

Re: Independent Learning Portfolios

Dear year 11 students,

As you are aware, your teachers are now working on providing a grade for each of your GCSEs based on your work over the last two years and will no longer be setting you GCSE work to complete at home. This means that you can now move forward and start to prepare yourselves for the **next stage of your education**.

It is important for us to ensure that you don't lose your **curiosity for learning** and that you are **well-equipped** to cope with your **chosen path in September**. As such, we are very excited to be launching a **series of projects made exclusively for you** to help bridge the unexpectedly long gap you now have between year 11 and year 12.

These projects will help you to develop an 'Independent Learning Portfolio' for you to take with you to 6th form/college enrolment days, and are designed to:

- Evidence your independent learning skills
- Provide a foundation for your KS5 courses
- Allow you to access an enriching curriculum despite school closures

Each department at APA has created a variety of projects which will **broaden your horizons academically, culturally, and sometimes philosophically**, so that you can feel both inspired and motivated about the next step in your education.

Please read the details in this pack carefully before getting started.

What will my Independent Learning Portfolio include?

You will select **four** different projects from **four** different subjects based on your interests and ambitions for September. You must choose **one of each** from three different styles of project:

1. Building a knowledge-base – learn, understand & apply new knowledge
2. Reading around the subject – read an inspiring text that gives you a new perspective
3. Discursive writing – research & respond in detail to a 'big question'

Each project requires **approximately 10 hours** of learning time and includes a variety of tasks, with **regular mini-deadlines** to help you keep on top of them.

How do I choose my projects?

You can see the topic of each project in the **grid attached** to help you choose, and all projects are now available to view on your **Year 11 Google Classroom** ([Click This Link](#)).

You may notice that not all of the subjects you plan to study in year 12 have projects available, especially if you don't plan on remaining at APA e.g. Health & Social Care; in this instance you should choose projects that are closely linked to your chosen pathway – subjects that are relevant to a broad range of other courses are business, media and, social sciences. Please speak with Ms Bingham if you need any guidance on what to pick.

Once you have chosen your four projects, you should complete the **Google Form** ([Click this link](#)) so that your teachers know which projects you have chosen, and can start to help you with them. In the Google Form, you will also be given the option of having each project

printed and posted to your home if that makes things easier. **Please complete this by Wednesday 6th May at the latest.**

How do I manage my time?

It is **your responsibility** to complete these projects over the summer term.

As mentioned above, each project gives you regular mini-deadlines throughout so that you can 'check-in' with your teacher and get some feedback about whether you're on the right track. It is **your choice**, however, on when you meet each of these deadlines. You could:

- Complete 3 hours per day of the same project for one week, then move onto the next and so on

OR

- Complete 3 hours of a different project each day over the course of four weeks

You should try to finish them when your GCSE exams would have finished so that you get to enjoy the well-deserved long summer holiday. But, ultimately, the official deadline is GCSE results/enrolment day on **20th August** when you should bring all four projects with you, because the projects will form part of your '**Probation Passport**' into year 12. This is the system we have in place to **assess your suitability for APA sixth form** and your chosen subjects in the first three weeks of September.

Finally, there is the potential for you to gain extra one-to-one guidance and support with these projects from a group of **university tutors** who are offering their services for **free** during this time: <https://coronavirustutoring.co.uk/>

What's in it for me?

We have already mentioned how important these projects are in ensuring that you do not miss out on the education you deserve, and in preparing you appropriately for your next steps. But we also hope that you find inspiration in the projects and feel motivated to explore the subject further in September. As such, we will be rewarding the best projects with cash prizes! The top ten projects will receive **£50** for their independent efforts and academic engagement.

So...get choosing and get studying!

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Watts and Ms G Bingham

Year 11-12 Independent Learning Portfolio: Project Outlines

Projects are available to look through fully on your [Year 11 Google Classroom](#). Once chosen, complete the [Google Form](#) to tell us your selection.

