

Year 9

Independent Learning  
Project  
(ILP Booklet)

2023-2024

*You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself in any  
direction you choose.  
- Dr Seuss*

# IB LEARNER PROFILE

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

## Reflective

Give thoughtful consideration to your own learning and experience.  
You are able to assess and understand your strengths and limitations in order to support your learning and personal development.

## Open-minded

Understand and appreciate your own culture and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities.

You seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and you are willing to grow from the experience.

## Risk-takers

Approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies.

You are brave and articulate in defending your beliefs.

## Caring

Show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others.

You have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

## Balanced

Understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for yourself and others.



## Principled

Act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities.

You take responsibility for your own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

## Knowledgeable

Explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, you acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

## Inquirers

Have a natural curiosity and learn to acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. You actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

## Communicators

Understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication.

You are willing to work in collaboration with others.

## Thinkers

Exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognise and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

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## **What is the Independent Learning Project?**

The Independent Learning Project is a new project which will develop and extend one or more of your academic subject areas and/or an area of personal interest or activity outside your main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by you and agreed as appropriate by your tutor. The project is personal so therefore it should be on a topic that motivates and interests **you**!

The project will consist of three parts:

- The outcome (what you produce)
- Evidence posts (what you are planning)
- Reflection (evaluating what you have done)

The Independent Learning Project is a mini version of the Extended Essay, which is a compulsory part of the IB diploma that you will do in year 12. The Independent Learning Project will enable you to start to develop the skills needed in order to successfully complete the Extended Essay in year 12. We appreciate that this is quite a daunting task, so don't worry, there are plenty of people that are here to help!

## **What are the aims of the Independent Learning Project?**

The Independent Learning Project aims to encourage and enable students to:

- participate in a sustained, self-directed inquiry
- generate creative new insights and develop deeper understandings through in-depth investigation
- demonstrate the skills, attitudes and knowledge required to complete a project over an extended period of time
- communicate effectively in a variety of situations
- demonstrate responsible action through, or as a result of, learning
- appreciate the process of learning and take pride in their accomplishments
- evaluate the product/outcome and reflect on their project and their learning.

## **What are the requirements of the Independent Learning Project?**

In order to complete your Independent Learning project you will be required to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of your project for formal approval by your form tutor
- plan, research and carry out the project, leading to a written report or alternatively a composition (for example prototype, model, artwork, creative writing)
- provide an evidence post during the process of research and development of the project
- complete a final reflection on your project

## Assessment criteria

Your work will be reviewed based on these criteria:

- A clear, manageable topic has been identified
- An innovative / unusual topic or angle within your project (eg not a topic which has been previously covered in Academic subjects; or collecting your own feedback data using a survey)
- You have produced an investigation (or creative piece) which answers the title of your project
- You can demonstrate through the work produced that you have applied effort in researching and preparing your project
- You have used at least 3 different sources of information to research / develop your ILP
- The ILP is well presented (choice of design, materials, presentation etc)
- You have reflected on your own work in the final reflection using the IB learner profile

To help you complete your project you will spend **every Friday** academic monitoring in the Autumn term working on your research & planning. Your form tutors will deliver sessions to support you with choosing the correct topic, researching and planning.

There are many different ways of carrying out your project, so the requirements will vary from project to project. If your idea doesn't fit into any of these three categories then please speak to your form tutor or Ms Meacher to organise your personal requirements:

**Written pieces = 1000-1500 words**  
**Oral/visual pieces = 5+ minutes long**  
**Composition work = 5+ hours of work**

## Ideas and examples of Independent Learning Projects

A film

A model/prototype

An essay

A filmed play/performance

A report

Examples:

- ★ Asylum seekers and their right to live like us - a play
- ★ Video games as a form of cultural expression - a short film
- ★ The effect of mass media on teenage identity - a short film
- ★ What are the key abilities and attributes needed to become a successful rugby player? - a research essay

- ★ The media - does it affect how you see yourself? - art based project on impact of art/media on body image
- ★ What makes a good football manager - an investigative report
- ★ Recyclable materials and their uses - a dress
- ★ What are the impacts of video games on youth mental health? - an essay
- ★ The joys and struggles of being a member of the LGBTQ+ community - a play

Remember that it is **your** project, so choose something that interests **you!**

### Timeline and deadlines

The ability to organise your own use of time and meet the deadlines set are an essential part of this project. It will mirror the extra freedom and responsibility that you will encounter in your studies in KS4 & KS5.

<b>Mon 16th October</b>	Project introduced in Assembly
<b>Fri 3rd November</b>	<a href="#">Form tutors to share presentations on : How to choose a topic?</a>
<b>Fri 17th November</b>	Deadline for project titles <b>submitted</b> to form tutors (By 24th November, Form tutors to advise on any changes to titles) <a href="#">Form tutor presentation : How to research?</a>
<b>Fri 24th November</b>	<b>All titles should be submitted.</b> Students can write their title on GC assignment marked <u>Title &amp; bibliography</u> , to use throughout the project.
<b>December / January</b> <b>18th December</b>	Planning & researching <a href="#">Evidence post on GC assignment.</a> Fill in by 12th January.
<b>Fri 12th January</b>	<b>Evidence post deadline</b> (on GC assignment)
<b>Fri 19th/26th January</b>	Progress check with form tutors. Ask questions etc
<b>January / February</b>	Creating/producing project
<b>Monday 26 February</b>	<b>ILP complete. Hand in to Tutor</b>
<b>Friday 1 March</b>	Self Reflection sheet handed out and filled during form time. <a href="#">Form Tutor presentation : Assessing ILPs</a> <b>Students will be assigned a peer by Tutor.</b> Each student will use the next <b>two</b> form times to read through their partner's ILP and fill the same reflection sheet.
<b>8th &amp; 15th March 2023</b>	<b>Final reflection post completed</b> Project marking by peers / moderation by tutors. Tutor collects forms back

