Independent study in **Computer Science**

Independent study is a vital part of learning the skills of Computer Science and developing them beyond the classroom. The 'Learning to Fly' document gives guidance on the kinds of habits and practices we ask you to develop in Computer Science and we consider these to be the most important element of your routine of independent learning. Your teachers will also give you regular pieces of directed homework to develop your skills and understanding.

At Key Stage 3 we expect you to spend **30 minutes** a week reviewing your learning and developing your computing skills independently. Homework is set to support learning outside the classroom and reinforce the skills covered in lessons. You will not be expected to spend more than 30 minutes on these tasks.

At Key Stage 4 we expect you to spend **30 minutes** a week reviewing your learning and developing your computing skills independently. We will also set a **30-minute** homework task every week. This will usually be questions to consolidate your knowledge on the topics covered in class or completing programming challenge.

In Year 12 we expect you to spend **two hours** a week independently reviewing your learning and developing your understanding of the subject through wider reading and programming practice, plus **two hours** a week completing directed tasks.

In **Year 13** we expect you to spend **four hours** a week independently reviewing your learning and developing your understanding of the subject through wider reading and programming practice, plus **two hours** a week completing directed tasks.

- We will always give you at least three days to complete a piece of homework.
- We will always give you homework which is **purposeful,** and which will have an impact on your learning and skills development.
- We will give you clear guidance about **how** to complete the homework when it is set.
- We will acknowledge the work you put in and do all we can to give you useful written or verbal feedback in good time.
- Most homework will be set on Microsoft Teams, and you will be expected to upload your completed work on Teams as part of submission.

In return, we expect you to:
- Complete homework at a time and place when you can focus quietly on it.
- Spend the whole of the prescribed time focusing on the task.
- Ask your teacher for help in advance of the due date if you are unsure how to complete the task or if you want advice and guidance.
- Be ambitious in every piece of work, challenging yourself to be the best you can be in, for example, your choice of vocabulary.
- Always spend a few minutes planning and checking your work.
- Don't worry about making mistakes - they are the best way to learn.
- Be proud of your work and prepared to share it with your teachers and other students.
- Read and act on the feedback you are given.