Atlantic Academy Portland
an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

Maritime House
Southwell Business Park
Portland, Dorset, DT5 2NA

Tel: 01305 820262
Email: atlanticoffice@atlantic-aspirations.org

www.atlantic-aspirations.org

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Dear Parents and Carers,

KS3 Knowledge Map Homework: Know More, Remember More

This year, we have enhanced our existing Knowledge Organiser homework with newly designed Knowledge Maps and a clearer, structured routine. The aim is to help students strengthen curriculum knowledge while developing effective revision habits through retrieving, checking and applying information from memory.

What is a Knowledge Map?

Students will receive Knowledge Maps for each half-termly unit. These organise the most important curriculum knowledge into weekly sections, including Five Big Ideas, key vocabulary, a Learning Question and supporting visuals. The Knowledge Map is the resource students learn from; their Homework Journal explains what to do with that knowledge each week.

How does Knowledge Map homework work?

The core homework takes approximately 30 minutes and follows the same routine:

- **KNOW MORE –** read the relevant Knowledge Card, focusing on the Five Big Ideas and key vocabulary.
- **REMEMBER MORE –** close the Knowledge Map and write down what they can remember. This uses retrieval practice, often known as “blurting”.
- **CHECK MORE –** reopen the map and use purple pen to correct inaccuracies and add important information they missed.
- **CONNECT MORE –** answer the week’s Learning Question in full sentences, using what they have learned.
- **EXPLORE MORE –** an optional activity for students who wish to take their learning further.

The key principle is simple:

Learn it → Retrieve it → Check it → Correct it → Use it.

Regularly following this process helps students identify gaps in their knowledge and develop study and revision strategies they can increasingly use independently. At the end of each half term, students will also complete a Retrieve & Review task to revisit the whole unit and identify areas requiring further practice.

When is homework due?

Each subject has a regular deadline. Knowledge Maps and Homework Journal guidance are provided in advance, while Sparx homework is set weekly. History and Geography alternate fortnightly. Maths and Science homework is completed using Sparx (approximately 1 hour per subject), while English combines Sparx Reader (30 minutes) and Knowledge Map homework (30 minutes - this will start from next half term).

Key Stage 3 Homework Due Days:

Day	Homework Due
Monday	Sparx Maths
Tuesday	History (Week A) / Geography (Week B)
Wednesday	Sparx Science
Thursday	Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)
Friday	English (Sparx Reader, plus English Knowledge Map from October half term)

What do we expect from students?

We expect all students to complete homework on time, in full and to an appropriate standard. Tutors will check Knowledge Map work in students' Homework Practice Books on the relevant deadline day and will receive Sparx completion information.

If homework is incomplete, or Knowledge Map work is not of an appropriate standard, students will attend a same-day lunchtime homework session to complete it. Absence from tutor time does not remove the expectation; any necessary follow-up will take place when the student is next in the Academy. The purpose is to ensure that every student completes the important retrieval and practice the homework is designed to provide.

How can parents and carers help?

You do not need to teach the subject content yourself. The most valuable support is encouraging your child to follow the process properly, particularly closing the Knowledge Map before trying to remember the information. You might ask them to explain one of their Five Big Ideas, test them on key vocabulary, or ask: "What could you remember without looking?", "What did you need to add or correct in purple pen?" and "Which part do you need to practise again?"

If your child struggles to remember something, this is a useful part of the process: identifying gaps, checking the Knowledge Map and correcting them helps students recognise what they need to revisit. We hope this clearer approach will help students know more, remember more and develop the independent study skills they will need throughout their education.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students establish positive homework and study habits.

Yours faithfully,

Sophie Ives
Assistant Principal – Curriculum