



5 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Term 4 - Powerful Knowledge Organisers: Helping you son/daughter achieve successful GCSE results

Across the whole of the term 4 until Easter we are introducing the concept of powerful knowledge with your son/daughter.

This concept links to how we learn and takes into account the raised standard of GCSE's sat at the end of Year 11. Our aim as an academy is to ensure that your son/daughter is equipped with the knowledge required to be successful and that they have developed an attitude to learning that helps them understand that revision is not something that is left until Year 11.

Last week your son/daughter attended a session on how we learn. During this session they were issued with a booklet that contains a number of Powerful Knowledge Organisers from the subjects they study in school. Teachers have designed these organisers to contain approximately 20 pieces of knowledge that they feel would, if learnt, help your son/daughter be more successful in their subject areas. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to reference the booklet at home and to ask them questions about the powerful knowledge from their subject areas.

The session held also introduced revision techniques that support their learning. These included:

- (i) Retrieval Practise: where students use low stakes testing to test basic knowledge.
- (ii) Spacing: we encourage students to start revising early so that revision is manageable and can be completed in smaller blocks of time.
- (iii) Elaboration: thinking about the 'why?' and the 'how?' of the topics covered help to develop deeper thinking which aids memory.

In order to support your son/daughter develop their knowledge in these key areas class teachers will be setting tasks as homework and referring to the organisers in lessons during this term.

In the last few weeks of term 4 there will be a whole school 'Mastermind' competition to see which form groups, year groups and individuals have been most successful in our powerful knowledge programme.

Please find attached to this email a digital copy of the Powerful Knowledge Organiser. We would really appreciate your support in helping you son/daughter to learn the facts found within the Powerful Knowledge Organiser for each subject.

Thanking you in advance for your support with this project during term 4.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sebastian St John
Assistant Principal