



Birchwood High School 6th Form Independent Learning Policy

At Birchwood High School, we are committed to supporting our students to achieve in their chosen areas of study. We believe that Independent Learning is an essential tool in a student's learning in order to:

- Reinforce and consolidate work covered in lessons
- Encourage independent and reflective learning
- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding
- Prepare students for future lessons or assessments
- Promote an interest and joy in learning
- Enable teachers to make a judgement about a student's progress and level of attainment

Role of the teacher

Teachers must give careful consideration to the tasks they set and their purpose. Independent Learning tasks should not be set as an after-thought; they are an integral part of lesson planning, designed to deepen and extend a student's understanding.

Staff should set Independent Learning activities at the most logical point in the lesson, but never in a rush at the end. The instructions for completion and 'due in' date must be made clear. Deadlines for all Independent Learning should be manageable for students.

Some work will be assessed by teachers, often using exam board criteria and assessment objectives. Assessed work will normally be returned to a student within 3 weeks.

Failure to complete an Independent learning task should be dealt with by the teacher and the appropriate sanction on the C&C chart administered. Persistent non completion should be referred to the HOF and Head of 6th Form.

Role of the student

Each 6th form student has some individual learning and study time on their timetable, when they are not in formal lessons. Students are expected to use this time to complete assignments and broaden their knowledge through research and reading.

6th Form students will be required to develop their 6th Form organisational and independent study skills to enable them to cope with the level and quantity of learning required for success at 6th Form and beyond. 6th Form students are expected to manage their independent study time in order to ensure that all learning is completed promptly and to the highest standard.

Students should be proactive in their response to any difficulties in completing independent learning, initially seeking solutions independently and/or collaboratively with their peers, but then, if necessary, actively seeking help from staff to address any difficulties.

If a student is absent when work is set, they are expected to get the assignment task from their peers or teacher, or access it on the Home Learning site before the due date.

Types of Independent Learning tasks

Due to the complex nature of the variety of courses that we have on offer, the type of Independent Learning across the school will be varied.

Assignments at advanced level typically take the form of revision, reading and research, note-taking, essays and presentations. It is recommended that students spend a minimum of 5 hours per week on each A Level or BTEC National subject.

In preparation for Higher Education or employment, students should move away from dependence on just

teacher provided resources or textbooks in order to develop independent learning skills. Students are encouraged to review their notes from classes regularly to encourage recall.

In Year 12, students on Level 3 AS or BTEC National courses are encouraged to undertake wider reading for their studies and in preparation for their essays and assignments than has previously been the case at GCSE. In Year 13, students are further encouraged to go beyond the course specifications and undertake wider reading for their studies.

During periods in which there are examinations or controlled assessments, Independent Learning will normally take the form of revision.