

Brymore
experience to last a lifetime



Year 8 Independent Learning Booklet

Your gateway to improving your engagement with learning

“Independent learning is pupils having an understanding of their learning; being motivated to take responsibility for their learning; and working with teachers to structure their learning environment.” (Independent Learning - Literature Review. Retrieved from Department for Children, Schools and Families).

“A lot of people never use their initiative because no-one told them to” (Banksy).

DILIGENTIA ET LABORE

Year 8 Independent Learning Booklet

How to use this booklet

Once you have completed the tasks allocated by your teacher on Show My Homework, you can use this booklet to ensure that you have studied for at least one hour per school day.

These activities are independent projects that will allow you to consolidate and extend your knowledge.

Please take your independent learning into school when we re-open, to share with your teachers.

PHSRE: Genius Hour

This is your opportunity to select an area of interest and create an interesting display of your knowledge.

You need to make sure you are ready for your first PHSRE lesson, to show off what you have done

English

Spelling: See the following pages for support.

Reading: Use AR bookfinder and your ZPD to find the right books for you and then complete the quizzes.

Select an area of English and complete the online activities on grammar, reading, writing or vocabulary.

[https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/activities-for-learners/ Spelling](https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/activities-for-learners/Spelling)

Word Search: Create your own word searches using your spellings words or use this link to get your computer to do it for you: <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp>

Air Spelling: Choose a spelling word.

With your index finger write the word in the air slowly, say each letter. Your partner needs to remind you that you need to be able to 'see' the letters you have written in the air. When you have finished writing the word underline it and say the word again.

Now get your partner to ask you questions about the word. For example: they could ask 'What is the first letter?', 'What is the last letter?' 'How many letters are there?' etc...

Media Search: Using a newspaper or magazine you have fifteen minutes to look for your spelling words. Circle them in different coloured crayons. Which of your spellings words was used the most times?

Pyramid Power: Sort your words into a list from easiest to hardest. Write the easiest word at the top of the page near the middle. Write the next easiest word twice underneath. Write the third word three times underneath again until you have built your pyramid.

Story time: Write a short story using all your words. Don't forget to check your punctuation!

Simple Sentence: Write a sentence for each of your words. Remember each sentence must start with a capital letter and end with a full stop.

Colourful words: Use two different coloured pens to write your words, one to write the consonants and one to write your vowels. Do this a couple of times then write the while word in one colour.

Memory Game: Make pairs of word cards. Turn them all over and then mix them up. Flip over two cards. If they match you get to keep them. If not, you have to turn them over again. Try to match all the pairs.

Ambidextrous: Swap your pen into the hand that you don't normally write with. Now try writing out your spellings with that hand.

Missing Letters: Ask a partner to write out one of your words lots of times on a piece of paper, but each time they have to miss out a letter or two. Then you have to fill in the missing letters. After you have checked them all try it again with another word.

Listen carefully: Ask your partner to spell out one of your words; then you have to say what the word is they've spelt out.

Acrostic: Use word that start with each letter in your spelling word. You are more likely to remember it if it makes sense.

Spell - a - doodle: Create a picture and use your spelling words to fill in the detail. Each word must be written three times, e.g. a picture of clouds would have the lines formed with spelling words. You can add to the challenge by giving specific picture topics.

Yr8 Takeaway Tasks (see how many you can do)

The Art of Fiction	Romeo and Juliet	Dystopian fiction
Create your own travel map based on a book you are reading to show the characters' journeys	Create a family performance of your favourite scene from Romeo and Juliet using props and costume. Film it and host an awards ceremony!	Design a gadget that will change the world for better or worse. Draw the design and create a fact file or label it with key info and stats.
Create a postcard from a famous character or one from the novel you are reading in class. Design an interesting image for the front; explain their experiences on the back in no more than 20 words.	Script an alternative ending for the play OR the opening to a sequel. Can you mirror Shakespeare's style and use of techniques?	Create a newspaper front cover reporting on the biggest disaster to affect the world: what would make a newsworthy event? Will the tone be celebratory or critical?
Design and make a board game based on your class novel or your favourite book. Write the instructions then get friends and family to play it.	Research Shakespeare's biography. Use the information to create a poster or leaflet to teach younger students about his life and work.	Script an interview between you and the Prime Minister of Great Britain: what would you ask him? What would his answers be? How will you capture his personality and voice?

Wordsmiths Takeaway Tasks

(based on the books you are reading right now!)

