



Our ref: JEB/aln/off/Year9/2023-2024/Year10FocusIndependentLearning

31st October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 10 Focus Independent Learning

I hope you all had a safe and relaxing half-term break. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on our current year group focus for Year 10, and seek your support in achieving this with similar messages given to students at home.

You must make sure that your child has good attendance (96% or greater)

I am sure that it will come as no surprise to learn that there is a direct and strong link between high attendance and strong academic performance. Please continue to ensure that your child is in school and should there be any barriers to this, make sure you are in contact with your child's tutor. There is little that we have not seen before and plenty of help and support we can offer.

Your child will benefit from becoming an independent learner

Students in Year 10 have now begun their exciting KS4 academic journey, commencing many subjects they have chosen to pursue at GCSE. There is a very exciting academic 'buzz' within the year group and from my own lesson walks I have seen such excellent examples of classwork, collaboration amongst peers and dedicated independent work. My main messages and focus to the whole year group is around the tools to academic success; whether this be through team work and achieving a common outcome or independent.

The focus of independent work at home and school is one we as a Year 10 team are driving and placing at the forefront of our vision. It is our aim to instill the correct learning habits for all students to be successful at GCSE. Our plan involves setting whole year group tasks to develop independent learning which can be tracked by myself and tutors.

The first stage of this will be to support them in becoming an independent learner in Maths; mainly using a platform all students (and the majority of parents/carers) are familiar with. We will set whole year group tasks **in addition to their regular maths homework** and will expect all students to complete this independently. These tasks will be set on Satchel One. Tutors are able to track the level of independent work completed. Once we have had a maths focus, we will continue this but introduce



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a similar model for Science and English later on in the year.

You can see this task in detail using the Parents Satchel One app.

Doing this regularly will slowly build up the normality of working outside of directed homework and class work for students and support them in building correct habits to help them achieve at GCSE. Soon, our hope is students will become used to working independently and apply these skills to their GCSE revision. I ask for your support in this in encouraging and facilitating your children to set a small amount of time (30 minutes minimum) a week to complete this extra work.

Your child will benefit from a positive working environment at home

This will look different in every household, but a key theme amongst Year 11 students was the adoption of a positive working environment, with many citing that their family were highly supportive in helping to set this up (access to family laptops/computers at set times, provision of stationery and revision resources) and helping them in maintaining it. Students were always aware that the biggest barrier was often the distraction of their phone, or website such as YouTube. Finding a happy balance is one of the most supportive (if initially painful!) actions you can take as a parent.

We will be offering a study hub at school (for purposeful after-school, independent revision) and guide them toward motivational apps, like Flora.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Brockman
Year 10 Achievement Co-ordinator
jeb@hayes.bromley.sch.uk



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