



# Independent Study Policy

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## **Introduction**

This policy replaces any previous policy and follows the DfE regulations and those issued by the London Borough of Harrow. All members of staff are affected by and expected to adhere to this policy.

In line with the college's Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs policies, we aim to give all students equal opportunities to take part in all aspects of college life, as far as is appropriate, practicable and compatible with giving regard to health and safety and the efficient education of other students.

This policy takes account of the Government's aim for children to have the support they need under Every Child Matters:

- to be healthy
- to stay safe
- to enjoy and achieve
- to make a positive contribution
- to achieve economic well-being.

The policy will follow the five principles of the Children's Plan:

- to support parents and families
- to allow children to reach their full potential
- to enable children to enjoy their childhood whilst preparing for adult life
- to provide services in response to children and family needs.
- to use preventative measures to help students avoid the possibility of failure

This policy is founded in the College's commitment to the development and maintenance of good behaviour and a positive and inclusive ethos for all members of the College community.

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# ROOKS HEATH COLLEGE

## Foreword

Rooks Heath College is a mixed 11 to 18 multicultural comprehensive in the London Borough of Harrow. This policy is formulated by the Deputy Headteacher, in consultation with staff and is monitored by other members of the college's Leadership and Management Group. The policy is subject to annual review by the college's Leadership and Management Group and is subject to approval by the governors of the college.

## A successful, enterprising student

is someone who...

**"knows how to use opportunities for learning which are distributed throughout his or her environment. This includes not only books and libraries, media and electronic information, but the learning resources of people - teachers, friends, family, mentors and employers."**

**Howard Gardener**

## Successful Students

Successful students are both **independent** and **inter-dependent** learners. Independent learners are highly motivated and enterprising, taking full advantage of their learning opportunities. They are organised, informed and they know where to go for help. Inter-dependent learners work well in teams, can show leadership and enterprise skills, and communicate their ideas effectively. These skills are particularly valued by employers.

## What is Independent Study?

**Independent study** is school work that students do in their own time. This is sometimes called "homework", but independent study does not have to be done at home and it means much more.

- *There are many types of independent study* - adding to work started in class, carrying out research, reading, making notes, memorising, revising, practising skills, interviewing other people, doing projects or coursework, and many more.
- *There are many times for independent study* - in school, at home, with friends, in the Independent Learning Centre, in a local library, sometimes even on the bus.
- *There are many resources for independent study* - books, worksheets, information & communications technology, TV and videos, teachers, friends, family, other people.

## Why have Independent Study?

Independent study can help us to learn more effectively. The learning process can be viewed as an ever-repeating cycle, as shown in the table. We start by **Doing** something. Later on we have a chance to **review** what we have done by reflecting on it and discussing it with others. This helps us to **learn** from our actions. We can then **apply** our learning to new tasks. When doing a piece of work we might go around this learning cycle many times, building up our skills and understanding. Independent study can help us to move around the learning cycle.

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## Our Principles for Independent Study

At Rooks Heath College, we aim to enable all students to become independent learners. To achieve this:

1. Students are set independent study tasks within each subject on a regular basis.
2. Independent study tasks relate to and follow on from work done in lessons.
3. Independent study tasks are designed to extend learning for students of all abilities.
4. Students use their planners to record independent study tasks.
5. Students are encouraged to use the Virtual Learning Environment for access to resources and support.

## Independent Study Timetable

How often are independent study tasks set?

How long should students spend on independent study tasks?

Independent Study Timetable			
	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Sixth form
Art	Once every one/two weeks for (40 mins min). ½ hour sessions at intervals.	1-1½ hours every week.	2 hours weekly.
Additional English	Once every week for 30 - 40 mins.	Once every week for 30 - 40 mins.	
Business & Health & Social Care (BTEC)		Independent study is ongoing throughout the year through their coursework.	
Business Studies (GCSE)		Once a week for 30 mins to one hour once a cycle. During coursework more time will be required.	Approx twice a week for 2 hours.
Citizenship	Covered in PSHE.	Year 10 - Coursework - takes half a term working in teams. Year 11 - Including research once every two weeks.	

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Design & Technology	On going projects 1.5 hours a week.	2 hours a week through project activity.	4 hours a week on major projects / portfolios.
Drama	Once every half term (30-40 minutes)	Once or twice a fortnight(One hour). Plus time for practical rehearsals.(One hour per week).	Once a week(1-1½ hours per week). Plus once a week for practical work(1-1½ hours per week).
Economics			Approx twice a week for 2 hours.
English	Once a week: 30-40 mins. Varied tasks: reading, researching, writing.	Fortnightly: 1-2 hours. Mainly linked to coursework.	Weekly: 2-3 hours. May be reading not only writing.
Geography	Once a fortnight, up to 1 hour.	Once a week, up to 1 hour.	Twice a week, 4 hours per week.
History	Once a week for a total of one hour (including independent research).	Once a week for 1 hour plus ongoing research for coursework.	
ICT	Once a week (It is built into the SOW).	Year 10 : Coursework. Year 11 : Sometimes.	Minimum of once a week.
Latin & Classical Civilisation	Year 8 - Once a fortnight ½ hr to 1 hr. Year 9 - Once a week ½ hr to 1 hr.	Year 10 - Twice a week for 1 hr (45 mins translation, 15 mins vocab). Year 11 - Twice a week for 1 - 2 hrs (1 hr independent translation, 15-30 mins vocab, 1 hr grammar/daily life). Classical Studies - Once a week for 1-1½hrs	
Maths	Once a week for 30 mins.	Once a week for 45 mins.	Every session, homework/ prep work will be set.
Media Studies		On average fortnightly. but this is often staggered due to heavier coursework periods. 1 hour	Weekly tasks. Timing depends. but two to three hours would be an average.
Modern Languages	Once a week for 20 to 45 minutes.	Once or twice a week for 1 to 2 hours.	

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Music	Once a half-term for 45 mins. Extra practice time may be need before practical exams or if students wish to become involved in concerts/ performance events.	Two hours once a term (research and essay) as well as smaller general revision tasks, half an hour a week (average) for composition and half an hour a day for practice. Extra time will be needed to prepare for concerts and performance events. Extra time will also be needed to complete GCSE recordings.	
Photography		Y10 - once a week; Y11- twice a week.	3 hours a week
Psychology			Work is set twice a week after each lesson.
Physical Education	Once a term for 1 hour. (Fronter).	Non GCSE - once a term for 1 hour (Fronter). GCSE - once a week for 1 hour	
Religious Studies	Once every two weeks ½ hr to 1 hr max. Plus a levelled assessment task each term set over two weeks, requiring 1½ to 2 hrs input.	Averaging out to about ½ hr a week.	
Science	Once a week for 30-40 minutes	Once a week for each Science GCSE.	Twice a week.
Sociology		Once a fortnight. 1 hour maximum.	
Average Hours Per Week	6 Hours	10 hours	4 hours per A level subject

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