

Longdean School



Independent Learning and Homework Policy

Reviewed: October 2015

Ratified:

Next Review: October 2018

Independent Learning and Homework plays an essential part student's learning, supporting the curriculum, broadening, deepening and consolidating learning. Our aim for Longdean students is for them to become "Independent learners" who have an understanding of the way in which they learn best and who are motivated to take responsibility for their own learning. These skills are increasingly required of students as they move up through the school as independent study undertaken supports the learning in the classroom, helping them to revise or test out information/ skills that they have been taught, preparing them for something coming up, or widening or deepening their knowledge of a subject or topic.

Implementation:

The Longdean model offers students staff and parents flexibility, responsibility and accountability in ensuring the relevance of study outside of lesson time. In recognition of the different pathways and nature of subjects students study, we provide a portfolio of electronic and paper based study tools for students to use. This allows for different amounts and styles of study. Students do not follow a rigid timetable of set Homeworks. The appropriateness of the homework set is monitored as outlined below. The school recommends at least two hours of Independent Study a week, with up to ten hours expected in KS5.

The portfolio offered includes learning websites, mobile apps, pod casts, revision materials, past papers, KS3 projects over several weeks, as well as quality traditional 'learning' and coursework homework. Core subjects set homework according to a schedule at KS3. Non-core subjects set homework flexibly as need arises alongside extended Learning Platform Homeworks, which are based around promoting independence across the PLTS.

Our model supports the single year GCSE option offered by Longdean across KS4, with the reduction of subjects examined in Year 11. Students are set homework according to pathway and subjects chosen, in relation to their studies, with coursework, preparation for exams and tests, past papers as well as 'traditional' learning Homeworks and e-learning allowing students to develop their independent learning skills to support them to reach their potential – the tag line used to emphasise this with stakeholders is "The difference between a good grade and a great grade"

Homework in KS5 varies according to the level of study and options chosen, and includes questions, extended notes, past papers, and revision.

Links to support Independent Learning and Homework and the schedule of KS3 homework and a synopsis of other homework offered are available on the Learning Platform. The current URL is <https://moodle.longdean.herts.sch.uk/mod/tab/view.php?id=8888>

Students are offered the opportunity to attend homework club 3.30-4.30pm Monday to Thursday, which is supported by a member of staff. Students may also attend Saturday School, held once a month.

Monitoring:

Students record an overview of their homework set in their Independent Learning Planner or electronically, either as reminders or photos on mobiles, or on the calendar on the Learning Platform. Students are supported in taking responsibility for their own study, supplementing the formal study set by their teachers with e-learning.

Parents sign the planner to confirm the study undertaken once they have discussed it with their child. Tutors discuss this study with the students as they stamp the planner. This dialogue supports students' progress, and any issues that arise can be resolved quickly.

The amount, nature and assessment of Homework and Independent Learning is monitored every two months by the SLT through a student voice exercise where students are interviewed with their books and planners to discuss the Homework and Independent Learning, and to monitor the marking and feedback given. Any variations across the school, or within a department are fed back

to the relevant department via their SLT Link. Directors of Learning monitor the quality and appropriateness of Homework Set and Independent learning suggested through departmental meetings and CPD sessions.

Review:

Homework and Independent Learning is reviewed each year. Staff are consulted in the Summer term on homework models and methods of recording and monitoring. Parents are consulted in the parental forum and at parents evenings and academic mentoring. Students are consulted via student voice every two months.