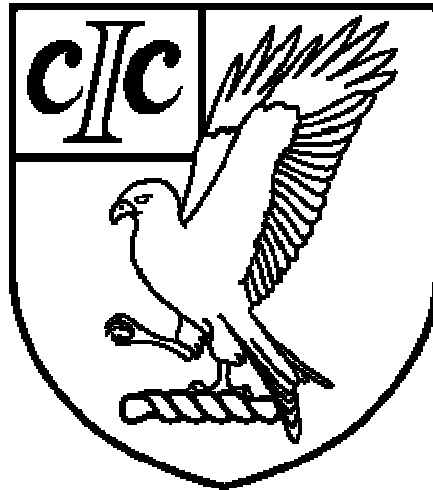


HOMWORK POLICY

September 2010



Icknield Community College
Love Lane
Watlington
OX49 5RB

Approval & Review

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Approved by: | Full Governing Body |
| Approval Date: <i>Must be Minuted for evidence</i> | |

Signed:
(Chair of Curriculum Committee)

Date:

ICKNIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE INDEPENDENT LEARNING POLICY

Rationale

This school believes that independent learning is an integral part of the curriculum for all students and an essential part of their learning. All students will be expected to do their independent learning on time. The school will work with parents to achieve this.

Purposes

1. To increase independence in learning.
2. To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school.
3. To prepare for future lessons.
4. To sustain the involvement of parents and carers in the management of students learning and keep them informed about the work students are doing.
5. To manage particular demands e.g. GCSE coursework.
6. To promote higher levels of achievement.
7. To encourage revision practices.

Guidelines

1. Independent learning should arise naturally from the demands of the course and be related to the department's scheme of work.
2. It should be set regularly and according to the details and dates provided by the school (see Appendix 1)
3. Students should meet the deadlines set. E-points will be given when homework is handed in and negative E-points when not handed in. E-points are given to reflect the quality of the homework submitted.
4. The work set for independent learning should be sufficiently demanding and appropriate to stretch students of all abilities.
5. Independent learning could take a variety of forms e.g.:

Tasks to extend class work

Learning or revision

Research assignments

Practical work

Longer pieces of coursework

Reading

6. If students are asked to finish off work started in class it should be sufficiently demanding and open ended to allow for the more able to be stretched.
7. Staff should allow sufficient time in each lesson to ensure that all students understand what is required, have written it into their Planners and know by when it must be completed.
8. All independent learning needs to be tested, marked or in some way acknowledged by the teacher.
9. There must be high expectations that students will complete independent learning on time. When there are valid reasons or extra help is needed then new deadlines can be offered.

10. Period 6 is to enable tutors to work with tutees to ensure tutees understand what their independent learning requires them to do before they go home. The time is for tutees to start on Independent Learning under supervision.
11. The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is used by staff to record electronically Independent Learning tasks and to provide resources for students to complete tasks. This will be accessible to parents as well as student from November 2010.

The role of parents and carers in supporting students

Parents need to:

1. Try to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which students can do their independent learning .
2. Set up a clear routine for the time that independent learning is to be done.
3. Ensure that the T.V./DVD/Video is switched off.
4. Encourage and value independent learning tasks by showing an interest and explaining the purpose of independent learning .
5. Praise and reward students when independent learning has been completed.
6. Expect deadlines to be met and ensure that they are.
7. Encourage an increasing independence for students as they progress up the school.
8. Communicate through the Planner any difficulties that may have occurred with the work.
9. Use the VLE to support their child's learning.

Monitoring

1. Tutors will inspect Planners regularly, sign them and encourage students to get parents to sign them.
2. Head of Year and Leadership Team will conduct systematic reviews of planners. Any concerns about the consistent setting of independent learning must be conveyed immediately to the Leadership Team.
3. The Leadership Team will review the quality of Independent Learning tasks on the VLE.
4. The Leadership Team will monitor the implementation of the independent learning policy through spot checks and departmental reviews.

Success Criteria

1. There will be a clear acceptance by students, parents and staff of the importance of independent learning in the learning process.
2. There will be an improvement in all students' achievements.
3. Independent learning will be regularly completed by all students.

Links with other policies

1. This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's policy on marking, equal opportunities, Special Needs and teaching and learning.
2. This policy conforms with the requirements of the DFE consultation document on Independent learning.

KS3 Independent Learning Entitlement 2010 - 2011

| Subject | Yr Group | Frequency | Time | Notes |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| English | Year 7 | Weekly | 30 mins | Additional research activities may be set as IL |
| | Year 8 | Weekly | 45 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Weekly | 60 mins | |
| Maths | Year 7 | 6 x fortnightly | 10 mins | |
| | Year 8 | 6 x fortnightly | 10 mins | |
| | Year 9 | 6 x fortnightly | 4 x 10 mins; 2 x 20 mins | |
| Science | Year 7 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 8 | Weekly | 45 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Weekly | 60 mins | |
| Art | Year 7 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 8 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| Music | Year 7 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 8 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| Drama | Year 7 | Weekly | 15 mins | |
| | Year 8 | Weekly | 15 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| Humanities (Geog / Hist / MFL) | Year 7 | Weekly | 30 mins | History to be project-based; Geog + MFL set every other lesson |
| | Year 8 | Weekly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Weekly | 45 mins | |
| RE | Year 7 | Fortnightly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 8 | Fortnightly | 30 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Fortnightly | 45 mins | |
| Technology (ICT/Resistant/Food Tech) | Year 7 | Fortnightly | 90 mins | One ICT per fortnight One ICT per week One ICT per week |
| | Year 8 | Weekly | 60 mins | |
| | Year 9 | Weekly | 60 mins | |

KS4 Independent Learning Entitlement 2010 - 2011

| Subject | Frequency | Time | Notes |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| English | Weekly | 90 mins | Additional research activities may be set as IL |
| Maths | 6 x fortnightly | 20-30 mins | |
| Science | 2 x Weekly | 45 mins | |

All option subjects - 1 hour per week