

22nd November 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Homework at Laurel Park School

At Laurel Park School we believe that homework encourages the development of independent learning skills and allows students to take more ownership of their education. Promotion and emphasis of homework skills from the start of Year 7 helps to prepare students for Key Stage 4 and, in turn, aids our students' progression and development.

Effective homework strategies and current research

At Laurel Park School, we have drawn on recent educational research to help us better understand how pupils learn and to link this to the most effective use of homework.

We know that equipping students with the skills to be able to learn, retain and recall knowledge is key to preparing them for examinations.

The secret to success is to regularly revisit the knowledge to be learned. 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 planning to introduce Knowledge Organisers and self-quizzing as part of our homework strategy.

Knowledge organisers and self-quizzing

For every learning cycle, the content for each subject will be distilled into a knowledge organiser. This provides key fingertip knowledge for each subject. For each cycle, all the knowledge organisers are collated into a book which each pupil receives.

Students are also provided with a self-quizzing book, which they use in order to test themselves on the key content in their knowledge organisers.

Self-quizzing is one of the most effective revision strategies to embed key knowledge.

Students will be taught how to use the read, cover, write, check revision strategy to test themselves. This encourages students to take ownership of their learning, and to support them in developing good learning habits. Embedding this content is critical for long-term success and effective retrieval from long-term memory.

Example of a knowledge organiser for KS3 science

Click here: [KS3 Knowledge Organisers](#)

Parent support

Parents often tell us they don't know how to support their child's learning. Some of you worry that you don't have subject specific knowledge to help your child. The knowledge organisers support this. You could quiz your child on the information, help them create flash cards, mind maps, posters etc.

Your feedback

Before we introduce self-quizzing we would like to get feedback from our parents on their thoughts about homework.

Please complete the short google form quiz by clicking on the link below.

Click here: <https://forms.gle/VbFgbbi9gwG23bm6>

Thank you for completing our survey. We will update you on any changes to our homework policy before the end of the Autumn term.

Yours sincerely

Cate Seymour
Deputy Headteacher

