



# KS4 Independent Learning Tasks Policy

## 2026-27

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Author:</b>           | Casie Wright                   |
| <b>Principal:</b>        | Laura Parker                   |
| <b>Publication Date:</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026 |

## **Intent**

### **Our Vision:**

- Ensuring independent learning plays a pivotal role in reinforcing classroom learning and promoting academic development for every child in Key Stage 4 (KS4).
- To promote consistent routines around independent skills, enabling students at Wrenn School to be successful in their studies but also to transfer these qualities, such as organisation, commitment, autonomy and working hard and excel in other aspects of their future lives.

### **Implementation:**

At Wrenn School, independent learning tasks are pre-planned and carefully considered to build upon the taught skills and topics delivered in the classroom. Evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation shows that the most effective form of independent tasks focuses not on the quantity of the work completed, but instead on the quality. This is why, at Wrenn School, we focus on tasks which focus on retrieval of knowledge as well as applying skills. This allows our students to have opportunities throughout the academic year to recall and apply prior learning which will reinforce their knowledge, increasing their confidence.

### **Potential Independent Study Activities:**

- Retrieval Practice: engage in prior subject/topic recall and reactivation activities utilising online revision platforms such as SPARX, completing revision material such as knowledge organisers and revision flashcards to consolidate prior learning.
- Routine question and answers: complete online question and answers using platforms such as Microsoft Forms. These will include familiar formats such as multiple-choice questions and short answer questions which will mark as soon as submitted so pupils can check their knowledge and understanding with the immediate opportunity to challenge misconceptions.
- Paper based activities and resources set directly from their teacher which are activities designed to deepen knowledge by applying their understanding. This could include exam questions.

### **Independent Study Expectations**

Wrenn School will:

- Communicate all KS4 subject's independent learning tasks for each half term in advance through Arbor communications.
- Staff will monitor completion of independent study tasks and record missed homework.
- Praise pupils for the independent learning tasks by issuing house points for good quality work completed on time, clear effort and to the student's best ability or golden tickets for exceptional pieces of independent learning, including where pupils complete tasks from the extra "striving for a 9" sheet.
- Sanction in line with the behaviour policy to ensure missed learning opportunities are caught up on.

Students will:

- Access their assigned independent study assignment through Arbor / be directed to online platforms via Arbor.
- Request help from a member of staff or a parent if necessary.
- Attend independent study support clubs if needed: these run separately for Y10 and Y11. These support clubs will be clearly outlined on the list of Extra Curricular Activities sheet which is sent to parents and carers and shared with pupils during tutor time and assemblies.
- Complete independent learning tasks to a high standard and on time.
- Communicate with their class teachers prior to the deadline date if they are struggling to complete independent learning tasks.

Parents will:

- Ensure students have a quiet space to complete independent learning tasks at home, or that they access support facilities at school e.g., independent learning support club or the library.
- Ensure students complete their independent learning to a high standard and on time.
- Communicate concerns about independent learning with the relevant teaching staff.

### Homework Frequency & Time Approximation

| Year Group | Subject                                                                                                                                                                           | Frequency                                                                                                                                                                                          | Time                |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 10         | English                                                                                                                                                                           | Weekly on Sparx<br><br>Deadline is 8pm Sunday for Sparx.                                                                                                                                           | 60 mins             |
|            | Mathematics                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 60 mins             |
|            | Science                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 60 mins             |
|            | <u>GCSE Optional Subjects:</u><br>Creative Arts & Technology<br>Computer Science<br>History<br>Geography<br>Modern Foreign Languages<br>Performing Arts<br>PE<br>Extended Studies | Two per half term.<br><br>The first piece will be set in week one of the half term and the second will be set in week four.<br><br>Deadline is 3:10pm on the 3rd and 6th Friday of each half term. | 30 mins per subject |
| 11         | English                                                                                                                                                                           | Weekly on Sparx<br><br>Deadline is 8pm Sunday for Sparx.                                                                                                                                           | 60 mins             |
|            | Mathematics                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |
|            | Science                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |
|            | <u>GCSE Optional Subjects:</u><br>Creative Arts & Technology<br>Computer Science<br>History<br>Geography<br>Modern Foreign Languages<br>Performing Arts<br>PE<br>Extended Studies | Two per half term.<br><br>The first piece will be set in week one of the half term and the second will be set in week four.<br><br>Deadline is 3:10pm on the 3rd and 6th Friday of each half term. | 30 mins per subject |
|            | IN ADDITION TO THIS, Y11 ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND P6 SUBJECT SESSIONS EACH WEEK AS EXTRA REVISION SUPPORT                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |

