



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

Maritime House
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28th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

RE: Years 7-10 Knowledge Organiser Homework Guidance and Clarification

As we enter our first full term back in school, I wanted to take the opportunity to reiterate our homework expectations. We use Knowledge Organisers and Practice Books in order to support students in getting the very most out of them. We firmly believe that the homework programme we have in place will enable our students to be successful and independent learners, setting them up for success in their examinations and beyond.

Use of Knowledge Organisers has already had a demonstrably positive effect on the outcomes for students at the Academy and staff have worked extremely hard to put together Knowledge Organisers that support the curriculum they have designed.

What is learning?

Learning is a process. Please reassure your child and encourage them not to worry if they feel like they do not know the information immediately off by heart after one 30 minute homework slot. The process is an ongoing one and retrieval is spaced and interleaved across a unit/year and revisited in later units. The use of knowledge organisers is proven to embed knowledge securely in long term memory.

We would highly recommend reading this short article for a more detailed explanation:

<https://learningspy.co.uk/learning/what-is-learning/>

How to use Knowledge Organisers

As you are aware, our Knowledge Organisers at Atlantic are divided into **weekly sections**. Each week, students spend **30 minutes each night learning the section** of information on the subject allocated that night. The schedule runs:

Key Stage 3						Year 10					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Wknd	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Wknd
Maths	English	Science	History	French	Geog	Maths	English	Science	History	French	Geog
Maths - set across the week						Weekend - Computer Sci and Vocational as directed					



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In addition to this, they spend **dedicated time in class frequently revisiting the same information** (Do Now activities, for example). Combined, this helps students to learn information.

Homework expectations

We expect students to complete **one full page of self-quizzing, in a student's practice book**, based on:

“look, say, write, cover, check”

This is outlined in your child's Homework Guidance booklet.

- This should take a minimum of 30 minutes.
- For 100% clarity, this means that students should not leave any gaps on the page, including in between questions, nor should they deliberately have very few words on a line.
- There should be no missed lines either at the bottom of the page or after the title.
- We have also noticed some presentation issues that do not meet our standards; each page should have the date on the top line on the right hand side, and the title (subject that student is self quizzing on) in the centre on the same line, with both underlined using a ruler.
- Students must also correct their answers in purple pen; this means ticking correct answers and filling in any that were incorrect.
- Ideally it also highly recommended that you yourselves quiz your child and create your own rewards.

The photo below illustrates what we expect:



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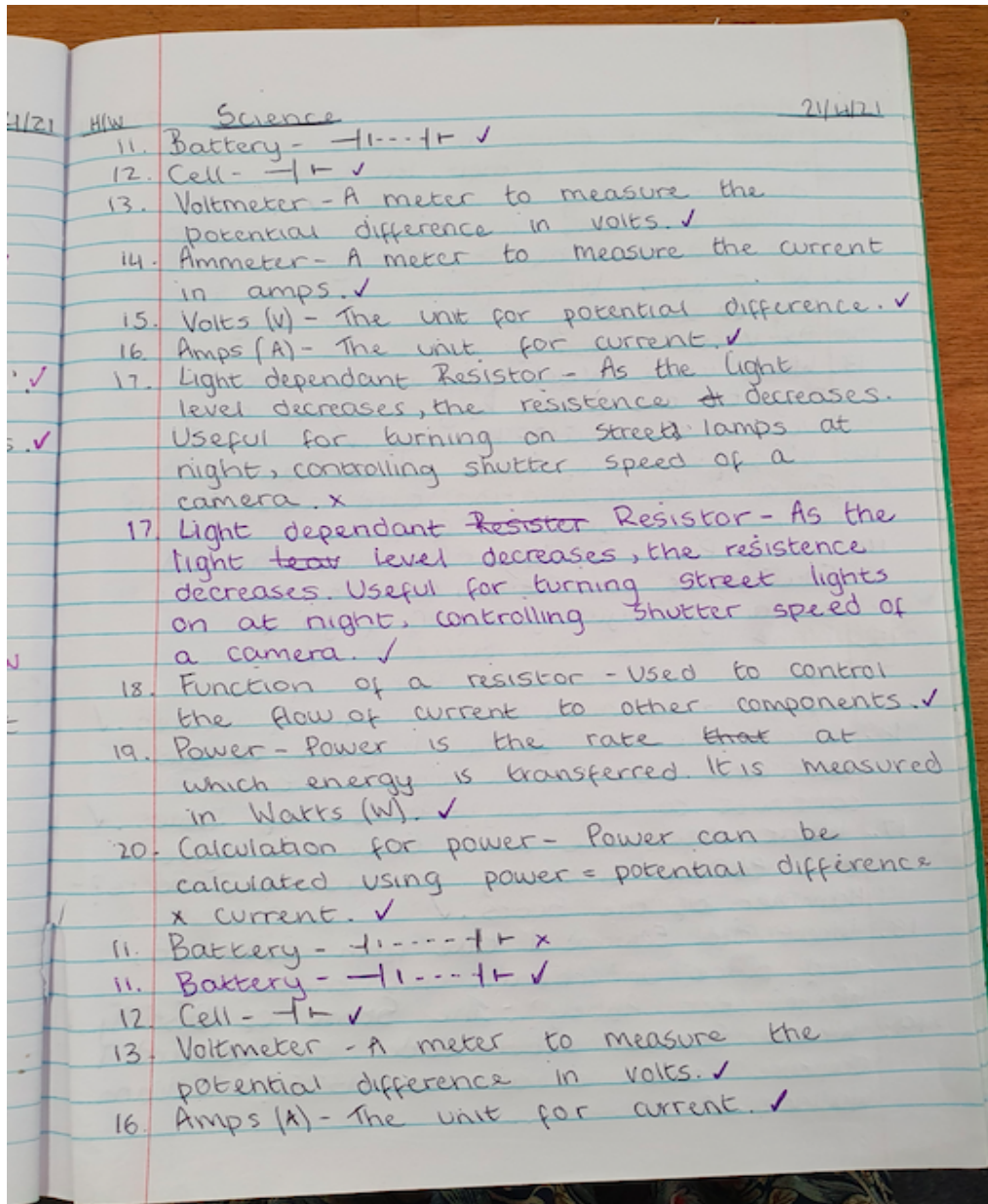
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Knowledge Organiser homeworks will be checked by your child's Tutor; **should it not reach the expectations described, students will receive a 30 minute next day detention.**



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If you have any questions regarding any aspect of your child's homework, please do not hesitate to contact me through your child's Pastoral Lead via the Academy contact page.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to give your child the very best possible life chances and opportunities.

Yours faithfully

Ms A Winsborough
Green Faculty Director
Assistant Principal - Teaching and Learning