



Principal: **Robert P. Robson**
BSc (Hons), MA, QTS, AST, FcolIT, FRSA

1st January, 2013

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we start the new year, I am writing to highlight the importance of independent learning in and outside of the class room for every student within our academy. Independent learning is demonstrated when a student is able to think, act and pursue their own studies with minimal or appropriate support depending on their ability.

Independent learning is an important skill whether a student is planning to continue their studies at school, college, university, take an apprenticeship or even go straight into employment. A good independent learner is someone who is determined, persistent and has excellent time management. Reported benefits of independent learning include increased motivation and confidence and the ability for students to engage in lifelong learning; besides learning *what* to learn, it is also crucially important to learn *how* to learn.

☆ **Some tips to encourage Independent Learning:** ☆

Set goals: a good way to keep your motivation up is to think what you want to get out of your studies and what your future goal is, set yourself realistic targets. **Routine:** develop good habits to learn, have a set time to relax and work every evening, after dinner on the kitchen table etc. **Time management:** prioritize important milestones, exams, mocks, socials, use a diary, make it visual, and break things down into sizeable chunks. **Extension tasks:** many of your current books have extension tasks in them, conduct further reading, use LP+. **Read:** good independent learners are good readers, focus on key words, summarise, and highlight text. **Go solo:** practice working on your own for long periods of time without seeking the help of an adult unless necessary. **Be persistent:** if a task is challenging, don't give up, keep at it until you understand what you need to do. **Seek help:** ask for support and advice if you really are stuck, take responsibility for your learning. This is still an important part of independent learning.

These are only a few ideas to get you started. Don't forget learning is personal and you should explore different techniques to unlock your learning potential.

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I am a strong advocate of independent learning and I believe we all have an important role in ensuring that our students are well prepared for their future pathways. I am confident you will join us as an academy to promote and encourage independent learning in and outside of the classroom. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Nishi Saran
Head of Sixth Form – Associate Principal

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