



Dear Parents/Carers

With effect from Monday 24th February, Year 7 and 8 pupils will be undertaking a new approach to homework in order to maximise their success under the new changes to the curriculum.

All pupils will receive a half-termly booklet containing a Knowledge Organiser for each of their subjects. A Knowledge Organiser contains all the information about a half-termly unit of work which we want all students to be able to recall with ease. Committing this knowledge to long-term memory frees up working memory, allowing pupils to tackle more challenging skills such as writing an essay on a text.

As a minimum, they should be completing **20 minutes** of self-quizzing with the Knowledge Organiser for the subject(s) timetabled each evening. Homework has the most impact when it involves practice or rehearsal of subject matter that has already been taught. It also helps to get pupils into good study habits, which will benefit them later.

Pupils should learn the content of the Knowledge Organiser as instructed by their teacher, who will tell them where to focus. They will then complete in-class retrieval activities to test whether they have learnt it. Self-quizzing is the only way to ensure that the knowledge is being retained in long-term memory. Pupils should LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK. They have been given a self-quizzing homework book to complete this and they should carry this and their Knowledge Organiser booklet with them.

How can you help?

1. Set up a homework-friendly area, preferably with a table or desk.
2. Schedule a regular homework time.
3. Remove distractions, such as phone, TV, loud music.
4. Know what they need to do and support them; give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns. Quiz them verbally or let them teach it to you and mark your work.
5. Praise their work and efforts.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Kind regards,

G O'Hagan
Senior Assistant Headteacher – Quality of Education

Amazing things happen here

Executive Principal : Mr P Murden
Headteacher : Mrs A Byrne

