



Hans Price
Academy

Independent Study Policy for KS3

Rationale

Independent Study (I.S) enhances student learning and supports organisation. It develops good learning habits in young people which will be transferable beyond Hans Price Academy.

Aims

Through Independent Study we will enable students to:

- Consolidate and extend learning
- Prepare for new learning activities
- Develop research skills
- Take ownership and responsibility for learning
- Enhance study skills
- Experience equitable and regular I.S

Setting and reviewing

Independent Study will be set according to a schedule which will be published in the back of Knowledge Organiser booklets and posted on Bromcom. Independent Study tasks are set according to a tariff based on the proportion of curriculum time assigned to each subject. Independent Study tasks will be posted weekly with students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 following the same schedule. Where appropriate, students have differentiated tasks so that all students are able to access their Independent Study

Programme Leaders will consult with their team and set the required number of I.S tasks to meet the published schedule, prior to the production of the Independent Study booklet. This will be published and distributed by the Programme Leader or designated lead within that subject. Teachers are expected to prepare and support students to complete I.S for their subjects prior to the deadline.

The completion of Independent Study will be checked by the teacher of the subject due, according to the schedule. Feedback on the quality of I.S will be offered by the subject teacher, in particular with the awarding of a 'High Expectations – Independent Study' achievement point.

Recording

Teachers monitoring I.S completion use Brocmom to record the completion of independent study using a behaviour event.

Completed to the expected standard	High Expectations – Independent Study (HEIS)
Not completed	No IS (NIS)

Responsibilities

Subject Teachers:

- Prepare students to successfully complete I.S for their subject prior to the deadline.
- Monitor the completion and quality of I.S as appropriate in subject lessons by the deadline.
- Make use of I.S work as appropriate in lessons (e.g. using students' self-quizzing questions as a starter activity).
- Recognise student effort by awarding a 'High Expectations – Independent Study' achievement point.

Programme Leaders:

- Set I.S tasks according to the published schedule on behalf of the department team.
- Communicate with the team publishing I.S on their behalf (e.g. professional services and/or IT team maintaining the school website).
- Liaise with the Raising Standards Team to ensure that the Independent Study booklets support the tasks which are being set.
- Ensure I.S is understood, monitored and valued within subject teams. This is achieved by:
 - Explaining the activity the week before it is due.
 - Planning how the Independent Study will be recognised during hand in week (e.g. achievement points, peer feedback, class activity etc).
 - Celebrate excellent I.S.

Learning Family Tutors:

- Use Learning Family to highlight upcoming I.S tasks and deadlines.
- Using data to inform conversations with students on I.S completion.
- Signposting and supporting students who are struggling with I.S completion.
- Communicate with parents when regular non-completion indicates a lack of effort and/or engagement from a KS3 student.

College Leaders:

- Revisit importance of Independent Study in assemblies.
- Clarify tutor responsibilities regarding I.S.
- Support I.S non-completion where initial tutor intervention hasn't succeeded.

Academic Mentors:

- Support students to organise their Independent Study tasks in order to meet deadlines.
- Use data to intervene with students regularly not completing their Independent Study.
- Communicate with parents and support students in attending I.S club.



Extended and Senior Leadership Team

- Quality assure the setting, content and quality of Independent Study in line management meetings and across the Academy.
- Review and evaluate the Academy's policy for Independent Study.
- Establish and execute a plan for students who regularly do not complete their Independent Study.

Responsibly of Students

- Meet Independent Study deadlines.
- Take responsibility and pride in I.S tasks.
- Attend I.S club for additional support prior to a deadline.
- Attend an I.S support session on a Tuesday when 2 or more deadlines are missed the previous week.

Responsibly of Parents/Carers

- Check what I.S has been set on the "My Child at School" app.
- Check that I.S has been completed and provide support to students where possible.
- Contact the school if your child has not completed their I.S for any reason or if they need further support from their subject teacher.
- Where possible, create a space within the home for your child to complete their I.S.