



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parent,

As we start the new Academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to go through our homework expectations in order to support our students in getting the very most out of them. We firmly believe that the homework programme we have in place will encourage our students to be successful, independent learners and will set them up for success in their examinations and beyond.

Our homework schedule can be thought of in three parts:

1. Knowledge Organiser homeworks in English, Science, History, French and Geography.
2. Sparx Maths homework, consisting of an hour's personalised Maths content reinforcing work on the current topic.
3. Two 30 minute sessions of reading for homework

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Maths Sparx	English	Science	History	French	Geography

Knowledge Organiser Homeworks

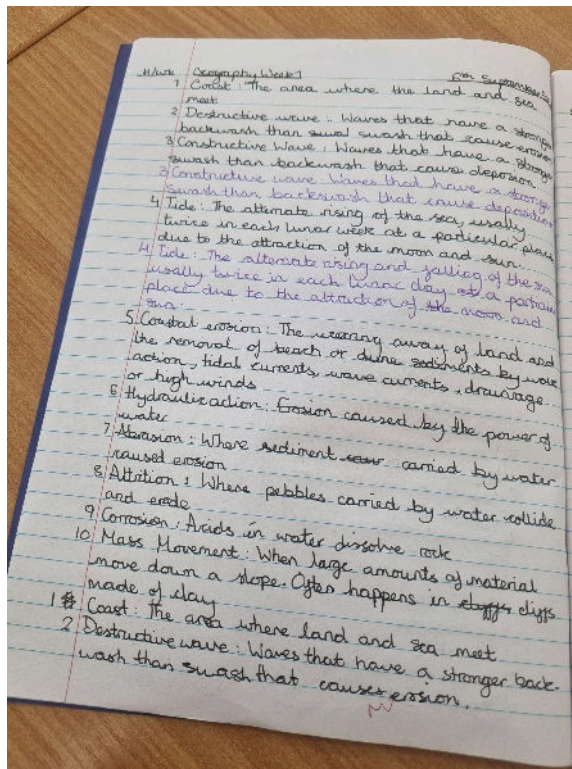
A Knowledge Organiser is a collection of knowledge which your child's teacher has selected as 'essential'. This knowledge has been broken down into small, manageable segments within each unit of work and form the foundation of the knowledge they will need to be successful in that unit. Knowledge Organisers are important because they give students clarity. About what needs to be learnt. Once the pieces of information on the Knowledge Organiser have been learnt, classwork will become easier as students will be able to understand and access more knowledge due to the way in which the memory works.

Knowledge Organisers at Atlantic are divided into weekly sections.

Each week, students spend 30 mins learning the section of information (homework). 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. Learning is a process, please reassure your child and encourage them not worry if they feel like they do not know the information off by heart after one 30 min homework slot!

As we work through the year, students will use a range of revision techniques to support their homework. These will include techniques such as: Mind Maps & Retrieval Clocks, Cue/Flash Cards, Leitner Method, Past Papers, Mark Schemes and Examiners Reports, Self-Quizzing (SQ), Acronyms, Skeleton Essay Technique, Test your knowledge and Mnemonics.

For the first few weeks, we will focus on self-quizzing. We expect students to complete one full page of self-quizzing based on the “Look, write cover, check” technique as outlined in your child’s Unit One Knowledge Organiser booklet. This should take 30 minutes. For 100% clarity, this means that students should not leave any gaps on the page, including in between questions, except for one line underneath the date and title, and the very last line at the bottom of the page. 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. The photo below illustrates what we expect:



Knowledge Organiser homeworks will be checked by your child’s Tutor and should it not reach expectations they will receive a negative point. Should there be 3 non homework completions within a week a detention will be set. **If your child is in Year 7, detentions will not be set for the duration of the 2 week Atlantic Apprenticeship Programme.**

Maths Homeworks

We are excited to inform you that this year, we will be using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly maths homework. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed.

Your child’s homework will be set on Tuesday and due on the following Monday every week.

We know you want to support your child's maths progress, so we are sending this letter to explain how Sparx works and how you can help your child complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Maths Homework?

- Sparx provides personalised homework to each child, with questions that are challenging yet achievable, and tailored to their learning needs.
- The majority of each week’s homework will be based on recently learnt topics, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce their learning.
- Students access their homework on their online Sparx account, where they’ll get immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to have another try.
- While homework is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework and students should record their work in their workbooks. Sparx has a “bookwork checks” system to help students form this habit.

- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached to it, so that your child can get help independently.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week.
- Encourage them to start their homework early so they can get help from their teacher before the deadline if they get stuck. To ensure no gaps form in your child's maths knowledge, homework is not marked as complete until all of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- Check the weekly email you'll get from Sparx and praise your child for starting or completing their homework. Encourage them to finish it before the deadline if they haven't already done so.
- Try not to help your child with a question until they've had a go first. It is essential they try to complete their homework independently so that Sparx can give them questions that are at the right level for them. Remember they can watch the support videos if they need to.

What support is available?

- Students are able to use the library and school chromebooks after school until 4:00 pm each day.
- Should a student get stuck with a maths problem, the Sparx site has support videos to walk them through the process. In addition, a member of the Maths Team will be in the Library on a Tuesday for any students still having difficulties.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in growing your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths.

Reading Homeworks

Students complete at least 30 minutes of reading from their own choice of fiction book on a Tuesday and Thursday evening and over the weekend. This will total at least 90 minutes of reading each week.

Students should write about their reading and what happened in the pages they have read this week in their practice book. This could be done at home or in their Library Lesson at school. English teachers and tutors will check this regularly.

We believe that excellence is a habit, and we want to instil excellent learning habits in our students to lead them to successful outcomes and will open doors in their future. We fully appreciate your support in ensuring that your child meets our expectations to enable them to do this.

If you have any questions, please contact via your child's Year Group Pastoral Contact Form and your enquiry will be directed to myself or the relevant member of subject staff.

Yours faithfully,



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