Subject	Building a knowledge-base	Reading around the subject*	Discursive writing
<p style="text-align: center;">Art</p> <p>p.solari@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Still life has a rich place in art history; for as long as people have been creating visual work, there has been a desire to record the things that we own. It can also show us a new way of looking at the ordinary objects around us. Through this project you will complete a range of both practical and research tasks designed to hone your skills and develop your creativity.</p>	<p>The paint brush is mightier than the sword! Edward Bulwer-Lytton suggested that communication, particularly writing, is a more effective tool than direct violence. But could it be the paint brush? Explore ten artworks by a range of artists that were produced to reflect, challenge and comment on key moments of conflict, politics and social change within the last century.</p>	<p>A room with a view! Landscape can capture a beautiful moment and document natural events that others may never see. In the second half of the 20th century, the definition of landscape was challenged by urban and industrial landscapes, and artists began to use less traditional media. Through this project you are going to compare and contrast two artists' work in relation to this.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Business</p> <p>e.fennell@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Understanding the Business World: This independent research will provide you with an opportunity to form opinions, understand different aspects, and consider other perspectives of the business world.</p>	<p>Shoe Dog - this reading project will provide you the opportunity to understand the path to business success from the perspective of Nike's founder!</p>	<p>Introduction to Retailing - research the importance of retailing in the UK and how it is the final part of the supply chain, before products and services reach the end customer.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">English</p> <p>p.melicher@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>The Significance of English Literature: consider the emergence of literature linked to colonialism, the political landscape, identity and culture, and discover who and what determines whether a text has literary value, including the role of critical theories.</p>	<p>This project is centred around instilling the pleasure of reading literature. It provides you with the opportunity to choose one of 5 texts ranging from timeless classics to modern day fiction, a choice of text driven by your interests and passion for literature.</p>	<p>How and why has the portrayal of women in literature transformed over time and where will it go next? - discover more and develop opinions about the journey of literary female characters over 500+ years: from the oppressed and ostracised, through to the more nuanced, and eventually powerful women of contemporary literature.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">French</p> <p>l.mcmillan@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Understanding the Francophone Culture: become an expert in their culture, history, society and politics. Whether you are fascinated by why the French eat snails and frogs' legs or what happened in the French revolution - there is a topic that will interest you in this project.</p>	<p>When we think of films or going to the cinema, we think of Hollywood, blockbusters, Universal Studios but there is so much more out there to explore. In this project you will watch and analyse a famous French film that contains powerful information about the history of the country.</p>	<p>The Occupation of France during WWII. A large part of France was taken over by the Nazis. It radically changed people's lives and had a significant impact on France as we know it today. Explore what life was like in France during the Nazi occupation and how the Resistance movement fought to save their nation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Geography</p> <p>a.perez@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Physical Geography: dive deep into the world's natural, enlighten yourself on the more complex nature of the natural world, investigate how natural phenomenon shape the lives of humans.</p>	<p>CHANGING PLACES! In this project you will engage with how places are known and experienced, how their character is appreciated, the factors and processes which impact upon places and how they change and develop over time. Appreciate how our lives are affected by continuity and change in the nature of places.</p>	<p>GLOBALISATION! This project will take you through: How globalisation impacts you and others; How globalisation creates "winners and losers"; How globalisation can be a force for good socially, economically and environmentally, but also how globalisation has been detrimental to people and places.</p>

<p>History b.forsyth@arkputneyacademy.org and k.jacob@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Exploring Empires: How has our world been shaped by empires? Has Britain been tarnished by its' empire? Research the Imperial World and explore three different empires that have been hugely influential to modern times.</p>	<p>Read the true stories of survival from the men, women and children who experienced the Holocaust first hand. You will read extracts from 'Forgotten Voices of the Holocaust' to learn about the struggles people faced, as well as the positive stories of hope, love and faith in spite of a period of extreme sadness, hostility and desperation.</p>	<p>What is the American Dream? And is it more of a reality now than ever before? Or under Trumps rule has it become an even more distant dream? For this assignment you will research the American Dream over the last 100 years and build up to answering the question: How has the American Dream changed?</p>
<p>Maths n.cameron@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Learn how to use Desmos, an online graphing software, to not only strengthen your coordinate geometry but also create your own mathematical art work.</p>	<p>Once upon a time mathematics was something you read and debated and not just a set of processes to carry out. Read "The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets" and learn about a variety of mathematical concepts within a beloved animated sitcom.</p>	<p>Name a male mathematician. Now try and name a female one. Much harder, isn't it? Our curriculum is dominated by the contributions of male mathematicians and in the UK in 2019, only 37% of those studying mathematics at university level were female. Are boys better than girls at maths?</p>
<p>Media f.harvey@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Learn how to analyse and critically decode the media that surrounds you! - engage with different forms of media across four frameworks; media language, industry, audience and representation.</p>	<p>Read and respond to the book 'Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race' - examine the often-dismissed problem of racism in Britain and gain insight into how it might be overcome.</p>	<p>Are media audiences active or passive consumers? - consider what impact the media has on our emotions, behaviours and attitudes.</p>
<p>Product Design m.long@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Fashion and Textiles requires you to engage in both practical and theoretical study. This project requires you to research technical skills and knowledge key to the industry, investigating materials and techniques that we often take for granted. You will also explore existing fashion designers so you can recognise key features of their work.</p>	<p>Arts and Crafts to the Apple watch; over a century of design innovation. Read and research key moments in design history over the last 150 years which have all inspired and enriched contemporary design.</p>	<p>Delve deep into modern fashion and how manufacturing in the fashion industry as a whole is contributing to the world we live in. This assignment has been designed around the award-winning documentary 'the true cost' which gives a very honest and raw look on the fashion industry.</p>
<p>Spanish l.simpson@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>Understanding the Hispanic culture: become an expert in their culture, history, society and politics. Have you ever wondered where the idea of tapas came from, or which drug cartel in South America is the most dangerous or how Zara has become so famous? Choose something you will find fascinating and learn more about the Spanish speaking world.</p>	<p>When we think of films or going to the cinema, we think of Hollywood, blockbusters, Universal Studios but there is so much more out there to explore. In this project you will watch and analyse a famous Spanish film that contains powerful information about the history of divided Spain.</p>	<p>The Spanish Civil War was a bloody war fought in Spain between 1936 and 1939. It has been described as a mini "World War II" and led the establishment of Franco's dictatorship. The Civil War and Franco's Dictatorship have shaped Spain as we know it today. Research, analyse and write about this key historical event.</p>
<p>Sport j.hayden@arkputneyacademy.org</p>	<p>What is Sport Science? Sport Science is a relatively new academic discipline but one that has received serious funding because it enables us to enhance human sporting performance. Find out what is</p>	<p>Tyson Fury: Behind the Mask - this reading project will provide you the opportunity to begin to discover how real life issues can effect anyone regardless of</p>	<p>Fitness training and programming - take on the role of a personal trainer and explore how to make judgements on a specific individual's current lifestyle and then suggest modifications to help</p>

