

# **Biddenham International School and Sports College**

## **Independent Learning and Homework Policy**



### **Philosophy**

Biddenham International School and Sports College recognises the value of extended learning as a valuable part of students' educational experience. Homework is work that is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study and is not directly supervised by a teacher. Throughout this policy it will be referred to as 'Independent study', as work of this nature is not always completed in a home setting. At Biddenham, there is provision for independent study to take place at lunchtimes and after school, through supported sessions, quiet study spaces or subject specific clubs.

Independent study is a way of preparing for, consolidating and extending the learning that takes place in school. It allows students to take ownership of their own learning and encourages them to develop the skills of independence, with confidence and the motivation needed to study effectively on their own. It also provides an opportunity for parents to play a more active role in their children's education.

Extended learning allows staff to diagnose individuals' areas of weakness, encourages students to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline and it is essential to enable exam board controlled assessment demands to be met and to prepare our students to meet the demands which will be made by further and higher education.

### **Core principles**

We believe that independent learning, whether completed at school or at home should help every student to:

- Develop and improve self-discipline, organisation and time management skills
- Consolidate and reinforce skills introduced during lessons
- Refine research skills
- Reinforce and extend the essential knowledge of a subject
- Provide the opportunity to continue coursework
- Involve the support of parents and carers when learning is completed at home

### **Broad goals**

Given these beliefs our broad goals are that:

- Homework will be communicated to students and guardians via the Google classroom consistently and effectively
- Homework set by teachers will allow students to achieve a variety of different forms and allow students to achieve a range of outcomes

- Independent study tasks will be differentiated when appropriate and involve an element of student choice
- Students will be provided with enrichment activities to support and extend the curriculum
- Students' hard work in completing extended learning tasks will be rewarded
- Students will receive feedback to support their learning, the nature of feedback will vary according to subject and tasks
- Students will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete independent study
- Students will be given advice and guidance on independent learning, self-motivation and self-discipline.
- Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and completion of work.

### **Development strategies**

A one size fits all timetable does not suit the needs of individual subjects or best meet the needs of our learners. The amount of independent learning and the nature of the tasks set will vary according to the teaching group and, indeed, to the time of year.

- Each subject will be asked to provide a series of expectations which their department will adhere to in the setting and assessment of independent study and these curriculum overviews will be available on the school website.
- Increase parental/carer involvement through 'Guardian' access to their child's Google Classroom, ensuring that parents and carers feel informed about the work their child is expected to complete and their deadlines.
- Information and training on Google classroom will be given to parents via communication home and on the school website
- Staff will be given training opportunities on the features of google classroom allowing them to confidently communicate with students, post teaching material, assignments and independent study opportunities.
- Key stage appropriate study skills sessions will be covered through our PSHE programme in order to develop students confidence and ability to work independently.
- To develop the remote learning section on the school website, enabling access and support for all students, parents and carers

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Delivery of the policy will primarily be the responsibility of Key Stage Leaders and Heads of Departments, overseen by line managers. They will be responsible for monitoring that homework has been set, that records are kept of the standard and amount of homework set and that useful formative feedback has been given and acted upon.

**Review: April 2024**