



# Ark Isaac Newton Academy

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was great to see so many of you at our Year 7 parent information evening last term and thank you for all the support you give your child to enable them to be such professional role models at Ark Isaac Newton Academy.

I am writing to you today to give you some more information around the Independent Learning (IL) strategy we are implementing this year which will inform you of the IL that students are going to be set in this half term. Independent learning is an integral part of education and raising achievement. As KS3-KS4 students only spend 12% of their time during a 12-month period in a classroom, we must seek to use independent learning as a valuable tool to aid our students' academic growth and passion for learning. We believe it promotes students' self-discipline and personal responsibility for learning and organisation. It reinforces learning in class, extends knowledge and understanding whilst giving students the opportunity to practice and refine skills specific to each subject. Research proves that home and independent learning has a positive effect on academic outcomes. Ultimately, at INA we believe in the integral role this learning plays in students surpassing their academic goals.

At INA we define independent learning in two parts:

- **Home learning (HL):** These are specific tasks that are to be completed at home, with support from parents/carers, and will be checked by staff. They aim to secure core curriculum content (or core knowledge).
- **Independent learning (IL):** These are tasks/activities that will help develop effective metacognition over time (building long term memory) and extend knowledge beyond the curriculum. These will not be checked by staff and students will take responsibility for completing these independently.

The first phase of our new policy is to share with all teachers, students, and parents/carers the HL timetable that all Year 7 students will be following this year. The timetable is below and shows the day of the week your child will be set their HL. Your child will have one week to complete each piece of HL and therefore it will be collected in on the same day to avoid confusion and aid planning and organisation. Each piece of HL for all other subjects should take about 30 minutes each. Please communicate through your child's planner if HL is taking considerably longer than this.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
X1	Maths Geography Big Band*	RE History	Science Art	Spanish	English
X2	Maths History Big Band*	RE Geography	Science	Spanish Art	English
X3	Maths Art Geography	History	Science RE	Big Band*	English Spanish
Y1	Maths Big Band* Geography	History	Science RE Art	English	Spanish
Y2	Maths History	RE Art	Science Geography	English	Spanish Big Band*
Y3	Maths	RE Art	Science Geography	English	Spanish History Big Band*
Big Band - Students are reminded that the minimum expectation for Big Band practice is three weekly 15 minute sessions.					
Computer Science HL will be set in the last week of each term					

For all subjects your child will be expected to write in their planner the content of the HL they will be completing that week, and this will be checked by their class teacher and form tutor. We ask you also check this. This will fall into one of the 4 types of HL that we know benefit students' studies:

- Preparation – completing work ahead of an upcoming lesson or topic e.g. to learn key words or formula
- Practice – completing independent practice on topics that have been taught in class e.g. Hegarty tasks or written tasks in English
- Review and Revise – completing tasks which prepare students to upcoming assessments, and use their memories to link back to previous knowledge e.g. Create a mind-map answering the question – What was the impact of WW1 on Germany?
- Extend – this will require students to go beyond the content they have been learning in lessons e.g. Read and annotate the extract about the causes of WW2. Consider the extent to which the Treaty of Versailles played in the outbreak of another world war only 21 years after the Great War had ended.

To ensure you are aware of this half term's HL the table at the end of this letter shows exactly what HL will be set for the core subjects of Maths, English and Science each week this half term and the expectation of how it is completed.

If students need extra support completing HL then the library is open every lunchtime, and there is an after school club on Monday and Thursdays in the library where students can have a quiet space to complete HL and teacher support if needed.

We know that parents/carers and wider family members play a pivotal role in supporting our students with their HL. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure their children complete their HL and are supported in doing so. Therefore, we are clear in the expectations we have for parents/carers in this respect, forming a key part of the home academy agreement.

- Provide a **peaceful place** in which their child can do their home and independent learning. Please note that students will have chances to work in a quiet space at the academy if this is required.
- **Check and sign their child's planner each week** with focus on ensuring they can visibly see academic deadlines being written down.

- **Regularly check their home learning exercise books** and any digital platforms they may be using. Furthermore, have a clear understanding of what they are studying using the parents/carers resources and the home/independent learning overviews.
- **Encourage and praise successful completion** of home learning they can be proud of.
- Parents/carers must communicate with their child's form tutor if there are any questions or concerns about the home learning being set. Be mindful of stress, "overwork/revision" and any other signs of mental health related issues.

Thank you for your continued support of your child, we hope by providing the timetable and the supporting materials that you can better support your child in their academic progress throughout their time at INA.

Yours sincerely,



Isabel Boanas Evans  
Assistant Principal – Maths and Independent Learning

Expectations
<p><b>Maths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hegarty will be used for all HL in Y7 (for some students where this is not appropriate there will be paper based HL).</li> <li>● 1 task will be set a week from the list (and will be picked to ensure it is appropriate for the class)</li> <li>● Expectation is that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- all students watch the video and make a note of any examples in the back of their exercise book</li> <li>- all students show all questions and working out in the back of their exercise books</li> <li>- all students mark their IL as they go and write down their final score</li> <li>- all students re-take the task until they score 80% or over</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>English:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will be set a writing task based on their reading of Oliver Twist every week leading up to the IA.</li> <li>● Students will complete their piece of writing in their purple books and ensure that this is clearly labelled.</li> <li>● Teacher to use their discretion to decide the length for their students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For each topic, students will complete: a pre-unit quiz (an assessed HL).</li> <li>● This will provide specific action points in response to an investigative question, and an extended writing task based on "what if" questions to apply their knowledge to a novel context.</li> <li>● Depending on the content, there may be an additional practice task set.</li> <li>● Students are expected to respond to feedback on each of these in their books.</li> </ul>

w/c	Maths	English	Science
31.10.22	Arithmetic Hegarty Task - 10, 23	Argumentative writing: This lesson we learned that children's punishments were often as severe as an adult's. Write a speech arguing whether this is a good or bad idea. Why?	Complete pre-unit Quiz on Reproduction - Teams Online Quiz  Assessed IL(extended writing) - Journey of the sperm: description of the reproductive system
07.11.22	Order of Operations Hegarty Task - 24, 12, 150	Creative writing: Create your own villain. Write the description that introduces your villain, just like the Bill Sikes introduction.	Menstrual cycle: what if activity (extended writing)  Analysing plant reproduction practical results - writing a conclusion to an experiment
14.11.22	LCM/HCF Hegarty task - 36/31	Creative Writing on the robbery: Write your own account from Oliver's point of view.	Seed dispersal: what if (extended writing)  Complete pre-unit Quiz on Forces - Teams Online Quiz
21.11.22	Negative Numbers Hegarty task - 37, 38, 39, 40, 41	Review writing: Write a book review for Oliver Twist.	Assessed IL: Forces Activity - drawing force diagrams and annotate it.
28.11.22	<b>Interim Assessments for all Subjects</b>		
	Collecting like terms Hegarty task - 156, 157	Revision Task for Interim Assessments	Decision tree task; Resultant forces - annotating diagrams, and calculations
05.12.22	<b>Interim Assessments for all Subjects</b>		
	Writing Expressions Hegarty task 151, 152	Revision Task for Interim Assessments	Working with data - Choosing a scale on graphs practice questions
12.12.22	HL will be based on class weaknesses from Assessment	Creative Writing practice	What if: forces involved in firing a bow activity (extended writing)