



NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SAMWORTH ACADEMY

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term really is flying by. We have been really proud of the way students have settled in to our new lesson structures. We are still having an issue with punctuality to school. As a result, the negative tariff for lateness will increase to -30 on Kickboard.

After October half term we will refer to homework as Independent Study. All teaching staff will set Independent Study Tasks to ensure that every student makes the necessary progress to achieve their potential. Independent Study Tasks will embed learning that has already taken place in lessons. Departments will publish independent study topic planners for the term ahead so that you can help support your son or daughter in advance with their work. Furthermore, with each topic planner there will also be a knowledge organiser to further support in the completion of any tasks set. This will be a document with information and images to support the original tasks set. After half term all topic planners and knowledge organisers will be accessible on our school website under the parent and student portal.

Key stage 3 (Years 7&8)

Key stage 3 students will have a set timetable for English, Maths and Science only. Other subjects will be set at the teacher's discretion, but all Independent Study tasks should take no longer than 30 minutes. A new initiative will also start after October half term regarding the collection of Independent Study tasks. It will be collected **first thing in the morning** as students enter the building for English, Maths and Science. Other subjects will collect their work during lessons. Please encourage your child to complete these tasks on time and to use their planner to reflect on any work studied throughout the week. Students who complete their work on time will be rewarded for their efforts and will receive positive Kickboard points. Likewise, students who fail this expectation will receive negative points and be issued with a detention on the day of the hand in date in which to complete their work after school. The timetable for collection will be as follows:

Monday morning- English

Tuesday morning- Maths

Wednesday morning- Science

Key Stage 4 (Years 9,10 & 11)

Independent Study for KS4 will be similar to KS3. The only difference is that their tasks may take longer than 30 minutes to ensure students are stretched and challenged. Students will also receive a topic planner and knowledge organiser to support with any work set. All students will have a week to complete their work which will be set and collected in lessons. Additionally, students will also use their student planners to reflect on the tasks set and their learning. Please ensure to spend time to go through your child's planner and sign off each week. Students will be rewarded on Kickboard for work completed but also issued with negative points on Kickboard for not meeting any expectations in regard to quality or completion.

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Thank you for supporting us in this matter, your feedback is extremely important to us. If you have any further questions in response to this letter please do not hesitate to call the school and leave a message with your child's head of year. All students will receive an assembly in the near future to inform them about the changes moving forwards. Attached with this letter is an example of a typical Topic Planner and Knowledge Organiser for KS3 Design and Technology.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Howard
Head of School

Independent learning topic planner

INDEPENDENT LEARNING TASKS				
	Year 7	Project: Name plate project	Subject: Design Technology	
WEEK	Date	Topic-	Resources/ Links	✓
1	9/9/19	Materials used to make products-woods	http://www.technologystudent.com/designpro/natwd1.htm	
2	16/9/19	Health and safety rules in a workshop	http://www.technologystudent.com/saftyfish/safety1.html	
3	23/9/19	Tools for cutting woods	https://www.bhg.com.au/hand-tools	
4	30/9/19	Vacuum Forming-how it is used to make products	http://www.technologystudent.com/equip1/vacform1.htm	
5	7/10/19	Materials used to make products-plastics	http://www.technologystudent.com/designpro/plastic1.htm	
6	14/10/19	Parts of a Pillar drill	https://the-pillar-drill.weebly.com/parts-of-a-pillar-drill.html	
7	21/10/19	Filing & finishing techniques	http://www.technologystudent.com/equip1/hfile1.htm	

Knowledge organiser example:

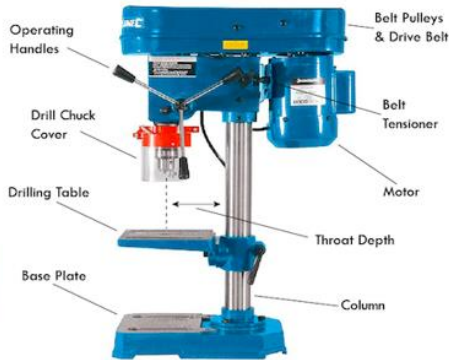
YEAR 7 NAME PLATE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Types of woods

Coniferous trees		Deciduous trees	
- small, needle-like leaves	- broad, flat leaves	- small, needle-like leaves	- broad, flat leaves

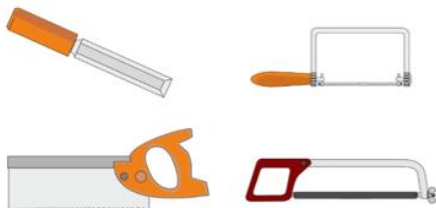
VALUE				PREMIUM					
CHIPBOARD	FIBREBOARD	PLYWOOD	PINE	BEECH	ASH	OAK	MAPLE	WALNUT	MAHOGANY
MANUFACTURED WOODS				SOLID WOODS					

Parts of a Pillar Drill

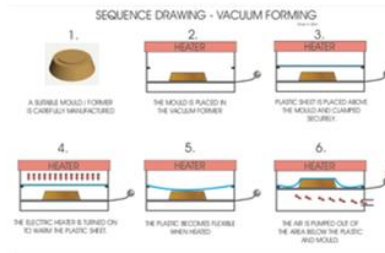


Safety rules in a workshop

Hand tools for cutting wood



Vacuum Forming



Types of plastics

1 PETE	2 HDPE	3 PVC	4 LDPE	5 PP	6 PS	7 OTHER
soft drink bottles, mineral water, food jars, containers and packaging	high density polyethylene	flexible polyvinyl chloride	low density polyethylene	polypropylene	polystyrene	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyurethane, urethane, stone, nylon, titanium
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