



STATIONERS'
CROWN WOODS ACADEMY

Principal: Mr Wayne Barnett

Tuesday, 10 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

This year we have introduced the use of Knowledge Organisers with all year groups to enhance how our students can maximise their home learning experience and increase their foundation knowledge. The information below gives you all you need to support your child.

What are knowledge organisers?

Knowledge Organisers are designed to contain all the key facts and information from a unit of work that sets out the important, useful, and powerful knowledge that every student needs to know. A Knowledge Organiser fits onto one A4 page, which helps students to chunk information into familiar patterns; this technique of memorising knowledge enables students to organise knowledge in their long-term memory to facilitate retrieval and application, in turn, maximising student succession rate.

Why are knowledge organisers important?

Research suggests that equipping students with the skills to be able to learn, retain and recall knowledge is a key tool to subject success. Our GCSEs, A-levels, and BTEC qualifications are more rigorous and increasingly challenging. These examinations are focused on retrieval and application of knowledge to a range of different contexts. This puts increasing pressure on our students to know and retain even more information for longer. Typically, when students leave their revision until a few weeks or even days/hours before assessments, this presents a problem. Our short term memory has limited capacity and students find themselves unable to retain the information so they become stressed and often give up, convincing themselves they are 'no good at revising' or that they 'can't do that subject'.

The secret to success is to regularly revisit the knowledge to be learned (known as 'spaced retrieval').

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This helps transfer the knowledge from the short-term memory to the long term memory. This not only helps to make 'learning stick' but it also frees up our short-term memory for day to day learning and experiences. To this end, we are introducing knowledge organisers as part of our home learning programme.

How will a knowledge organiser help me to help my child?

Many parents/carers ask us how they can help to support their child at home. Many are worried that they do not have all of the subject specific knowledge to be able to help their child succeed. The knowledge organisers will help you to do all this easily.

How can we use the knowledge organiser?

Most homework will be linked to all or some aspects of the organiser. This might range from learning key words, spellings or remembering dates and definitions.

Here are some strategies that might help you to support your child's learning:

- read through the organiser with your child - if you do not 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;
- get them to make a glossary (list) of key words with definitions or a list of formulae;
- try recording the knowledge from the organiser as a sound file on their phones, so that your child can listen to it; some students retain more information this way;
- read sections out to them, missing out key words or phrases that they have to fill in;
- test them on their knowledge;
- we have included this knowledge organiser [self assessment booklet](#) to give you ideas on how to actively learn.

How will teachers check students' understanding?

Teachers will set independent learning tasks based on specific sections of the knowledge organiser and then students will undertake low-stakes assessments in lessons every two weeks.

These knowledge retrieval activities recap all taught content which encourages students to continually revisit previous learning, rather than just remembering the last lesson or most recent topic. Teacher's will then have a good understanding of common misconceptions which will enable them to plan lessons and support students accordingly.

How will I know how my child is progressing?

At the end of a term students will participate in a knowledge assessment that includes all information within the subject knowledge organiser. The standardised academy pass rate is 80%.

This half-term students will receive pupil progress reports containing their knowledge retention averages for the last half-term. Students will have the opportunity to improve on these scores throughout the half-term and teachers will be monitoring and supporting students.

Where can I find Knowledge Organisers?

These will be distributed to students by teachers at the start of each topic/unit. From January, all students will be given a knowledge organiser booklet at the beginning of each term. They are also available to download on the [Academy website](#).

All of the information from this has been shared with students and we look forward to the benefits this will bring to our students learning this academic year.

Yours faithfully



Ms F Fida
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