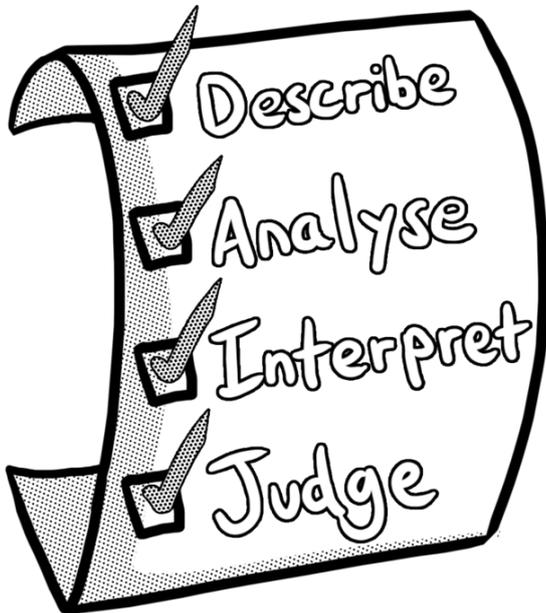


Did you know?



‘Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him **how** to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.’ You may have heard this ancient Chinese proverb, and it explains precisely why we want to develop students as independent learners.

Research by the Higher Education Academy has highlighted its importance: ‘Helping students to learn independently is critical to their future success’, Professor Stephanie Marshall, Chief Executive, HEA.



What can you do?

- Students need to understand that there are benefits to moving out of their comfort zones, and they will make mistakes when learning to work independently – encourage this because we learn from our mistakes and failures.
- Encourage your son/daughter to sign up for MOOCS. MOOCS are online courses that are offered, free of charge, by universities across the world and will give them a taster of what studying at university is like.
- Your child should be tracking what they do know and what they do not know in each of their subjects so they can work on their areas of weakness.
- There are many opportunities to enter academic competitions, some of which are run by universities. You could encourage your child to enter these – they look impressive on university and apprenticeship applications.
- One important aspect of being an independent learner is knowing when to ask for help – your child should always ask their teacher if they need support.
- Encourage your son or daughter to share/discuss the work that they are doing, and the progress they are making. Think about setting an example and signing up for a MOOC that interests you. Check some out on www.futurelearn.com.
- Encourage your child to have a tidy space to work in - it can reduce stress and improve productivity. Another way to maximise opportunities for work and reduce distractions is to ensure the space is organised with everything needed for studying: laptop, books, pens and any other equipment.