# Autonomous Learners Overview

## Work towards changing students attitudes towards learning

To improve the students’ attitudes to learning to become an autonomous learners I would like the students to shift their thinking to:

### Develop a love of learning

* By helping them to discover the wonderment and awe in all things around them. In essence: to see everything as a miracle.
* By helping students to develop an enquiring mind that looks for answers to questions when the arise in their minds

### Think about their own thinking (metacognition)

* The students will be taught how to reflect on their own thinking.
* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Thinking about thinking
* They will be asked to approach a number of articles from different perspectives
* They will be taught ways to manage their thinking processes

### Understand that knowledge and accepted understandings change over time

* Through an investigation of space, students will see how information changes over time. They will see that in the distant past much knowledge was speculation and how quickly knowledge has changed with the rapid technological advancements and research of recent space exploration.

### See learning as a lifelong process

* Students will be shown how it is impossible to be an expert on everything so knowing how to learn what you need to know when you need to know it is far more important.
* Learn about the Habit of Mind - Remaining open to continuous learning
* Students will be encouraged to take two books from the library each week. One for pleasure and one to improve their knowledge on a wide variety of topics.

### Be prepared to let go of their misconceptions

* By finding students any misconceptions during the year’s course and using this as a case study for the class. Children will be shown how misconceptions can be formed. The development of this misunderstanding by the student will be valued by discussing the causes. Showing how some sources of information are poor and how adding new information to a previously formed schema can result in new knowledge being formed which is not correct.

### Develop a desire to know more

* Developing the students desire to investigate topics in depth by teaching the students to ask better questions of themselves to avoid superficial research project work. Being happy with mediocrity = lack of self worth.
* Learn about the habit of mind – Questioning and problem posing

### Question new information when it does not fit with prior knowledge

* Students will be taught it is okay to question teachers and others. They will be taught how to do this in a respectful manner.
* Students will be encouraged to start using multiple sources of information.

### Consider issues from different perspectives

* Students will be asked to respond to a number of articles from different perspectives and points of view.
* Students will be taught to use De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats
* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Listening with Understanding and Empathy

### Consider the source of information and its validity

* The students will be taught how to assess a website to ensure its validity.
* The students will be taught about the difference in quality of information in non-fiction resource books and the internet. Most current, accuracy, accountability, referenced
* The students will be shown the need to use of multiple sources of information

### See mistakes and less successful outcomes as learning opportunities

* The students will be taught that is okay to make a mistake as long as they learn from it. They will be taught to work through their errors to see where they went wrong so as to not make the same mistake again.

ie. When a spelling error is found and fixed by using a dictionary or spell check it is important to see which letters of the word were wrong. They will then see which phonetic sounds they had wrong for that word and know how to sound it the next time they write it. Alternatively they will be able to see which language pattern they have neglected or that the word may be an exception to. This same process can be applied to mathematic problems and the like.

* They will be taught how mistakes in scientific investigations have led to wonderful new discoveries or new research
* The students will be taught to assess when modification of study is required and which to desist and try something else.

### Be happy with all outcomes knowing they worked at their optimum level with the resources available or took calculated risks

* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Taking Responsible Risks
* The students will partake in a group discussion on managing disappointment and competition.
* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Striving for excellence

### Be prepared to laugh at themselves

* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Finding Humor
* The students will discuss strategies for, or ways they are, developing resilience

### Set short term, mid term and long term goals for themselves

* The students will be taught that it is okay if these goals are not realised as they will achieve more by having goals than not having any. I will use the analogies that if you aim for the bottom you will get it but if you aim for the moon and miss you will land in the stars.
* The students will be asked to keep a goal log book. They will be asked to set 3 mid term and long term goals for themselves which they will keep in their log book. Short term goals do not need to be written down. When each goal is reached it must be replaced by another goal. They must have three mid term goals at all times.

