

SUPPORT YOUR



Independent Learning Support

Mr J Curtis-Brignell
Deputy Head: Curriculum
jcbrignell@thomastallis.org.uk

Independent Learning at Tallis

At Tallis we believe that independent learning assignments form a vital part of students' learning experiences, helping to embed knowledge and skills acquired in class and providing young people with an opportunity to develop a range of crucial learning habits including independent thinking, creativity, resilience and initiative.

INSIGHT

All independent learning will be set using the **INSIGHT** platform for which every child has a login; please contact your child's tutor if they do not have this. If you login as a parent or carer, you will be able to see your child's details. Students in Years 7 to 11 should continue to record their independent learning in the diary pages of their student planner.

Ways you can help with reading and mathematics

Your child's literacy and numeracy skills are critical to their long-term development; the importance of daily, personalised practice of reading and mathematics cannot be overstated. When students spend 25 minutes a day reading suitably challenging books, then they will achieve optimal reading age growth. You may not be reading with your child as you did at primary school but you can still support good reading habits. Talk to your child about the books you're both reading. If your child is in Year 7, they will have a login for the Accelerated Reader programme <https://ukhosted66.renlearn.co.uk/2175158/>, which will recommend appropriately challenging books, quiz them on what they have read, and provide them with immediate feedback.

Similarly, students make most progress in maths when they practise little and often. All students in years 7-11 have access to MyMaths (<http://www.mymaths.co.uk/>) [Username: *tallis* Password: *decimal*]. Additionally, all students in years 9-11 have a login for MathsWatch online (<https://www.mathswatchvle.com/>) [Centre ID: *thomas tallis school* Username: *your child's name in the format of first initial and surname, eg JBloggs* Password: *Mathswatch01*].

Key Stage 3 Independent Learning

Expectations

There are published timetables which have been drawn up to allocate KS3 independent learning across all subjects, based on a careful timing for each subject. There is a suggested duration of around 30 minutes per task set in Year 7 and Year 8.

Key Stage 4 Independent Learning

Expectations

It is expected that KS4 students should have between 60 and 90 minutes of independent learning per subject per week. Staff have agreed with students they teach in Years 9, 10 and 11 when independent learning will be set and asked them to record this carefully on in the school planner.

Key Stage 5 Independent Learning

Expectations

It is expected that for every hour of lesson time, students in the post-16 centre will do one hour of independent study at home. Staff will set independent learning that amounts to this quantity and students should note down clearly what is expected in their planners.

Why is independent learning important?

- It can develop *inquisitiveness*, by providing opportunities for long term **research** and other work.
- It can develop *collaboration*, by involving **parents** and others in the learning process and so providing an important **motivational** function.
- It can develop *persistence*, by allowing students to develop their ability to work **independently**.
- It can develop *discipline*, by allowing valuable **practice** and extension of skills, knowledge and understanding learned in the classroom.
- It can develop *imagination*, by allowing students to use materials and **other sources of information** that are not always available in the classroom.

How can parents can help?

Your child will need to work more independently at secondary school than at primary school, but your interest and input will still be important and will help your child to do well.

1. Provide a quiet environment and necessary equipment
2. Have a regular independent learning routine
3. Praise effort, rather than achievement
4. Show an interest
5. Set a good example
6. Monitor: check your child's planner and INSIGHT

