



## St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian

LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7 – 9)

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HEAD TEACHER Mr C. J. Coole

Our Ref: Year 7/NDY/GK

4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Independent learning

One of our aims at SNHS is to help develop our young people to be independent learners, so that they are skilled and equipped for their future.

Independent learning is the ability to self-motivate and self-manage one's own learning. This requires a learner to understand the goal and then plan and complete a series of actions to successfully achieve it, ideally with little or no supervision.

A successful independent learner can

- Manage their time and resources well
- Determine and carry out the next steps in their learning
- Seek help and collaborate with others as appropriate
- Overcome challenges to deepen their understanding
- Create content and solve problems

Our pastoral team raise awareness and support the development of these skills through assemblies and tutor time and the additional support team work with students who need a little more help to become competent in these areas.

A key part of our approach is the use of Independent Learning Tasks (ILTs). Each subject area identifies a set of specific tasks that students are expected to complete outside of the classroom, in their own time. ILTs are designed not to be overwhelming, but to provide stretch and challenge and the opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning skills. The suite of ILT tasks can be found in the [learning section of our school web site](#). Here you can view when the tasks will be set, when they are due in, the instructions, time students should spend on the task, success criteria as well as further help and guidance.

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Page 2

We would appreciate it if parents help their children manage their time, plan how they will complete the task and take an interest – but not do the task for them or remove too much of the challenge. The outcome we are looking for is the development of independence and skills – not a perfectly produced piece of work!

Students will receive feedback on their ILT, this might be a numerical mark, grade or a verbal/written comment depending upon the task. For example a task might end with a presentation to the class that the feedback might come from peers. This should all be explained in advance in the guidance.

There will not be any punishments for incomplete or poorly attempted ILTs, but we will contact home if we are concerned. Our focus will be to recognise and reward students for their skill development and good work. We will keep parents informed with the progress students are making with their Independent Learning via our reporting process.

If you have any questions or concerns about Independent Learning for your child please contact the pastoral team, if you have questions about a specific ILT please contact the subject leader.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Dyson', written in a cursive style.

Mr N Dyson  
Assistant Head Teacher