Come up with at least 10 questions you would want to ask the writer of the book you are reading.	Explain to a Year 7 student at least 3 ways to begin a good story and give an example. Try to include ideas from the stories you've read recently.	Design a storyboard to show the plot of the book you are reading. Select at least 6 key moments.
Compare the last two stories you've read in terms of themes, character, plot and setting	Select your favourite character from the book you are reading and explain how you feel about them.	Write 3 different endings to the book you are reading (happy, sad and cliff-hanger)
Design a creative front cover for the book you are reading. Including title, pictures, blurb and reviews.	Choose a character from one of the short stories studied and write their biography.	Create a piece of artwork linked to the book you are reading and explain the links.

People and Places Takeaway Tasks

(how many non-fiction activities can you do?)

Choose somewhere you would like to visit one day. Research it and then make an advertising poster which encourages other people to go there too.	Create an information leaflet on a place that you know well, making sure you provide accurate historical information as well as accurate up-to-date information about what you can see/do there now.	Write a poem or rap about a place you know well.
Research and produce a biography of one of the non-fiction writers you have studied in class e.g. Bill Bryson.	Watch a Ted Talk where a person gives a persuasive speech about a topic you care about (ask your teacher for some recommendations if you need help). Write a review of the talk	Research children's charities in the UK today. What judgements can you make about how they advertise/promote their work? Write a review of what you find.
Research and then create a two minute news story suitable for BBC Newsround for a topic you care about that is in the news at the moment.	Write a magazine article about a journey you have been on. This could be a train ride/plane journey/boat trip etc. Decide if you want your article to be entertaining or factual and then adapt your tone and style accordingly	Has the internet/social media changed the way that we access information? What is the problem of 'fake news'? Write a blog post exploring the advantages and disadvantages of the internet.

Maths

- Go to Hegerty maths and try the workouts to support your development of 'struggle areas'. Watch the screen casts and try the questions.

Science

Pick one of the tasks below to review what you have learnt during the topics you have covered in your prep tasks on Show My Homework.

- Pick a topic you have worked on (Chemistry, Biology, Physics)
- Design an activity which the class could use to study this topic
- Write a summary paragraph without using the keywords
- Write a newspaper article explaining how this topic is relevant in everyday life
- Research an example of this topic from everyday life
- Explain the top 5 facts
- Summarise this lesson/topic into an explanation a Year 6 could understand
- Write an exam question and mark scheme
- Draw a graph to show a pattern/ trend in the data
- Describe a practical that could be used to test a theory
- Draw a flow chart to explain a theory/process/ practical

- Find a picture or diagram to label and annotate
- Use 6 keywords in a paragraph
- Make a revision mind map/ poster
- Summarise this lesson/topic as Tweet of under 280 characters
- Define 5 keywords
- Make a revision card
- List 8 keywords

PE & Games

- Create an information sheet for someone who has never played the sport you are doing in PE. You must include key skills/techniques/rules for playing this sport.
- You work in the leisure centre in Bridgwater. You are a recreation assistant (someone who takes money / sets up equipment / talks to the public / runs children's parties / etc.). What qualities do you think you need to have to be a good recreation assistant? Why do you think you need these qualities?
- Design the sports kit. Your task is to design the sports kit for school. List what kit you would include (think about the time of year too), where the logo will go, etc. Draw your designs (you do not need to be amazing at drawing but label them so we can see clearly, what you mean). Can you explain why you have chosen this kit in relation to keeping costs down, looking smart, considering the weather? • Write a diary entry about one of your performances in PE explain your strengths and weaknesses.
- Watch a sporting fixture on TV or the internet and create a 1-page report on the event/result. You may include photographs in your report if you wish.

Computing

- Typing practise, using websites such as www.nitrotype.com or www.typingtest.com
- Complete Hour of Code activities on <https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn>

Design Technology

- Design your ideal eco-friendly vehicle of the future, making sure it is practical
- Draw a diagram of your vehicle and label it
- If you can, make a model of it using recyclable materials

Land Based

- Find pictures of your ideal garden and create a collage of your favourite plants
- Design a garden of your own
- Pick one vegetable you would like to grow and see if you can plant, grow and harvest it at home
- Take photos of your plant as it grows and keep a diary of its progress.
- Measure your plant every day and keep a record of its growth
- Note down when you water your plant, if and when you add fertiliser and see the difference it makes

History

- Counterfactual history, also sometimes referred to as virtual history, attempts to answer “what if” questions known as counterfactuals.
- Choose an event in History. It can be something you have previously studied, have an interest in or want to find out about.
- Produce a project to answer your question. Think about the short-term and long term changes. Consider the impact locally, nationally and internationally.
- You can choose one of the counterfactual questions provided or come up with your own. This ‘virtual history’ is an excellent Genius Hour project.

