



26th April 2023

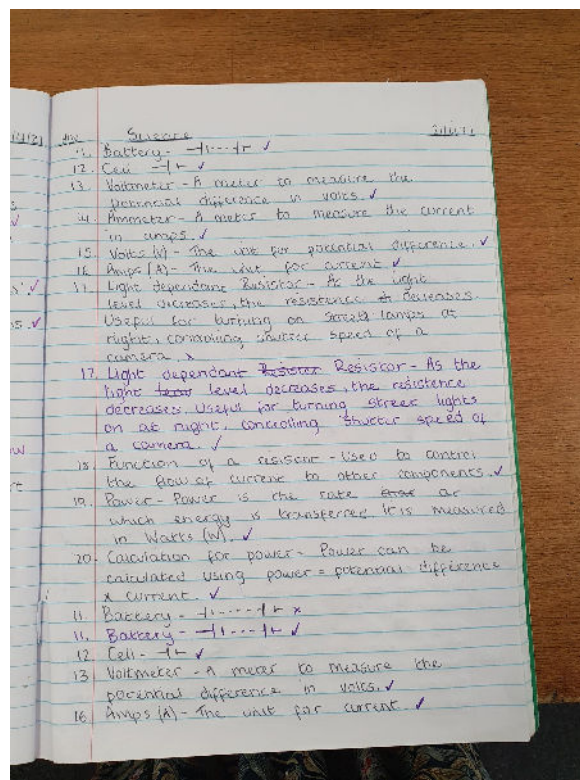
Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Self-quizzing Homework Expectations

Firstly, can I thank you for your support at home for ensuring that Knowledge Organisers are forming an intrinsic and positive basis for homework. Use of Knowledge Organisers has already had a demonstrably positive effect on the outcomes for students with the majority of our students seeing a rise in their score in the end of unit PPEs across a range of subjects.

Our staff have worked hard to produce Knowledge Organisers for each unit that are of the highest quality for our students. We know that the use of Knowledge Organisers and self-quizzing is a proven scientific method that helps students retain valuable knowledge, embed it in the long term memory for easy retrieval, and ultimately to be successful in assessments. For many students, revision for GCSE exams is often crammed into a few weeks of the Easter holidays during Year 11. Through our homework programme we are aiming to teach students successful revision habits from their first years of schooling. The science is unequivocal: cramming works for the short term, but does not build long-term memory. This is why it is crucial that students complete their self-quizzing homework to the expected standard, and do not take shortcuts.

I have included a photo of a good piece of homework so you can see an example of what we would expect to see.



Sanctions:

It is vital that students complete their self-quizzing homework properly as it is for their own benefit. If a student does not meet the expectations outlined above, then we will deem the homework incomplete and the student will receive a negative point. Should a pattern of non-completion arise, a same day detention will be issued. We greatly appreciate your support with detentions. We will also expect students to re-do their homework to the expected standard.

Rewards:

Although the homework policy states one page of self-quizzing is to be completed, this is the minimum expectation and we would encourage students to do more than this, which many do, to receive positive behaviour points on SIMS. The more practice and retrieval that students do, the more this knowledge goes into the long-term memory, thus better preparing students for their exams. This means that our students can go on to do amazing things with their lives and have access to all the opportunities that they deserve.

How to self-quiz:

As a reminder, these are the steps we recommend for effective self-quizzing.

- 1) Read and memorise the section. Read and re-read the section, say it out loud if necessary, until you are confident enough to use your practice book to write it down. For 30 minutes minimum each day, actively memorise the knowledge until you are not getting it wrong.
- 2) Cover it up, and write it out. Close your knowledge organiser or cover up the section, and try to recall the knowledge. Write out the section from memory.
- 3) Check it and correct any mistakes. Open your knowledge organiser and look at the answers – tick the ones you got right and correct the ones you got wrong in a purple pen. Do the ones you got wrong again, until you get them right.

We believe that excellence is a habit, and we want to instil excellent learning habits in our students to enable them to leave us with the best possible outcomes and thus the door wide open for them in successful futures. We fully appreciate your support in ensuring that your child meets our expectations to enable them to do this.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Alison Winsborough
Head of Church Ope School,
Assistant Principal in charge of Teaching and Learning

