



Independent Study

Year 9: 2017-18

A guide for parents/carers and students

Never, ever say you don't have homework!

This booklet tells you what you need to do outside of lessons to ensure you make the best progress possible.



Academic Excellence Shared Values Outstanding Education



Independent learning: our expectations for ALL year 9 students

My advice to year 9 students:

'This guide is only useful if you use it. Pick 2 or 3 things you know you can do and will stick with over the next 2 years. Trust me: they will make a positive difference.'

Ms N Brennan, Assistant Headteacher stnbrennan@redborne.beds.sch.uk

It is important both parents/carers and students understand that there is always school work to be done. This is either independent learning (see below) or set work from a teacher.

Before lessons:

- Check equipment is packed, including any necessary text books, exercise books and work to be brought in.

After each lesson:

- Students should go back over work taught and check their notes are complete.
- Use a revision guide to look up topics that were not fully understood, or use BBC Bitesize or another site recommended by a subject teacher.
- **On a regular basis (at least once per month), make revision cards or mind maps of content covered and keep this in folders dedicated to each subject.**
- These folders can be kept at home or school. When it is time to prepare for exams, a set of revision cards will already have been made and these can be used to help with revision.

This forms the basis of all extended learning for our students and is a very effective way to learn. If additional reading or written work has been set, this should be completed by the deadline set. (This can be checked on the Show My Homework site).

My advice to year 9 students:

'If you want good grades in your envelope at the end of year 11, year 9 at option time is the time to change. Don't forget, you have already started your GCSE science course in year 9. You are not competing against your friends at Redborne, but against the rest of the country. Snooze and you lose!!'

Year 11 student, May 2017

Study Club

Encourage your child to attend the study club, run from Monday to Thursday in the library. (Limited places available). It is staffed by paid and trained A level students. Thus we are able to offer individual support to students in a variety of subjects. For those students in receipt of pupil premium funding, if getting home is a barrier to attending, we may be able to provide taxi transport home. Please email Mr D McGuigan stdanmcguigan@redborne.beds.sch.uk

Extended Learning

How parents and carers can best support their son or daughter

- Ensure attendance at school and punctuality are 100% or as near as possible.
- Check the correct equipment is available for each day.
- Supply a bottle of water to drink. (Energy drinks are banned in school).
- Supply a snack and ensure lunch is eaten.
- Check the homework set by logging onto Show My Homework, and provide encouragement to complete work in good time.
- Actively encourage your child to get into the habit of working independently on work not set by the class teacher. (Ideas on next pages).
- Encourage your child to look through class notes and highlight key facts. These key facts can be put onto revision cards. (Buy from Tesco or WH Smith or make them by cutting up A4 card).
- Test your child on their revision cards; ask them to give 2 or 3 key facts learned each week and talk about how you will remember these facts.
- Help your child to organise their class notes and keep their books and resources safe.
- Where possible, provide a quiet area to work, and discourage any use of social media whilst school work is being done.
- We suggest putting the mobile phone away. Students need to be able to concentrate without distraction.
- If space to work is tight at home, encourage your child to attend the after school study club in the library.

Please remember, the content and exams in the 3 core subjects (maths, English and science) have now been made much more challenging. Instilling good habits in year 9 will help a lot in years 10 and 11.

How can you monitor what additional work is set by the class teacher?

Homework is given in most subjects, in addition to our expectations of students working independently. This will be published on the Show My Homework (SMHW) site.

The link for SMHW is on our homepage. Students and parents/carers will be issued with their unique login at the start of term. This allows you to see the homework set for your own child, including when it is due in. If you lose the login, you can still access the site and search the homework set by any one teacher. You only need to know the name of the class your child is in and this is shown on their timetable.

Parents/carers: please help your child to manage their time; complete their set homework by the agreed deadline and complete independent learning to the best of their ability.

What happens if my child does not understand a homework or has lost the task sheet?

- If your child does not understand a task set, they should see their class teacher as soon as possible, but at least 2 days BEFORE the work is due in, either in their lesson, at lunchtime or after school. They could also email staff with their query. The child's tutor will always be able to offer help and advice too.
- Students: please do **not** turn up to the lesson saying you could not do the homework. Always ask in advance where possible. We want to help.

What extended learning should my child be doing in the 3 core subjects?

Core subject	What is my indicator grade in this subject?	What independent study should I be doing as well as my set homework?	How many times a week should I do this study?
Maths	Grade 2 or below	Use MyMaths. Only work through topics covered in class. Try the exercises BUT not the games. They are not useful at GCSE.	3 x per week, 20 minutes each time Total =1 extra hour per week
Maths	Grade 3 or above	Use the Mathswatch VLE. Watch the video to the topic studied that week in class and make revision cards. Then try the accompanying questions.	3 x per week, 20 minutes each time Total = 1 extra hour per week
See digital resources sheet for maths on page 5			
Science	Grade 4 and below	Use a science revision guide (CGP AQA science) to read through the current topic and make revision cards or mind maps of key points. At this level, students must know a range of key facts and this is only done by time spent learning them. www.freesciencelessons.com A series of 3-5 minute videos on every topic in the syllabus. Many, many students think these are really useful.	2 x per week, 30 minutes each time Total = 1 extra hour per week
Science	Grade 5 and above	As above, but this time, focus on understanding links between topics and understanding the key facts, so they can be applied to more unfamiliar situations.	3 x per week, 20 minutes each time Total = 1 extra hour per week.