- What if the Black Death had never occurred?
- What if Henry VIII had stayed married to Catherine of Aragon?
- What if Napoleon had succeeded in invading Russia?
- What if WWII had ended with nuclear attacks on Berlin, Hamburg, and Munich?
- What if Christopher Columbus never sailed west?
- What if the RMS Lusitania was not sunk by a German U-Boat in 1915?
- What if President John F Kennedy survived the assassination attempt?
- What if Hitler had decided not to invade Russia?
- What if the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand had failed?
- What if the Vikings successfully colonized the east coast of North America?

PSHRE

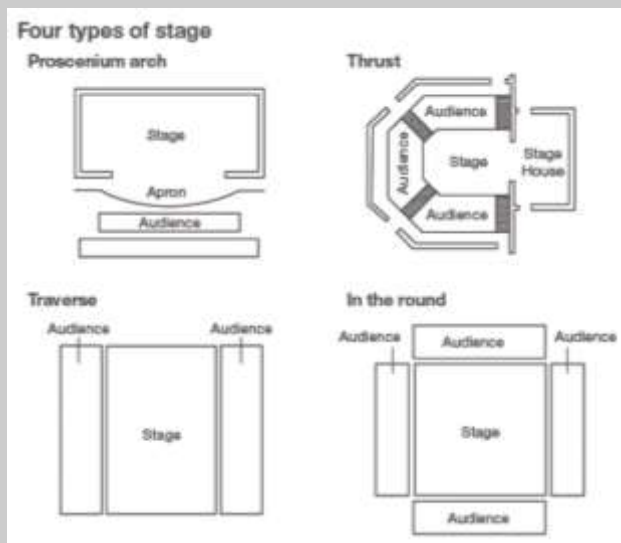
- Judaism. To research and write about the effects of the Holocaust. This can be presented as a power point, short film, creative writing, research on an individual. This is to be finished by the time you return.
- To research and look in detail at Christian places of pilgrimage. To produce a detailed document on a chosen place of pilgrimage. To produce a tourist brochure explaining about the main features of the chosen pilgrimage site. To be creative in how you present your research eg diaries, short film/documentary.
- To research and write about Hinduism and the environment and the Hindu attitude towards animals.
- This can be presented as a power point, short film, detailed report.

Music

- Learn and practice a musical instrument, or do some singing.
- Listen to some new music online, through an app, or on the radio.
- Write your own song lyrics as a start to composing your own song.
- Write a rhythmic round using either note values, or words.
- Research how many composers have written a piece about the planets or space. You can include film music in your research

Drama

- Using one of these stage ideas design a set and props and for a production of:
 - Any Shakespeare play you have studied
 - A book that you have read that has been turned into a play/film
 - A play that you have seen in the theatre
 - OR choose the stage directions from any play to start you off...
- Remember to include levels, colours, shapes and textures in your design
- Explain why you have chosen the staging configuration that you have in terms of audience experience.



- Take the following stage directions and decide upon the type of lighting, sound effects and props you might include for each one...
- Explain HOW you will make these sounds: musical instruments, household objects, use of your body/voice.
- In the Mediterranean, a warm night, by the sea, sunset, palm trees, local music and people eating outside restaurants.
- Early morning, foggy, cold and wet underfoot, city centre, deserted except urban wildlife, muffled echoing of footsteps and whispered voices.
- A carnival in Rio de Janeiro, busy with people, dancing and singing, bright sunshine, laughter, music and a rhythmic beat.
- A football stadium on cup final day, huge crowds, cheering and jeering, singing, shouting, flags waving

Director's Task

- IMAGINE that you are directing the following extract from the text 'Flood' by James Phillips:
- READ it carefully before you start. The scene is set in a boat at sea.
- THINK about casting your characters: age, gender, stature, and costumes first
- NOW, use the script and annotate it with how you would want the actors to use
- Facial expression
- Body language

- Gesture

- Voice

- Movement

Flood

In the boat, at one end, sits Ingrid. At the other now, the Captain. The Captain, guiding the boats back towards the Holy Island.

Ingrid What were you doing?

Captain Diving.

Ingrid You weren't down so long.

Captain Yeah.

Ingrid How do you live?

Captain Practise

Ingrid What's down there?

Captain The City.

Ingrid *(looks overboard)* Beneath the sea?

Captain Yeah. Things we can use down there. I bring them up.

Ingrid Where are you taking me?

