



**Hans Price**  
Academy

# **Independent Study Policy for KS4**

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### **Rationale**

'Independent Study' enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops good learning habits in young people which will be transferable into further learning and work experiences throughout life.

### **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.

### **Information for Staff**

#### **The How, When and where:**

Independent Study will be set by individual subject teachers as part of their medium term planning. Independent study should be set regularly and must be meaningful in relation to the required learning outcomes.

Individual teachers will set I.S tasks on SIMS and ensure that suitable time frames are given to complete the task set. Feedback on the quality of I.S will be offered by the subject teacher, in particular with the awarding of achievement points for outstanding I.S, as appropriate in usual subject lessons.

### **Record Keeping**

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:**

- Quality assure medium term planning to ensure that I.S tasks set are meaningful and meet desired outcomes.



- Quality assure the use of academy systems to ensure that teachers are recording the setting and completion of I.S. Ensure I.S is understood, monitored and valued within subject teams.

This is achieved by

- Explaining the activity.
- Planning how the independent study will be recognised when handed in (e.g. achievement points, peer feedback, class activity etc).
- Celebrate excellent I.S.

#### **LF 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 KS4 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.
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#### **Information for Parents**

- Years 10 and 11 independent study is set by your child's class teacher.
- English, Maths and Science I.S. are checked every week and students that have not completed their I.S. must attend catch-up at lunch time. Additional lunch time catch-up sessions are for students that have not completed their option subjects' I.S.
- KS4 I.S. tasks are communicated using the Bromcom student app and the "My Child at School" app.

#### **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)

- 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 there 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.