

9 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Knowledge Organisers**

We are delighted to inform you that Year 7 students will be using Knowledge Organisers this half term as a fundamental learning aid to embed knowledge through teaching and learning. It has been proven that Knowledge Organisers equip students with the skills to learn, retain and recall knowledge, in turn accelerating student progress and success in examinations. Pressure placed upon students to retain greater amounts of information is increasing, with the focus of exams being retrieval and application of knowledge.

#### **What are Knowledge Organisers?**

A Knowledge Organiser is a set of key facts, vocabulary or information that students need to know and be able to recall. Teachers have carefully considered the key content which students need to know in each subject area. These have been presented in a layout which is inclusive of learning needs and deemed to be beneficial for student memory retention.

#### **How will a Knowledge Organiser help my child?**

Knowledge Organisers will help your child remember what they are learning, and have learnt, through effective organisation of knowledge. Through the use of Knowledge Organisers, students will recognise how their learning is sequential and builds upon prior knowledge. Instead of forgetting previous learning, students will continually revisit and retrieve prior learning. Teachers will inform students of which specific section of the Knowledge Organiser they will focus on each lesson or for their home learning.

#### **How will my child know how to use the Knowledge Organiser effectively?**

Year 7 students will be introduced to Knowledge Organisers in tutor time, week commencing 14 June. During tutor time, over a course of a number of days, students will have the opportunity to learn and embed an array of strategies to support their use of the Knowledge Organiser in lesson. Your child will be provided with a Knowledge Organiser exercise book, which they will use to practice the taught memory strategies in. Your child's tutor will be supporting your child through this process, which will be further reinforced in the teaching and learning across the curriculum.

#### **How will teachers check students' understanding and retention of knowledge?**

Teachers of Year 7 will plan their lessons to include a range of knowledge retrieval activities during their lessons, where students are required to recall knowledge that has previously been taught. These knowledge retrieval activities will rehearse previously taught content, encouraging students to continually revisit previous learning. Teachers will then have a good understanding of common misconceptions, which will enable them to plan lessons and

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS | Tel. 01202 528554 | [admin@thebourneacademy.com](mailto:admin@thebourneacademy.com)

[www.thebourneacademy.com](http://www.thebourneacademy.com) |  @BourneAcademy

support students accordingly. The Knowledge Organiser will be used in all Key Stage 3 subjects.

### **Where can I find Knowledge Organisers?**

Where a teacher has set home learning, focused on a section of the Knowledge Organiser, the teacher will upload a copy of the Knowledge Organiser onto SMHW. From September, Knowledge Organisers will be available for parents to view on our school website.

### **How will a Knowledge Organiser help me to help my child?**

Many parents/carers ask us how they can help to support their children at home. Some are worried that they do not have the subject specific knowledge to be able to help their child. The Knowledge Organiser will use a range of subject specific key words, spellings and/or dates and definitions. I have attached a 'how to use your Knowledge Organiser' help sheet, that students will become familiar with over the next few weeks. In addition, I have outlined some further supportive strategies below, that will help you to support your child's learning:

- Read through the Knowledge Organiser with your child
- Try converting the information into a mind map
- Display on the wall / door of a frequently visited place, until the knowledge is retained (e.g., the fridge door).
- Test them regularly on the spellings of key words until they are perfect. Make a note of the ones they get wrong.
- Ask your child to make a list of keywords with definitions or a list of formulae.
- Record 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 about their knowledge.

### **How will the teachers know and assess the impact the Knowledge Organiser is making on my child's academic progress?**

Each student's academic journey is tracked through frequent assessment against set Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). Teachers will continually reflect on student engagement and application following each episode of learning. Your child's feedback will be valued and their views will be gained through questionnaires uploaded onto Show My Homework. The first questionnaires will be on SMHW next week, please encourage your child to complete this.

We strongly feel that preparing students with the skills to revise, retain and recall knowledge from an early age will be hugely beneficial as they move through their school journey.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs Hayley Betteridge**  
**SENDCo and Head of Trinity House**

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**The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS Tel. 01202 528554**  
[www.thebourneacademy.com](http://www.thebourneacademy.com) [admin@thebourneacademy.com](mailto:admin@thebourneacademy.com)

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