

04 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**RE: Knowledge Organisers, Homework & Blended Learning**

I hope your son / daughter has had an enjoyable first few days back at The Leigh UTC & Inspiration Academy. It really is great to see everyone back in the building!

This letter provides important information on three elements that will support teaching in the classroom and enable your child to make excellent progress throughout the year.

**Knowledge Organisers**

Students in all year groups will receive a knowledge organiser which identifies fundamental knowledge for the topics they are studying. Students will be expected to quiz themselves using these on a regular basis, and this will form part of their homework (see below) and independent study. They will also be used in class and therefore it is important that **students bring them into school everyday**. Periodically, teachers will conduct knowledge quizzes and tests in class to see how well students have learnt the content and if there is anything they need to revisit.

The use of knowledge organisers is new to many at the Academy and therefore over the coming weeks teachers will model their effective use with their classes. When high quality knowledge organisers are used effectively they have a powerful impact on student learning and therefore we look forward to continuing to develop these resources so they are a useful tool in your child's academic progress.

Knowledge organisers will be distributed to students from **Monday 7th September**. Electronic copies are available on our website but will also be emailed to parents.

**Homework**

We are introducing a clear structure to homework this year. There will be a homework timetable for KS3 (years 7-9) and a slightly different one for KS4 (years 10-11). Both will involve the following:

1. **Reading** - it is vital your child is reading regularly; there are numerous advantages including the fact it will have a positive impact on their outcomes in all subjects. For years 7-8, students should be reading their accelerated reader book in this slot. For years 9-11, we are asking your child to read a suitable book, magazine or newspaper of their choice (which could be an ebook from myON.co.uk) for a

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minimum of 30 minutes. This reading slot is not to be used for reading that has been formally set as 'subject homework'.

2. Knowledge Organiser quizzing - this is dedicated time for your child to be quizzing themselves on the knowledge in the knowledge organiser. Teachers will often direct them to what sections they should prioritise each week but students should choose a subject and section to focus on each evening. The 20 minutes per evening is a minimum time and are welcome to do more and encouraged to do some during weekends too.
3. Subject homework - this will follow the timetable below with a different subject being set each evening. Teachers will post homework tasks online which can be viewed via [mychildatschool.com](http://mychildatschool.com), but students will also be required to write this in their planners. All subject homework will be **due Monday** of the following week and will be checked by teachers. If subject homework is not submitted then teachers will be arranging for students to stay afterschool to allow them to catch up.

**KS3** - total: 1h 40 (minimum)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>Reading HW</b> 30+ mins	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
<b>KO HW</b> 20+ mins	KO quizzing	KO quizzing	KO quizzing	KO quizzing	KO quizzing
<b>Subject HW</b> 50+ mins	English	Maths	Science	1: Humanities 2: German*	1: D&T/Art 2: Comp Sci*

*\*Alternating each week*

**KS4** - total: 1h 50 (minimum)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>Reading HW</b> 30+ mins	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
<b>Tassomai</b> 10+ mins	Tassomai daily goal*	Tassomai daily goal*	Tassomai daily goal*	Tassomai daily goal*	Tassomai daily goal*
<b>KO HW</b> 20+ mins	KO	KO	KO	KO	KO
<b>Subject HW</b> 50+ mins	English	Maths	Y11: IT/Engineer  <u>Y10 Block A:</u> 10XCs-1 SZA 10XCs-2 ZBA 10XGm-5 SIB 10XHi-3 BBL 10XTSc-4 GAD 10XBs-1 IAL	Y11: Art/H&F/DT  <u>Y10 Block B:</u> 10XBs-2 IAL 10XEg-4 RNA 10XEg-1 CVE 10XDT-5 JMC 10XDT-1 FOS 10XCs-3 MAH	Y11: Comp Sci  <u>Y10 Block C:</u> 10XAr-2 SDO 10XHF-3 BYO 10XIT-5 ZBA 10XEg-1 SMA 10XEg-2 CVE 10XEI-4 RNA

\*Tassomai (KS4 Science HW) - students should spend the time that is required to complete their 'daily goal' this is normally around 10 minutes per daily goal.

We hope that the structured approach will allow your child to get into a strong routine at home and we encourage you to help them to develop this routine by checking they have completed the tasks on the homework timetable each evening. We understand that sometimes things come up throughout the week that will disrupt the routine and therefore the single deadline of Monday will allow students to use the weekend to catch up where necessary. Please note that much of the homework set by subjects is likely to involve access to the internet taking advantage of the highly effective online learning programmes that exist - if this could be problematic, please speak with your child's tutor in the first instance.

Students will start receiving homework from **Monday 7th September**.

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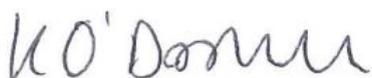
## Blended Learning

Whilst it feels good to be back in the building and back to some sense of 'normality', we know that there is potential for continued disruption with families requiring to quarantine at times, or be absent due to illness. Therefore we are integrating a blended learning strategy whereby an online curriculum that complements and runs in parallel with face-to-face teaching is available via Google Classrooms providing a seamless transition between online learning and in-person learning where required. We know that online lessons cannot match the education that students receive in the classroom and therefore it is a priority that students are in school but we hope this goes some way to support those that are unable to come into school for a period of time.

Staff have set up a Google Classroom for every class - a directory of these can be found attached. Students should be adding themselves to the Google Classroom for each of their classes by using the 'codes' from the directory. Whilst the Google Classrooms will predominantly be used to upload remote online lesson resources, they will also contain other useful resources for example exam specifications and past papers for students in years 10 to 13. The final important point to make is that the remote online lesson resources are not intended just for those that are unable to come in for face-to-face lessons but for everyone; we also encourage students to revise what they have been learning in class by accessing these resources and help reinforce their learning.

I hope the information contained in this letter helps. If there are any questions, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance who will then be able to direct your query if required.

Yours faithfully,



Mr K O'Donnell  
Assistant Principal