



St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoill Ard Noo Ninian

Our Ref: SBY/LK

23rd September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Independent Learning in Mathematics

Developing Positive Habits and Supporting Progress

We would like to share some information about how the Mathematics Department will support students' independent learning throughout this academic year, what you can expect from us and how you can help at home.

Our aim is to help students develop positive, sustainable habits for learning independently. Independent learning is not simply about completing additional work outside the classroom; it is about developing the skills, confidence and routines that will help students become increasingly successful learners.

In Mathematics, regular practice is particularly valuable. Revisiting previously learned material helps students retrieve knowledge from memory, strengthen their understanding and retain important skills over time. Short, frequent opportunities to practise can often be more beneficial than leaving revision until just before an assessment. We therefore want to encourage students to develop a 'little and often' approach to Mathematics, building habits that will support them throughout their education.

Independent Learning Tasks (ILTs)

Throughout the year, students will be set six Independent Learning Tasks (ILTs) in Mathematics.

These tasks are designed to develop students' independent learning and revision skills, while also encouraging a wider interest in Mathematics through research, exploration and application.

The six ILTs form an important part of students' Mathematics learning and are not optional. Each ILT will be graded, and non-completion will be recorded through Arbor. Students will be given appropriate notice and guidance to help them complete these tasks successfully.

Regular Mathematics Practice

Alongside the six formal ILTs, we will provide opportunities for students to engage in short Mathematics practice, using resources and activities appropriate to the needs of their classes.

These opportunities may take different forms, and individual teachers may use different resources and online platforms. The emphasis is on encouraging students to develop a regular, manageable approach to independent learning rather than prescribing a fixed amount of work.

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HEAD TEACHER Mr C. J. Coole

Live to Learn
Learn to Live

Activities may relate directly to the Mathematics currently being taught or revisit previously learned topics. They are intended to help students consolidate their understanding, practise key skills, retrieve knowledge from memory and retain what they have learned over time.

Details of any short practice tasks set by your child's teacher will be posted in their Maths Class on Microsoft Teams, providing a clear place for students and parents to check what has been recommended.

Unlike the six formal ILTs, these shorter practice activities will not be formally recorded, and there will be no sanction for non-completion. However, we strongly encourage students to engage with them regularly, as it is the development of these positive habits over time that can make a real difference to their confidence, understanding and progress.

How You Can Support Your Child at Home

We would greatly appreciate your support in helping your child develop positive and sustainable independent learning habits. Encouraging them to check their Maths Class on Microsoft Teams regularly, engage with any recommended practice and establish a manageable routine can make a real difference.

We recognise that students have busy lives and that finding a balance is important. Our aim is not to create additional pressure or expect students to spend long periods completing Mathematics at home. Instead, we want to encourage a 'little and often' approach, helping students recognise that short, regular opportunities to practise and revisit their learning can have a significant impact over time.

Your encouragement is particularly valuable in helping students understand that independent learning is worthwhile, even when tasks are not formally assessed or subject to sanctions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

The Mathematics Department