Captain Look -

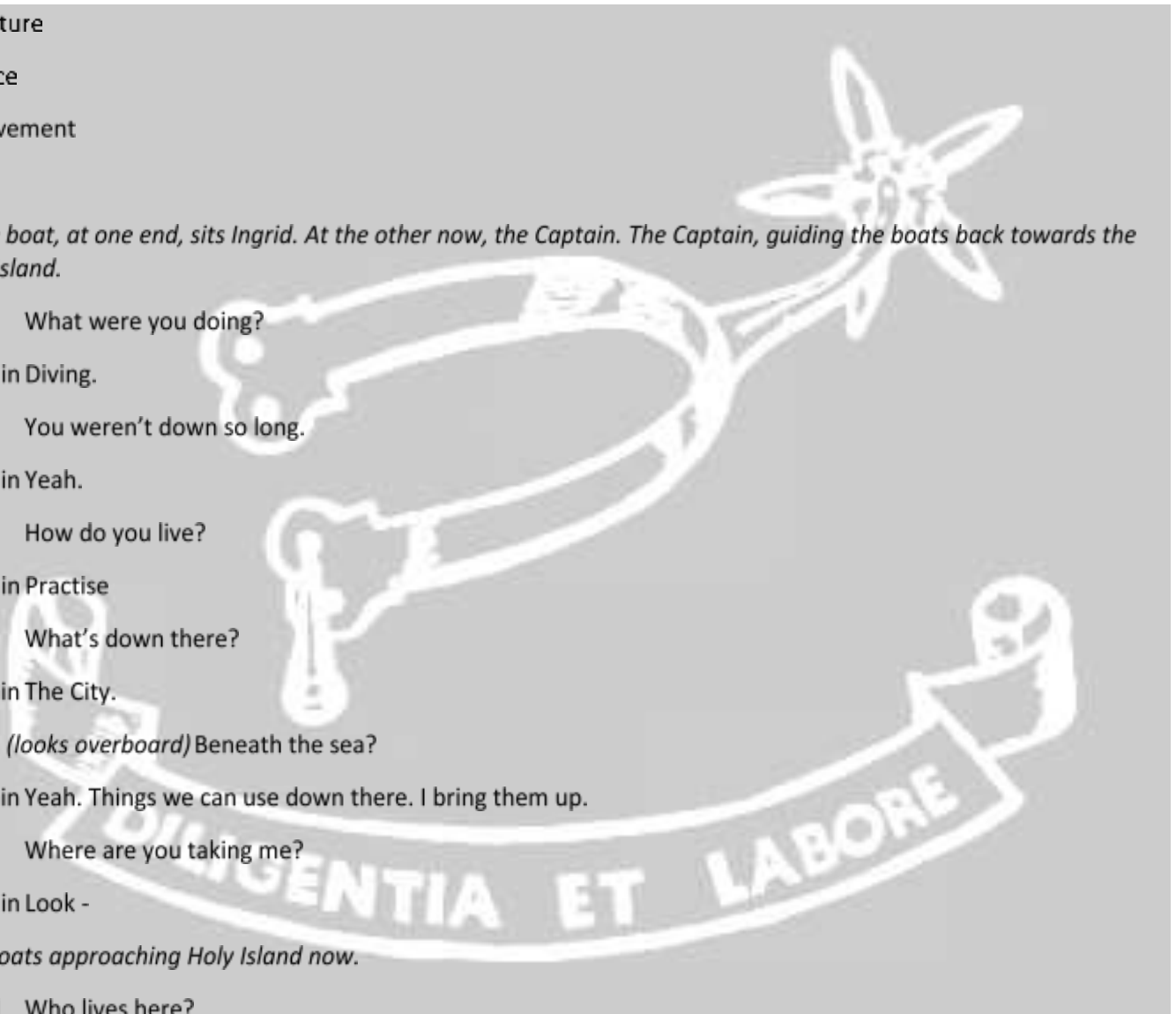
The boats approaching Holy Island now.

Ingrid Who lives here?

Captain Survivors.

Ingrid Your family?

Captain I have no family



Art

The Surrealists used everyday objects in their art. Try the following:

- Create your own Surreal object using two things that don't usually go together.
- Choose an object that you use every day and draw it. Find out who invented and designed it.



Business and Economics

Market research

- Matt is thinking of starting up a new business as a dog groomer. He either wants to buy a van which he could kit out as a grooming parlour and drive around to customers' homes, or he will rent a small unit in Bridgwater. He thinks he ought to do some research beforehand so is planning to complete a questionnaire with the clients of a local vet but he doesn't know what to ask. The questionnaire will be given to potential customers to find out about them and their preferences.
- Write a questionnaire for Matt with 6 to 8 multiple choice questions. You might want to consider including questions about the service on offer, the price charged, where he should offer the services and how he should advertise it.

