

Year 7 Independent Study Trial | Information for Parents

During the summer terms of 2019, we will be trialling a new system of Independent Study with all of our Year 7 students. There are several reasons for our proposed change to the I.S. policy. Most importantly, we hope that it will better support our students in preparing for their assessments at the end of each unit of study by spreading their revision across an entire term. We also expect it to increase the rates of completion across the year group and to support our teachers with their marking and record-keeping workload.

The new system for I.S. is quite simple. Students have been given a booklet containing the 'knowledge organisers' for each subject that they study. These summarise the key knowledge for each unit and should contain all of the information on which the students could be tested at the end of the topic. Each week, the students will be learning a section of their knowledge organisers according to the schedule. In order to do this they are practising one key study-skill; setting self-quizzing questions. An example of this is shown below:

- **Hardwoods** come from broad leaved trees.
- They are usually deciduous, which means they lose their leaves in winter.
- They produce flowers and nuts, fruits or seeds.
- They are usually slower growing, therefore:
- usually tighter grained, harder and more expensive.



This is a section of the DT Materials: Wood knowledge organiser.

A self-quizzing question which would allow the student to check that they have earned this key content could be, "From which kinds of trees do hardwoods come?"

Or another could be, "Why are hardwoods more expensive than softwoods?"

Students have an Independent Study exercise book in which to write their homework and they should carry these books with them at all times in their school bag. They should complete their I.S. in time to meet the published deadlines, but there is no fixed schedule of which homework to do on which nights, so children and their families can organise their time as it suits them best. They just need to have completed it on time to meet the deadline. I.S. will be checked by the first teacher of the day on the day of the deadline. Any student that does not complete their I.S. in time for the deadline will need to do so in a 20 minute Study Support session at 3:00pm on the same day. We will not automatically notify parents if their child is attending study support.

If you have any questions about the new system, please do contact me at school. We will be seeking students' and parents' feedback towards the end of the summer term as we review the trial period.

With many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Jones
Vice Principal