

# Independent Study in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

## Rationale

Independent study in RPE aims to give you an opportunity to practise your skills and reinforce the learning from the lesson. It will also, at times, allow you to develop your wider knowledge and carry out research into a new area of study.

## Quantity and frequency of homework

At Key Stage 3, you should spend approximately 30 minutes each week on your homework. This will be a specific task set by your teachers. On occasion it will be a longer 60-minute task and students will have two weeks to complete this.

At Key Stage 4, you should spend approximately 30-45 minutes each week on your homework. This will be a specific task set by your teachers or, in the absence of directed work, you should engage in consolidation, revision or extension work as detailed in the 'Learning to Fly' document.

In Year 12, some weeks we will expect you to complete two hours of homework on specific tasks set by your teachers. In addition to homework, you should also be engaging in two hours of independent review, exam practice, and critical reading. All Key Stage 5 students will be set suggested activities to complete during any supervised study periods.

In Year 13, some weeks we will expect you to complete three hours of homework on specific tasks set by your teachers. In addition to homework, you should also be engaging in three hours of independent review, exam practice, and critical reading. All Key Stage 5 students will be set suggested activities to complete during any supervised study periods.

## Quality and impact of homework

The kind of homework tasks that you can expect include reading ahead, note taking comprehension, research, extended writing and completion of revision or exam practice questions. In addition, at certain times in the year, we may ask you to complete an end of unit assessment, pair work or an independent project. Where a task will take longer than normal, we will aim to allow longer than one week for completion. We always aim to set realistic deadlines reflecting the nature of the task.

Homework will always be acknowledged in some way in the lesson, however not all homework will be teacher assessed. In some cases, peer assessment is more valuable or with research/ comprehension tasks, we will often expect you to feed back to the class on what you have learnt. We always endeavour to make the method of assessment clear to you before you complete the task so you know how best to present the work.

- We will always give you at least one week to complete your homework at Key Stage 3 and 4 and at least two days but usually more in Years 12 and 13.
- We will always give you homework which is purposeful and which will enhance your skills and understanding.
- We will give you clear guidance about how to complete the homework and we welcome questions if you want to ask anything about the homework.

We will acknowledge the work you put in and do all we can to give you useful written or verbal feedback in good time.

## **Student expectations**

- Complete homework at a time when it won't be rushed and you can concentrate on it fully without distractions.
- Think carefully about the homework when it is being set and ask the teacher any questions about the work in advance of the deadline.
- Read feedback carefully, use it to set targets and try to meet those targets in your next piece of work.
- Homework will often build on the previous lesson's learning. Ensure you maximise your chance to shine by using the materials from class or the recommended resources. Equally, where a level descriptor or marking criteria has been given for a piece of work, ensure you understand the expectations and respond.
- Ensure that you put things in your own words when submitting research to avoid plagiarism.
- When completing work think about how to present it in a way that will benefit you when revising. When it comes to revision, notes are often better than highlighting sheets