



Academic Honesty Policy

“We Stand On the Shoulders of Giants”

Learning occurs in many different ways and is engaged in for many different purposes. A great deal of learning at 6th Form level comes from the work of others, upon which we can build. We ‘stand on the shoulders of giants’ in order to learn. In some cases that learning needs then to be demonstrated to others to show that learning has taken place. This can take many forms, and for much of our work at the Centre that medium of demonstration is the essay.

To produce an essay involves reading, research, note taking and the assimilating, evaluating and applying of learning to the new situations, with these latter activities based on previously won knowledge. Indeed there is nothing more satisfying for a student than knowing one has taken the time and effort to do vital research and then drawn one’s own conclusion on the subject being studied.

As there are in all other areas of life in this world, there are protocols, procedures and rules that need to be followed when engaging with and utilising others’ work and knowledge while studying and learning.

This will often involve using other people’s words and ideas; this is when academic honesty becomes crucial. One should be aware of works that are copyright protected such as literature, art and music. Should one utilize any of these sources, then one must give accurate acknowledgement through a reference.

Accurate referencing is a crucial part of studies at IB Diploma, or ‘A’ levels. Although it is generally known that citing and referencing sources can be challenging, it is often difficult for students to find all the information required to complete the reference. To help in this at Durham Sixth Form Centre we have established that using one method of referencing throughout the student’s education helps cut down on confusion. The method we have chosen is known as “The Harvard”. The Harvard reference is an internationally renowned system; it is one of the most popular styles of referencing and is widely used in colleges and universities. This system once mastered is an essential part of one’s education. An understanding of Harvard referencing will give students a head start when progressing into higher education.

To this end there are a variety of guides and worksheets obtainable within the Hunter Learning Resource Centre to support students with their studies and accurate referencing.

The librarian will also provide help and support to both staff and students in whatever requirements they may need.



So: If in doubt, ask the librarian!



Teachers will further advise and guide throughout the course; this is to ensure that work presented is authentic. Teachers will instruct students on how to paraphrase and adapt source materials in an accurate way. They will also teach how to acknowledge other words and ideas correctly.

To do otherwise than present one's own authentic work, acknowledging and recognising others' personal, published material is called plagiarism. To attempt to plagiarise others' work, and by not recognising it thereby suggesting by inference that it is the student's own is dishonest and will result in significant penalties: which can include being withdrawn from all exams.

Not only will the deliberately dishonest be punished, it is also very possible to fall into the trap of accidental plagiarism – but as students are being warned and trained to avoid this, such a claim of 'accidental' plagiarism would be very difficult to accept.

So: please beware of how easy it is to fall into the accidental plagiarism trap. It is so easy to copy and paste a sentence or paragraph from a website or online resource and forget to reference it properly. Even if you change or rearrange the text to pass it off as your own work there are ways to check if it is plagiarised. So **always** make sure if you do copy and paste information from the internet that you cite and reference everything correctly, following the Harvard reference system.



An example of Plagiarism is given below:

Original text copied from an internet article.

President Hu Jintao is expected to announce that China, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gasses, will take on tougher "carbon intensity" targets that will help them to reduce the increase in China's carbon footprint. Expectations are rising that China's move could inject fresh impetus into the troubles negotiations to strike a new global climate change deal in Copenhagen in December.

Plagiarised text. (Reworded and rearranged)

Hu Jintao, the President of China is going to declare that they, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gasses, are taking on tougher "carbon intensity" targets that will help them to reduce the increase in China's carbon footprint. A new global climate change deal is hoped to be made in Copenhagen in December. Following the troubled negotiations expectations are rising that China's move

The article above is an example of plagiarism. To cover the author of this leaflet from plagiarism the reference details are listed below:

Foster, P. (2009). China to 'take lead' on climate change.
Available:<http://telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/6217644/china-to-take-lead-on-climate-change.html>. Last accessed 22 September 2009.

So, all we ask of you 'the students' is to enjoy your time with us and use your knowledge to the best of your ability. If at any point; you feel confused or are struggling with your work, then please approach a member of staff and let them know; help is available.

The key issue is to do with academic honesty and integrity, students of whatever age taking delight in their learning, working in ways that reflect all that is best about study and education – for their own sakes as well as a means to other ends.

In summary:

