



## **'Independent Study' and Home Learning Policy for Secondary School**

### **What is 'Independent Study'?**

'Independent Study' are classroom sessions that are held three times a week in the Secondary School, each lasting for 55 minutes and are held in the morning. The Independent Study sessions are supervised by a teacher and the children are organised by class.

### **The Objectives of the 'Independent Study' Session**

- To encourage the students to work and study independently.
- To learn new and a variety of study techniques.
- To be able to ask help from a teacher if necessary.
- To organise 'boosting sessions' for the students in different subject areas if found necessary due to the academic tracking.

### **What Exactly do the Students do during the 'Independent Study' Sessions?**

- Complete the home learning instructed by the teachers according to the weekly home learning timetable.
- Complete revision of the weekly content of the lessons.
- Learn and develop study techniques.
- 'Independent Study' sessions are also used as 'Boosting Sessions' where groups of students may be given individual instruction in order to help them 'real time' in their different lessons.

## What are the Expectations of the 'Independent Study' Sessions?

We wish to create a harmonious working environment where the students are working on their different home learning tasks and continue working on their home learning in these lessons. They are also encouraged to seek help from individual subject teachers if necessary. Where students are using part of these sessions as 'boosting sessions' the expectation is that this individualised instruction will help them specifically in the related subject, whether it be in a topic that the student has found it hard to grasp, or as a 'pre-class' where we introduce the concepts that we will be covering the following week.

## What happens if the Student does not Complete the Home Learning?

Each piece of home learning has a due date. The expectation is that all students hand in the home learning for the due date. Under exceptional conditions, taking into account that there is a valid reason, and the home learning is not presented, the subject teacher will give between one to three days extension on this date, depending on the reason.

1. For students who have not handed in their home learning to any given subject teacher on time, with no valid reason, the subject teacher speaks to the student who will be expected to finish the home learning during their lunch break or workshop time on that day.
2. If the home learning is still not handed in by the following day, the subject teacher will inform the relevant director who in turn will talk to the student to understand the situation in depth and the underlying reason as to why the home learning has not been completed. The student will be expected to finish their home learning during the lunch break or workshop time on that day with support if needed. If this is the case, the school psychologist and relevant director will organise this help, either as a 1 to 1 session or as a boosting session.
3. After the third day late, the school will phone the parents to inform them of this situation and ask for their collaboration. This is supervised and controlled by the relevant director and school psychologist.

The school tracks and controls the home learning which is completed on time and those that are late, and our objective to communicate this to parents as quickly as possible and make children become more responsible and independent learners.

The same procedure applies to home learning that is handed in that does not meet satisfactory expectations or due to a lack of effort.

## Home Learning Timetable and Contents

The home learning timetable and due dates are as follows:

Each home learning task is given one week to complete.

- Maths once a week
- English once a week
- Science, Geography, Spanish, German and Music set as necessary according to the programme
- The home learning tasks are typically designed to be of 30 minutes duration.

## **The Flip Model and its Use**

Some subjects may use the flip model which might be part of their home learning sessions. The teacher will give the students information regarding the classes for the following week in the form of something to read from the text book, or in the form of a video. The students will be encouraged to make a summary of this with relevant questions. The aim of this is that in the following class, the students are able to talk about it directly and are encouraged to think or solve problems directly in class.

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