### Accept that other people may have a different view

* Students will be given examples where there may be more than one correct answer.
* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Thinking Flexibly

### Be prepared to work interdependently at times

* The students will be involved in discussion groups and small group work
* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Thinking interdependently

### Understand that the ability to find information when it is required is more important than learning facts. (no one can know everything about everything)

* Learn about the Habit of Mind - Remaining open to Continuous Learning

### Everybody has strengths and weaknesses (gifted and talented students are not expected to be gifted or talented in all areas)

* Students will learn about and identify their own different learning styles
* Students will learn about and identify their own multiple intelligences

### Create new friendships with likeminded individuals

* Students should enjoy working with other students with similar strengths and values

### Become flexible, creative and divergent thinkers

* Students will be given brain teasers and word and number puzzles to help the students develop lateral thinking skills
* Learn about the Habit of Mind – Creating, Imagining and Innovating
* Students will be asked to do some brain gym exercises to integrate the hemispheres of their brain
* Students will be asked to try doing some everyday tasks (outside of school) differently, such as writing with their least preferred hand

### Improve their relationships with others (including in competition)

* Set up buddies for year 7 students
* Group discussions on dealing with others

### To understand knowledge may evolve and change over time due to research findings and technological advancements

* Students will investigate changes in knowledge and understandings that have occurred over time by scientists studying space
* Students will discuss I small groups why knowledge and understandings may change over time.

## Work towards improving students skills.

* To improve the students’ skills for learning to become an autonomous learner I would like to teach the students:

### Brain & learning theory

* Students will learn how their brain works. Which part controls what functions.
* Students will learn about Multiple Intelligence Theory
* Students will learn about different learning styles
* Students will learn about Bloom’s Taxonomy

### To be goal setters

* Students will be taught how to set goals and asked to keep goal setting notes books

### To reflect on their learning

* Students will be asked to reflect on each day learning each night to consolidate their learning. They will be asked to ensure they know what they learnt in each lesson and to record these in writing.

## Memory Enhancing Skills

### Brain science

* Students will learn about branching up
* Students will learn about neuroconnections

### Brain gym

* Children will learn about Brain Gym and the benefits to learning, exam sitting and study, in particular brain buttons and integrating the right and left hemispheres of the brain

### To Use a variety of Graphic Organisers

* Students will be taught how to use a number of different graphic organizers while completing tasks. They will be encouraged to identify different situations where different graphic organizers would help and which one would suit which situation.

### Visualisation techniques

* Students will be taught how to use visualisation techniques for spelling words and told how the skills can be used for other learning situations

### Memorisation skills for short term and long term memory retention

* Students will be taught a variety of memorisation strategies

### How to access long term memory

* Students will be taught strategies for accessing their long term memory

## Organisational skills

### Self Motivation

* Students will be given strategies to help keep themselves motivated to learn

### Self Management skills

* Lesson 1, Students will reflect on how they make the most of their learning opportunities. In small groups students will discuss ways they can make the most of their own learning opportunities.

### Timelines for project work

* Students will be taught how to plan research projects and monitor their own progress

### Involving experts knowing when to ask for help

* Students will discuss in groups when they would need to involve and expert or ask for help. They will be asked to consider all the different avenues of help they have.

## Work and study skills

### Questioning

* Students will be taught about the different types of questions they can ask and how to ask good questions.
* Students will be encouraged to ask quality questions. They will consider how to formulate good research questions.

### Exam sitting skills

* Students will be taught how to study for exams
* Students will be taught how to use relaxation skills during exams
* Students will be taught how to allocate their time effectively

### Research skills

* Students will be taught how to sort and sift through information to find what is most relevant
* Students will be taught about the possible problems associated with using information sourced from the internet. They will be taught about the different checks and balances applied to information published in reference books. They will be taught that it is advisable to find the same information in more than one source to ensure it validity.
* Students will be taught how to assess websites for their validity

### How the internet works

* Students will be taught how different search engines work
* Students will be taught how to use Boolean Language
* Students will be taught how to use advance search techniques.