

YEAR 7 CURRICULUM INFORMATION 2008-2009

Please refer to this information to find out about planned curriculum work for Year 7 students during their first year at Tudhoe Grange. In planning lessons and Independent Learning, teachers take into account the interests, aptitudes and abilities of students within their groups as well as the progress being made. Thus there may be some adjustment as the year proceeds.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING (homework) GUIDELINES

Independent Learning refers to any activity which students are asked to complete outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or mentors and includes coursework and project work. The attached outline indicates the types of activities that can be expected.

- ALL students are expected to complete Independent Learning activities regularly and record details of activities in the Learning Diary in their Student Organiser together with the date when the work should be handed into the teacher.
- Details of Independent Learning activities can be found on the Durham Learning Gateway. Web address for DLG is <http://portal.durhamlearning.net>
- Students are given their username and password at the beginning of term. Details of each subject can be found in the link to that subject.
 - ✓ Activities are linked to programmes of study.
 - ✓ Activities can vary throughout the year and within subjects. They may include reading, research, drawing, recording, learning, revising, preparing coursework, written tasks etc.
 - ✓ Independent Learning may be completed in a short time span or may extend over a longer time span especially when it is related to a project type exercise (KS3).
 - ✓ Long project based activities/coursework are broken down into 'chunks' and dates set for the completion of each part as well as the final deadline.
 - ✓ Parents are reminded that all students have access to ICT facilities during school time and in Study Support sessions in the Learning Resource Centres on each site (open at lunchtimes and for one hour after school each night).
 - ✓ Parents often ask for guidance on the time needed for homework. It is difficult to be precise as each student works at a different rate. Students may work independently in school or only on certain evenings. The following guideline may help:
 - Year 7 20 mins per subject -around 1 hour per day
 - ✓ If students fail to complete Independent Learning tasks to the standard expected of them, then parents will be contacted, students will be put into Study Support to complete or improve outstanding work (at lunchtimes and/or after school).
 - ✓ Parents should contact subject teachers (or Heads of Faculty) if they have questions about Independent Learning activities. If parents write questions in the Student Organiser, please remind your son or daughter to show the subject teacher at an appropriate time.
 - ✓ Parents are requested to provide a quiet area where students can complete Independent Learning activities on a regular basis.

Monitoring your child's progress

All students are given a target level based on prior attainment (Key Stage 2 SAT tests) and Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT tests completed in school in October) as well as information from their junior schools.

Target level = minimum expectation by the end of Year 7. Each level is subdivided so that progress can be seen. Regular assessment exercises are carried out by subjects throughout the year.

Interim Reports: parents will be sent details of progress three times per year.

KS3 National Curriculum level criteria (subdivided into a/b/c e.g. level 4c, 4b, 4a)

↑	NC level a	Understands most ideas in that level and ready to move to the next
	NC level b	Working well in that level
	NC level c	Starting to work in that level

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM INFORMATION 2008-2009

Please refer to this information to find out about planned curriculum work for Year 8 students. In planning lessons and Independent Learning, teachers take into account the interests, aptitudes and abilities of students within their groups as well as the progress being made. Thus there may be some adjustment as the year proceeds.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING (homework) GUIDELINES

Independent Learning refers to any activity which students are asked to complete outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or mentors and includes coursework and project work. The attached outline indicates the types of activities that can be expected.

- ALL students are expected to complete Independent Learning activities regularly and record details of activities in the Learning Diary in their Student Organiser together with the date when the work should be handed into the teacher.
- Details of Independent Learning activities can be found on the Durham Learning Gateway. Web address for DLG is <http://portal.durhamlearning.net>
- Students are given their username and password at the beginning of term. Details of each subject can be found in the link to that subject.
 - ✓ Activities are linked to programmes of study.
 - ✓ Activities can vary throughout the year and within subjects. They may include reading, research, drawing, recording, learning, revising, preparing coursework, written tasks etc.
 - ✓ Independent Learning may be completed in a short time span or may extend over a longer time span especially when it is related to a project type exercise (KS3).
 - ✓ Long project based activities/coursework are broken down into 'chunks' and dates set for the completion of each part as well as the final deadline.
 - ✓ Parents are reminded that all students have access to ICT facilities during school time and in Study Support sessions in the Learning Resource Centres on each site (open at lunchtimes and for one hour after school each night).
 - ✓ Parents often ask for guidance on the time needed for homework. It is difficult to be precise as each student works at a different rate. Students may work independently in school or only on certain evenings. The following guideline may help:
Year 8 30 mins per subject -around 1½ hours per day
 - ✓ If students fail to complete Independent Learning tasks to the standard expected of them, then parents will be contacted, students will be put into Study Support to complete or improve outstanding work (at lunchtimes and/or after school).
 - ✓ Parents should contact subject teachers (or Heads of Faculty) if they have questions about Independent Learning activities. If parents write questions in the Student Organiser, please remind your son or daughter to show the subject teacher at an appropriate time.
 - ✓ Parents are requested to provide a quiet area where students can complete Independent Learning activities on a regular basis.

Monitoring your child's progress

All students are given a target level based on prior attainment including Key Stage 2 SAT tests.

Target level = minimum expectation by the end of Year 8. Each level is subdivided so that progress can be seen. Regular assessment exercises are carried out by subjects throughout the year to track progress.

Interim Reports: parents will be sent details of progress three times per year.