International Trade

- Do some research to find out where the products we use in this country come from. For example, where do we get bananas from? Are cars made in this country or other countries?
- Either make a list of show your findings pictorially on a map.

Business & Economics News

- Look on the BBC Website at the Business or Economy news. Find an article that looks interesting and write a 100 word summary of it. Try to explain the article to somebody else over the next week.

Careers

- Log on to Unifrog: Go to Careers Library, Search by keyword e.g. Computer Games, research different careers. For one career read the guide and create a poster about that job including skills, qualifications required, salary.
- Create an A - Z of different skills and qualities that are important for the career you have researched
- Log onto Unifrog and complete the Careers Terminology activity
- Create a list of 30 things you would like to achieve by the time you are 30.
- Think about how these activities help develop skills and qualities required for the career you have researched
- Interview an adult about their career path including finding out information about 'the best job they ever did'.
- Use the following questions to help you get started:
 - What was your first job?
 - What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you at work?
 - What is the best job you have ever done?
 - Choose one job and explain the skills and qualities you need to demonstrate in order to be successful.
 - What advice would you give to your 13 year old self about careers?

Geography

The UK's Past, Present & Future

- **Changes to Farming** - better or worse? How has farming changed and how will it change in the future? Look back to the 1950s and compare with the industrial farming practices of today. Is farming better now than it was? Were our diets healthier in the 1950s?

OR... **The Future of Food.** How will farming change by 2050? Will we still be rearing animals for meat and dairy and growing crops in fields, or will food be grown in laboratories and high rise urban farms? Will insects be a future source of protein for our growing population? Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, a fictional menu from a futuristic restaurant, a video or animation

- **Welcome to my World!** - Use Google Maps (Streetview, aerial photographs), and Bing maps (OS maps) to create a piece of work about your home city/town/ village. Research how the settlement grew and conduct fieldwork to study the character of the houses and services in your area. Use census data to find out who lives in your neighbourhood. Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, annotated maps and pictures, graphs of data, a video documentary featuring interviews with local residents

- **Somerset 10,000BC.** - What was Somerset like 12,000 years ago? Explain how the people living here at this time were living. What would they have worn/eaten/lived in? How was their environment changing at the end of the last glacial period?

OR...

- **Where did Stonehenge come from?** - Research who built Stonehenge and the latest theories for how the massive bluestones got all the way to Salisbury from Wales. Was it ancient Britons, glaciers, or aliens that moved the stones?! Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, short story, video or animation, annotated map

Living with the Biosphere

- **Does the UK need more trees?** - Pick a research question/s and produce a piece of work on it: Where are the major forest areas of the UK, and how much forest does the UK have now compared to 1000 years ago? What is urban forestry and should we do more of it? How does the UK compare to other European countries in terms of the amount of forest? Should we plant more forests to offset our carbon emissions and if so, where? Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, written report

- **Rainforests under threat** - How can rainforests be saved? Use your knowledge from lessons to suggest a realistic solution for protecting the rainforests - either 15 ideas that give the rainforests value, or improving the way forests are monitored. Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, written report, letter to the President of Brazil/Indonesia

- **Cleaning up the oceans** - Ocean pollution threatens ocean ecosystems and food chains which billions of people around the world rely on for food and jobs. Research the various ways in which humans are polluting the oceans (chemicals, sewage, plastic waste) and then produce a piece of work about it, including suggestions for how we can save the oceans. Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, written report

Global Cities and Hazards

- **Megacities of the Future.** Where are the fastest growing cities today? Where will the biggest cities be in 2030? Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, a video/animation

- **The most dangerous city!** Research which cities in the world are the most dangerous to live in – look at natural hazards, but also things like crime statistics and disease.

OR...

- **The most eco-friendly city!** Research cities that are finding ways of improving their environmental impacts: waste recycling, eco building design, renewable energy, cutting pollution, increasing green areas and wildlife. Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, annotated map

- **Slums of the Future** - Design a sustainable community to rehome slum dwellers. It needs to be cheap and include places for work as well as living, plus some eco options for energy, water supply and sanitation. Options include: wall display, PowerPoint, annotated map

- **Life-safe Cities** - Research how buildings can be made earthquake proof – both rich and poor. Design an earthquake proof neighbourhood. Options include: annotated map, diagrams, computer model (Minecraft?!)