Atlantic Academy Portland
an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 7 Homework at Atlantic Academy

As your child begins Year 7, we want to make homework clear and manageable while helping students develop the independent study and revision habits they will need throughout secondary school. Year 7 students will complete two main types of regular homework: Knowledge Map homework and Sparx homework.

Knowledge Map homework

In a number of subjects, students will receive a Knowledge Map for the half term. It organises the most important unit knowledge into weekly sections, including Five Big Ideas, key vocabulary, a Learning Question and supporting visuals. Their Homework Journal explains the task for each week.

Students will follow the same 30-minute routine:

- **KNOW MORE –** read the relevant section carefully.
- **REMEMBER MORE –** close the Knowledge Map and write down what they can remember in their Homework Practice Book (a revision technique sometimes called "blurting").
- **CHECK MORE –** reopen the map and use purple pen to correct errors and add anything missed.
- **CONNECT MORE –** answer the week's Learning Question in full sentences using what they have learned.
- An optional EXPLORE MORE activity is available for students who wish to take their learning further.

This routine teaches students to retrieve knowledge rather than simply copy it:

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

At the end of the half term, students will complete a Retrieve & Review task to revisit the whole unit and identify what needs further practice.

History and Geography

History and Geography homework will alternate fortnightly. Students complete the Knowledge Map homework for the subject due that week; both Knowledge Maps remain available throughout the half term for learning and revision.

Maths, Science and English – Sparx

Maths and Science homework will be completed through Sparx (approximately 1 hour per subject each week). English combines Sparx Reader (30 minutes) with Knowledge Map homework (30 minutes - this will start from next half term). Students should complete all compulsory Sparx homework; completion is recorded electronically. We will teach students how to access and use Sparx and support them while these routines are new.

When is homework due?

Each subject has a regular deadline so students and families can establish a predictable weekly routine. Knowledge Map materials are provided in advance; Sparx homework is set weekly.

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)

Our expectations

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

If homework is incomplete, or Knowledge Map work is not of an appropriate standard, the student 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 the important learning and practice is completed.

What if my child is struggling?

We recognise that independent learning takes time. If your child does not understand a task, cannot access Sparx, has misplaced something or is struggling to manage their workload, we would much rather they ask for help than leave the homework incomplete. Their tutor is an important first point of support, and subject teachers can help with specific pieces of work.

How can you help at home?

You do not need to be a subject expert. Helping your child establish a regular time and place for homework, checking what is due and encouraging them to complete work before the deadline all make a significant difference. For Knowledge Map homework, useful questions include: "Have you closed the Knowledge Map before trying to remember it?", "What were your Five Big Ideas?" and "What did you need to correct in purple pen?" You could also ask your child to teach you one of their Big Ideas. For Sparx, please encourage completion of all compulsory homework and asking for support if difficulties arise.

We know Year 7 brings many new routines. Our expectations are clear and consistent, but staff will support students as they learn to organise their homework and become increasingly independent. Thank you for your support as we help your child establish these important habits.

Yours faithfully,

Sophie Ives
Assistant Principal – Curriculum