### Independent Study Login Information

Whilst we will outline all independent study tasks on one proforma each half term, students may be directed to other subject-specific online platforms to complete their independent learning. The student login information for each of the portals that are currently being used is outlined below.

| Subject                           | Platform             | Login Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All subjects                      | MS Teams<br>MS Forms | 1. In the student area of the school website, select Microsoft Teams<br>• Username: same as school username (starting with WSC-)<br>• Password: same as school password                                                             |
| English<br>Mathematics<br>Science | Sparx Maths          | 1. Website: <a href="http://www.sparxmaths.com">www.sparxmaths.com</a><br>2. Click on Student Login<br>3. Search "Wrenn School" when prompted.<br>4. Sign on with Microsoft when prompted, using school email address and password. |
| All subjects                      | Striving for a 9     | 1. Website: <a href="http://www.wrennschool.org.uk">www.wrennschool.org.uk</a><br>2. Click on the Year 11 drop-down.<br>3. Click Striving for a 9.                                                                                  |

### Independent Study Monitoring:

So that all stakeholders can celebrate and support the completion of independent study to a high standard, it is important that the monitoring of this is centralised.

- The proforma outlining all independent learning tasks will be assigned on Arbor ready for the start of each half term.
- Staff will then record centrally pupils who DO NOT complete their independent learning tasks. Completion of independent learning tasks will be identified by house points being assigned by teachers on Arbor. This will be monitored by Curriculum Leaders, Key Stage Coordinators and Progress Leaders.

### Independent Learning Reinforcement:

Wrenn School takes a positive approach to independent learning tasks and as such will promote both intrinsic and extrinsic motivators for independent tasks being completed. These include:

#### Intrinsic:

- Tutor time curriculum designed to teach pupils the importance of being autonomous, working hard, mastering tasks and how to apply these skills to future opportunities such as work experience and post 16 applications.

#### Extrinsic:

- House points for completing independent learning tasks.
- Golden tickets for excelling on independent learning tasks.
- Opportunities to win rewards as individuals as well as for their tutor groups and house.

### **Independent Learning Celebration**

We wish to celebrate the efforts made by students when completing their learning tasks. Some ways independent learning will be celebrated includes, but is not limited to:

- House points awarded by class teachers.
- Recognition emails home.
- Golden tickets for excellent examples of independent learning tasks.
- Prize draws for completion of independent study tasks in celebration assemblies.
- Tutor group recognition prizes for tutor groups who have the highest record of independent learning tasks completed.

In line with the behaviour policy, non-completion of independent study tasks will result in detentions being assigned. Non-completion detentions will be held for English, Maths and Science every Wednesday from 3:10pm – 4:10pm and for GCSE option subjects the week after the due date, but also on the Wednesday from 3:10pm – 4:10pm. These detentions are mandatory and it will be expected that pupils will make effort in using this time to catch up on missed independent learning tasks.

### **Student Support:**

At Wrenn School, we believe in the importance of consistent independent learning to foster academic growth however we appreciate some pupils may require support to get into good independent learning habits or if they get stuck on a task. To support pupils with their independent learning tasks, we will be offering the following:

- Independent learning club for Y10 once a week where pupils can come and use a quiet space to complete their independent learning tasks with the support of progress leaders.
- LRC open to Y11 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Additionally, we understand that a barrier to some of our SEND pupils completing their homework is because they feel “school is school, and home is home.” To help with this, Wrenn School will:

- Ensure SEND pupils who have struggled to complete their independent learning tasks will be supported by their key worker or another member of the SEND team during tutor time to access and complete their homework.