The big one: literacy skills: reading, writing and speaking aloud.

Literacy affects all subjects. If your child struggles with literacy, this is the one to focus on the most.

If students cannot understand what is said in any exam paper, it puts them at a massive disadvantage.

Students need to be able to concentrate and write for 2 hours and 15 minutes in the English Literature exam, so this needs to be practised.

English	Indicator grade 2 or below	Use Lexia at least 3 times per week at home or in the study club.	3 x per week, 20 minutes each time Total = 1 extra hour per week
English	Indicator grade 4 or below	<p>Read fiction and non-fiction.</p> <p>Use the school library or try the 'Zoella' reading club (WH Smith).</p> <p>Read newspapers - broadsheet only please. In print or online. Print is a little better as the articles tend to be longer and more like the exam.</p> <p>Find words where the meaning is unknown. Look the word up and add it to a wordlist that is stuck on the fridge.</p> <p>Parents/carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test your child on this list; little and often is best. • Talk about what is being read. • Can your child re-write what has been read in their own words? • Can the passage be summarised (out loud)? • Play word games when you can: try Scrabble, Boggle or Hangman. <p>Anything that practises and develops new vocabulary is a bonus.</p>	3 x per week, 20 minutes each time Total = 1 extra hour per week
English Literature	For all students	Re-read the text you are studying and make summaries of the plot, context, characters and themes.	2 x per month, 30 minutes each time

Maths Extended Learning - Digital Revision Resources List - November 2017

Website	Login Details
<p>MathsWatch VLE – https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle This has videos, interactive questions and worksheets on every topic of the new GCSE.</p>	<p>Login: School email address Password: ChangeMe639</p>
<p>MyMaths – www.mymaths.co.uk</p>	<p>Login: redborne Password: factorise</p>
<p>Corbett Maths – www.corbettmaths.com This site has worksheets and videos for each topic.</p>	<p>There is no login required for the site.</p>
<p>GCSE Bitesize – www.bbc.co.uk/education Make sure you select Maths (2015 onwards).</p>	<p>There is no login required for the site.</p>
<p>For the very able year 9 mathematician</p> <p>Redborne Maths Website – www.redbornemaths.co.uk This has a number of practice papers that you can print off and complete. All the solutions are on the site so you can mark the work yourself.</p>	<p>You do not need to sign up, just use the details below: Login: redborne@maths.co.uk Password: factorise</p>

My dad made me do extra maths from MyMaths about twice per week from September. I hate to admit it, but it has made a real difference to my understanding. I am not telling him that though!

Year 9 student

Students - this one is for you:

Turn off all social media and text alerts when you work. It wastes lots of time and you need to learn to concentrate for longer periods of time.



In summary: what could a student do once per fortnight?

Make posters to help you remember key facts.

Revisit old work: look up in a revision guide what you're not good at.

Research on the internet for further information.

Go over things if you don't understand them.

Sit with a friend and get them to test you.

Find a test online and do it under test conditions at home.



Revise a whole topic and use the Bitesize website to check you understand it.

Ask your teacher to ask you questions during the lesson to ensure you are thinking and listening. This is a great one to help you make progress.

Review what you have done and practise writing responses to a book you have read.

Go and see a teacher to get help if you have been stuck.

Ask your maths teacher for a short test to practise what you have been doing on MyMaths.

Set additional homework tasks e.g. do a test at home.

Teachers can respond to some queries by email but not all. It is not always possible to say what has been missed in a lesson by email. The best thing here is to copy up someone else's notes; read them through and if necessary, see the teacher in person after this.

In summary: what could parents/carers do to support you even more?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage you to do tasks from the tables (see pages 3-5) on extended learning.• Put a 'word of the day' App on your phone.• Test you on your times tables.• Test you at random on vocabulary.• Give you spelling tests.• Help you find somewhere quiet to work.• Read through English set texts with you. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test you on your revision cards.• Remind you to do homework by checking the 'Show My Homework' site.• Listen and encourage you to read.• Proof read work.• Ask you what you have learnt.• Provide a bottle to bring water to school.• Provide revision materials: highlighter pens, revision cards, post it notes. |
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Please remember: if your child is in receipt of pupil premium funding, there is a space for them at our after school study club Monday to Thursday 3.15pm to 4.30pm. Contact Mr D McGuigan if you would like to discuss this. stdanmcguigan@redborne.beds.sch.uk