## **Step-by-step: what do you need to do?**

### **Investigating:**

Define a clear goal for your project  
Base your project on a personal interest  
Create a title for your form tutor to approve  
Research your topic thoroughly

### **Planning:**

Make a plan for your project  
Record all your ideas/steps in your evidence posts  
Make sure you are well-organised  
Stick to deadlines

### **Action:**

Create your project  
Be creative  
Communicate your ideas and consider new ways of doing things  
Contact people and ask for help if needed

### **Reflecting:**

Evaluate the success of the project  
Use the IB learner profile to reflect on your development as a learner  
Assess others' work  
Present your project to peers

## **Choosing your topic**

As you think about what topic to choose, consider the following questions:

- What is something that you have always wanted to learn, but your lessons don't give you the opportunity to do so?
- What problem or query would you like to solve?
- How do you like to express yourself? Written? Visually? Performing?
- Will your project have an impact on your life? The school? A community?

**Keep your project manageable! We are not asking you to find the meaning of life!**




*How did the age, gender and race of American voters influence their decisions in the American elections in 2020? - an essay.*

*Me speaking Greek - a short film*

## Researching- What is it? How to do it?

The number and type of resources will vary depending upon the nature of your project; however, to reach the highest levels of achievement through investigating, you must select a range of sources and a variety of source types. Your ability to evaluate the reliability of sources should be developed.

There are lots of resources in school (teachers, books, students) that can assist you as well as the Internet.



# EVALUATING RESOURCES

Authority:	Accuracy:	Currency:	Bias:
Who is responsible for presenting the information?	Is the information precise, can it be proven and verified?	How old is this information and is this important?	Is the information based on facts, things we can observe or based more on opinions, emotions? Is it from just one point-of-view?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who has written the information and can we check their qualifications?</li> <li>Is the information from an 'expert' in this field?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the information correct?</li> <li>Can we check the accuracy of information through links, footnotes or bibliography?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When was the information written?</li> <li>Has the information been revised or updated and if so, when?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who has written the information and can we check their qualifications?</li> <li>Is the information from an 'expert' in this field?</li> </ul>



## Planning

In order to successfully complete the Independent Learning Project you are going to have to be organised and plan your time carefully. You may find the following two planning sheets helpful. One sheet is to help you prioritise what you want to complete in each Friday session, and what work you may need to do outside of school. The other sheet will help you when you start to put your project together, using all your knowledge and research.

Approved title of my project is:		
Date	During Friday a/m	Outside of school
17th November	Presentation - How to research	
November/ 18th December	Evidence post assignment uploaded on GC (Topic marked ILP)	
Winter holiday		
12th January	Evidence post due	
January		
19th/26th January	Progress check with tutor	
February		
Half Term		
26th February (Mon)		Hand in your complete ILP to your Tutor

### Planning sheet

Title of my project:
Desired outcome(s) of my project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
Previous knowledge on topic:
Research - what have I learnt?
Introduction of the project: (use your desired outcomes and previous knowledge)
Main body: (What have you learnt? How does this help you answer your question?)
Conclusion: (What have you found out after doing your research and answering your question?)

## Evidence Posts

Throughout the project you will need to keep an evidence log of all your findings and your progress. **A GC assignment marked 'Evidence post/research' has been created for you to fill & share with your form tutor,** who will track what you have been doing. You will need to have completed this **evidence post** to pass the project. **Due 12th January.**  
Below there are questions for you to consider when filling it in:

Evidence Post:

- How did you feel when you first heard about the project?
- What topic have you chosen? How did you come to the decision to choose this topic?
- What do you already know about your topic?
- How are you going to present your topic?
- Have you encountered any difficulties?
- What research have you conducted? Please provide examples e.g. screenshots or notes.
- Have you found it difficult to research your topic? How did you organise planning your research?
- What skills have you had to use in order to conduct your research?
- What steps do you still need to take in order to complete your project?

This evidence post doesn't have to be in the form of a block of writing, it could include:

1. Bullet points
2. Mind maps
3. Illustrations
4. Photos of your project
5. Screenshots of research you've conducted

## Reflecting

The final part of the project is a Self Reflection. You will do this in form time once you have completed your project. Your reflection should be **approximately 100- 200 words** and you **must use the IB learner profile in your reflection.** Here are some questions that will help you with your reflection:

- Are you pleased with your project?
- Have you got the outcome that you wanted?
- What have been your strengths? And your weaknesses?
- If you were to do the project again, would you do anything differently? Why?
- What have you learned about your topic from this project?
- What have you learned about yourself from completing the Independent Learning Project?

## Assessment Criteria

You will be assessing each other's work. Here is the criteria of your assessment:

Evaluate:	Met criteria?	Not met criteria?
Has the student achieved/answered the title of their project?		
Does the finished project reflect that a reasonable level of effort has gone into the creation of the ILP?		
Is the focus or design of the ILP innovative?		
Research / sources: Have at least 3 been used to prepare the ILP?		
Presentation: Has the ILP been appropriately presented		
How well does the student reflect on their work using the IB learner profile?		

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