KS3 National Curriculum level criteria (subdivided into a/b/c e.g. level 4c, 4b, 4a)

↑	NC level a	Understands most ideas in that level and ready to move to the next
	NC level b	Working well in that level
	NC level c	Starting to work in that level

YEAR 9 CURRICULUM INFORMATION 2008-2009

Please refer to this information to find out about planned curriculum work for Year 9 students during this crucial year at school. In planning lessons and Independent Learning, teachers take into account the interests, aptitudes and abilities of students within their groups as well as the progress being made. Thus there may be some adjustment as the year proceeds.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING (homework) GUIDELINES

Independent Learning refers to any activity which students are asked to complete outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or mentors and includes coursework and project work. The attached outline indicates the types of activities that can be expected.

- ALL students are expected to complete Independent Learning activities regularly and record details of activities in the Learning Diary in their Student Organiser together with the date when the work should be handed into the teacher.
- Details of Independent Learning activities can be found on the Durham Learning Gateway. Web address for DLG is <http://portal.durhamlearning.net>
- Students are given their username and password at the beginning of term. Details of each subject can be found in the link to that subject.
 - ✓ Activities are linked to programmes of study.
 - ✓ Activities can vary throughout the year and within subjects. They may include reading, research, drawing, recording, learning, revising, preparing coursework, written tasks etc.
 - ✓ Independent Learning may be completed in a short time span or may extend over a longer time span especially when it is related to a project type exercise (KS3).
 - ✓ Long project based activities/coursework are broken down into 'chunks' and dates set for the completion of each part as well as the final deadline.
 - ✓ Parents are reminded that all students have access to ICT facilities during school time and in Study Support sessions in the Learning Resource Centres on each site (open at lunchtimes and for one hour after school each night).
 - ✓ Parents often ask for guidance on the time needed for homework. It is difficult to be precise as each student works at a different rate. Students may work independently in school or only on certain evenings. The following guideline may help:
 Year 9 40 mins per subject -around 2 hours per day
 - ✓ If students fail to complete Independent Learning tasks to the standard expected of them, then parents will be contacted, students will be put into Study Support to complete or improve outstanding work (at lunchtimes and/or after school).
 - ✓ Parents should contact subject teachers (or Heads of Faculty) if they have questions about Independent Learning activities. If parents write questions in the Student Organiser, please remind your son or daughter to show the subject teacher at an appropriate time.
 - ✓ Parents are requested to provide a quiet area where students can complete Independent Learning activities on a regular basis.

Monitoring your child's progress

All students are given a target level based on prior attainment including Key Stage 2 SAT tests.

Target level = minimum expectation by the end of Year 9. Each level is subdivided so that progress can be seen. Regular assessment exercises are carried out by subjects throughout the year to track progress.

Interim Reports: parents will be sent details of progress three times per year.

KS3 National Curriculum level criteria (subdivided into a/b/c e.g. level 4c, 4b, 4a)

↑	NC level a	Understands most ideas in that level and ready to move to the next
	NC level b	Working well in that level
	NC level c	Starting to work in that level

Key Stage 4 CURRICULUM INFORMATION 2008-2009

Please refer to this information to find out about planned curriculum work for KS4 students during this crucial year at school. In planning lessons and Independent Learning, teachers take into account the interests, aptitudes and abilities of students within their groups as well as the progress being made. Thus there may be some adjustment as the year proceeds.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING (homework) GUIDELINES

Independent Learning refers to any activity which students are asked to complete outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or mentors and includes coursework and project work. The attached outline indicates the types of activities that can be expected.

- ALL students are expected to complete Independent Learning activities regularly and record details of activities in the Learning Diary in their Student Organiser together with the date when the work should be handed into the teacher.
- Details of Independent Learning activities can be found on the Durham Learning Gateway. Web address for DLG is <http://portal.durhamlearning.net>
- Students are given their username and password at the beginning of term. Details of each subject can be found in the link to that subject.
 - ✓ Activities are linked to programmes of study.
 - ✓ Activities can vary throughout the year and within subjects. They may include reading, research, drawing, recording, learning, revising, preparing coursework, written tasks etc.
 - ✓ Independent Learning may be completed in a short time span or may extend over a longer time span especially when it is related to coursework, portfolio, or a project type exercise.
 - ✓ Long project based activities/coursework are broken down into 'chunks' and dates set for the completion of each part as well as the final deadline.
 - ✓ Parents are reminded that all students have access to ICT facilities during school time and in Study Support sessions in the Learning Resource Centres on each site (open at lunchtimes and for one hour after school each night).
 - ✓ Parents often ask for guidance on the time needed for homework. It is difficult to be precise as each student works at a different rate. Students may work independently in school or only on certain evenings. The following guideline may help:

KS4	50 mins per subject	-around 2½ hours per day
------------	---------------------	--------------------------
 - ✓ In Years 10 and 11, tasks contribute to the FINAL GCSE GRADE. Clearly, if assignments are incomplete or rushed, it will affect the final grades.
 - ✓ If students fail to complete Independent Learning tasks to the standard expected of them, then parents will be contacted, students will be put into Study Support to complete or improve outstanding work (at lunchtimes and/or after school). Please also read carefully the information on attendance.
 - ✓ Parents should contact subject teachers (or Heads of Faculty) if they have questions about Independent Learning activities. If parents write questions in the Student Organiser, please remind your son or daughter to show the subject teacher at an appropriate time.
 - ✓ Parents are requested to provide a quiet area where students can complete Independent Learning activities on a regular basis.

Monitoring your child's progress

All students are given target grades based on prior attainment including Key Stage 2/3 SAT tests).

GCSE grades are A*,A,B,C,D,E,F,G,U (ungraded). The top four grades(A*-C) are regarded as the equivalent of the old 'O' level pass. There are also OCR Nationals, COPE and BTECs graded at distinction, merit and pass.

Target grade = minimum expectation by the end of Year 11. Regular assessment exercises are carried out by subjects throughout the year to track progress.

Interim Reports: parents will be sent details of progress three times per year.

