

Homework Strategy



Consolidating knowledge and deepening understanding through independent learning.

This overview explains our approach to homework and how students use it to consolidate their curriculum knowledge.

Homework is important because it enables students to:

- Continue learning outside of the classroom
- Consolidate newly-acquired knowledge, revise prior learning and practise skills
- Develop the self-discipline, perseverance and confidence to study independently
- Involve parents/carers in their learning

EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Homework links directly to what the child is learning in class each week in each of the following areas:

- Home reading
- Spellings
- Maths

Homework is set on a Friday giving the child plenty of time to complete the homework activities and get the support needed at home. Homework is to be completed by the following Thursday and handed in.

Homework tasks are checked and their impact monitored through the outcomes of the class-based tasks they relate to.

Key stage 3 - Knowledge Organisers

Each half term we produce homework booklets (which we call '**Knowledge Organisers**') for all subjects for all students. These outline what homework is expected on each day, for a whole term. All students are given a copy of their Knowledge Organisers but they can also be accessed and downloaded via Teams.

Students are expected to continually revise previously-learned knowledge, which is tested in an end of term mastery challenge quiz.

Key stage 4 and 5

At Key Stage 4 and 5, homework will be set by each department in line with the programme of study. Students will be given regular feedback on homework that is marked and assessed by the subject teacher.

Further information and guidance on Knowledge Organisers

What are knowledge organisers? A knowledge organiser is a set of key facts or information that pupils need to know and be able to recall in order to master a unit or topic. Typically, an organiser fits onto one page of A4 – this helps pupils to visualise the layout of the page which in turn helps them to memorise the information better.

The secret to success is to regularly revisit the knowledge to be learned (known as 'spaced retrieval'). This helps transfer the knowledge from the short-term memory to the long-term memory. This not only helps to make 'stick' but it also frees up our short-term memory for learning new content.

How do students use Knowledge Organisers?

For each topic taught a knowledge organiser (KO) is produced outlining the key knowledge required to fully understand a topic.

- Students will be set a specific part of the KO each half term to learn for homework.
- Students will complete the task in their KO work books, correcting their work with a green pen.
- A mastery challenge quiz will then be given to assess how well the students have memorised, and understood the content on the KO.

KO 'code of working': Look cover write check

- Look at the KO and read the content
- Cover up the knowledge
- Write down what is remembered in 1 colour (blue or black ink)
- Check to see if it is correct, make any improvements using a green pen

How can I support my child at home? Here are some strategies that might help you to support your son/daughter.

- Read through the organiser with your son/daughter – if you don't understand the content then ask them to explain it to you – 'teaching' you helps them to reinforce their learning.
- Try converting the information into a mind map or make your own version using clip art imagery if the organiser contains a lot of text. Display on the wall or the fridge door until the memory 'sticks'.
- Test them regularly on the spellings of key words until they are perfect. Make a note of the ones they get wrong – is there a pattern to the spelling of those words?

By way of guideline, students should spend the following amount of time completing their homework each day:

EYFS	At least 15 minutes reading each day and then time as required for additional home learning activities.
KS1: Year 1 & 2	15 – 30 mins per day
KS2: Year 3, 4,5 & 6	30 – 45 mins per day
KS3: Year 7,8 & 9	30 minutes – 1 hour
KS4: Year 10 & 11	One to two hours per day
KS5: Year 12 & 13	Minimum of 2 hours per day

In the lead-up to tests and exams, students must recognise that the more time they spend working independently, the greater their chances of success will be.