themselves and putting in effort.
- Keep track of Google Classroom so you can support your child in becoming organised.
- Draw up a schedule with them to follow for independent learning (this will be an invaluable skill when they come to do their GCSEs).
- Establish a suitable place for them to study.
- If in doubt, ask! Contact the class teacher or form teacher for advice.