

# Independent study in Design Technology



Independent study is a vital part of learning the skills of each materials area in the Design Technology department, developing your gifts and talents beyond the classroom. The 'Learning to Fly' document gives detailed guidance on the habits and practices we ask you to develop in Design Technology and we consider these to be the most important facets of your routine, increasing your independence and wider project management skills. Your teachers will also give you regular directed homework to develop your skills, understanding and attainment.

**At Key Stage 3** we expect you to spend **30 minutes** a week on homework, reviewing your learning and developing your skills independently, this could also be **1 hour** with a two week deadline, on planning your making for example. Homework is set to support learning outside the classroom and reinforce the skills covered in lessons.

**At Key Stage 4** we expect you to spend **30 minutes** a week reviewing your learning and developing your Design Technology coursework independently. We will also set a **1 hour** homework task every other week. This will usually involve researching, design development or evaluating the outcomes of modelling or experiments.

**In Year 12** you need to spend **two hours** a week independently reviewing your learning, developing your understanding and progressing your coursework through research, wider reading, design development or evaluating, 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 theory and application through research, wider reading, design development or evaluating, plus **one hour** a week on directed tasks.

- We will always give you at least one week 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.

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 when designing, modelling, annotating or objectively evaluating your work.
- Always spend time planning what you will do in your next lesson when making and improving your work following assessment.
- 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.