	involved from biomechanics to sports psychology.	your level of success and how you can come back.	improve the individual's fitness, health and overall well-being.
Science – Biology c.duffy@arkputneyacademy.org	Life is formed as a result of interactions between the basic elements. An understanding of these biochemicals is essential to understanding biology. This knowledge booklet will teach you the fundamental basics of biology	We are made of seven billion billion billion atoms, the constituent elements of which would cost £96,546.79 on the open market (excluding VAT). This is just one example of the facts and figures that make up the Human body. Read 'The Body' and complete the review tasks to become a fact genius!	Humans have only been on the planet for 1/19000th of the time that life has existed on Earth for. So how did humans come to exist on Earth? How did humans evolve from their common ancestors? Perhaps more importantly, how did life change from a single-celled organism to the 10 million + organisms that now live on Earth?
Science – Chemistry n.dmello@arkputneyacademy.org	Chemistry in the Real World: Chemistry is fundamental to our place in the Universe. All life forms depend greatly on chemistry for their survival, including us. From the chemicals that make up our body to the chemical reactions that keep our planet going – Chemistry is all around us, so learn how!	So how many elements are there? I do not know, and neither does anyone else. We have no idea what the limit might be. This is just one reason why scientific research is still so important and how past and present discoveries have changed the way we view the world. This book will look at the fundamentals that make up our Universe: the elements.	With global warming, deforestation, fertilizer runoff and plastic waste piled up as high as skyscrapers, chemists face an unprecedented responsibility to be environmentally conscious. This project researches the ways chemistry has become more environmentally friendly.
Science – Physics s.walker@arkputneyacademy.org	Physics plays a key role in the future progress of humankind. It generates fundamental knowledge needed for the future technological advances that will continue to drive the economic engines of the world. This knowledge booklet will teach you about some applications of Physics in the real world.	The science of Physics itself is as old as the ancient Greeks and as new as MASA and CERN. It looks at everything from the smallest scale of the quarks and electrons that make up matter, to the largest – the universe; and now some physicists believe there may be many Universes. This book will look at the fundamentals of Physics.	Why is quantum Physics such a revolution in physics? Quantum physics/mechanics is one of the two major revolutions in physics at the turn of the last century. It has transformed the way physicists look at everything. Moving from the classical physics of Newton and determinism, to probability. No maths, just elements.
Social Sciences – Sociology and Psychology m.boocock@arkputneyacademy.org	How is the Social World Changing? Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is: society does not remain static; it constantly changes – through decades, centuries; and across countries, societies. Learn about the influential factors of social class, population, crime and much much more.	Natives. Discover how hip-hop artist Akala experiences growing up in London poor, mixed race and politicised in 1980/90 Britain. Does structural racism determine the life chances of non-whites? Why do most people in Britain today remain convinced that the empire was a force for good in the world? How does a bookish youth with dreams of becoming a scientist turn, in just a few years, into a knife-carrying teenager?	Discuss how far depression can be explained through the nature or nurture debate This project invites to research and consider - Is behaviour influenced more by someone's genetics or their upbringing? Is there an 'ideal' way of studying human behaviour? Is there a way to change someone's behaviour? How much does psychology really impact society?

**NB: Books should be available for free, or to buy second-hand on Amazon but please contact Ms Bingham if you need any help with this.*