P16 Knowledge Organiser

Autumn Term

Lead, Believe, Create, Succeed

What is learning?

A big part of learning is about moving knowledge into your long term memory and then retrieving/using this knowledge. Just reading, or highlighting, information does not make our brains work hard enough. We must practise remembering things. Research shows that our brains remember things more efficiently when we know the 'bigger picture' and making links helps information move into our long-term memory. A knowledge organiser shows linked facts on a single topic. Knowledge organisers can be used for retrieval practice (practising remembering things). Regular retrieval of knowledge helps us remember more effectively with our long term memory.

What is a knowledge organiser?

A knowledge organiser is a document that contains key facts and information you will need to have a basic knowledge and understanding of a topic. A knowledge organiser will not include every possible fact on a topic; it will include knowledge needed to understand the main points. Your knowledge organisers will include the essential facts about the topic, laid out in easily digestible chunks; key vocabulary or technical terms and their meanings; images such as maps or diagrams; and, where relevant, important quotations.

How will I use knowledge organisers?

You will use your knowledge organisers for most of the homework that is set by your subject teachers; you will also be tested in your lessons on knowledge from your organisers. You can use your knowledge organisers in a number of ways but you should not just copy from them. Below are some possible tasks you could complete using your knowledge organisers, no matter which task you do you should always check and correct your work/answers in a different coloured pen.

- Ask someone to write questions for you
- Write your own challenging questions and the following day, answer them
- Create mindmaps
- Create flashcards
- Put keys words and vocabulary into new sentences
- Look, cover, write and check key words/ spellings
- Create mnemonics
- Draw a comic strip/story board of a timeline
- Use the 'clock' template to divide the information into smaller sections. Then test yourself on the different sections
- Give yourself spelling tests
- Definition tests
- Draw diagrams to make connections to key information
- Draw images and annotate/label with extra information
- Create fact files