



Dear Parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you of the changes we are making to our homework strategy for this academic year. This communication will give a brief summary of the strategy, however further information is available via the links in this letter.

All subjects across the Academy will be using knowledge organisers to supplement current homework strategies.

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 in a subject. Typically, an organiser fits onto one page of A4, which helps students to visualise the layout of the page, which in turn helps them to memorise the information better.

How will a knowledge organiser help my child?

Regular use of knowledge organisers will prevent students forgetting previous learning, as they will continually revisit and retrieve prior learning from their memories. It will help them to apply this knowledge in more complex tasks.

Knowledge organiser homework will be set every fortnight in all subjects across the Academy (with the exception of project-based homework in the creative arts). Students will be given a specific section of a knowledge organiser to learn/retrieve and taught techniques that best aid retention using a 'self-quizzing' book.

How will teachers check students' knowledge and understanding?

The teacher will check that this has been recorded in the self-quizzing book. Students' knowledge will be then checked during the subsequent lesson. These retrieval activities during the lessons, will include 'low stakes' quizzes where students are required to recall knowledge that has been studied for homework. Teacher's will then have a good understanding of knowledge gaps and common misconceptions which will enable them to plan lessons and support students accordingly.

Where can I find Knowledge Organisers?

All knowledge organisers will be made available at the start of each half term on the Academy website – www.deferrerstrust.com/knowledgeorganisers

Students in Y7 and Y8 have a knowledge organiser folder, which will contain all knowledge organisers. They are expected to have this folder in every lesson. Students in Y9-11 will have knowledge organisers in folders on their iPads. All students in every year group (Y7-11) will have a 'self-quizzing' book, where they will record all of their homework across all subjects.

If a Y7 or Y8 student misplaces a knowledge organiser folder, a replacement folder can be purchased from Support and Guidance for £3.



We are confident that this strategy will have a positive impact on the learning of all students. As I am sure you will agree, it also presents an excellent opportunity for parents to support student learning and retention at home.

For further information on how you parents can use knowledge organisers to help your child learn and retain information, and to see our rationale for their use, please follow this link - <http://www.deferrerstrust.com/page/?title=HELP+GUIDES&pid=266>

Yours faithfully

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