



Independent study in English

Independent study is a vital part of learning the skills of English 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 English 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 20 minutes a week reviewing your learning and developing your English skills independently. We will usually set **40 minutes** of directed homework across **two weeks**.

At Key Stage 4 we expect you to spend 30 minutes a week reviewing your learning and developing your English skills independently. We will usually set **60 minutes** of directed homework across **two weeks**.

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 critical reading and **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 critical reading and **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 give you written feedback (targets) based on your assessment objectives when we return marked essays. There will also be a 'general feedback' document that will be discussed in class.

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.