

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

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Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell

Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Book of Key Knowledge – KS3

All KS3 students have been provided with a **Book of Key Knowledge** which contains all of the **key** knowledge that they need to learn for each of their subjects. The purpose of the **Book** is to utilise retrieval practice in order to promote student learning. Retrieval practice strengthens the cues that enable retrieval of previously learnt material. In struggling to remember something that is almost forgotten, students search for connections that help bring it back to mind. The act of successfully retrieving and rehearsing something that is to be remembered leaves a trace in the memory that makes the path easier to follow again. Securing this knowledge base will allow students to develop their skills of understanding, analysis and evaluation in lessons more effectively.

Retrieval works best when successful retrieval attempts are repeated and for that reason we have asked all KS3 students to take their **Books** home. Students can use 'look, cover, write, check' to learn the content of the knowledge organisers within the **Book of Key Knowledge**.

- **Look** - Students are first of all asked to read through a section of a knowledge organiser.
- **Cover & write** – This is the active step. Students need to remove the information from view and then engage in a generative recall process; noting down all information given within the section of the knowledge organiser. This will include drawing and labelling any diagrams, and the definitions of key vocabulary.
- **Check** – After the generative process, it is important that students reveal the covered information to check the accuracy of their recall. Using a green pen, students should correct any spelling mistakes, missing bits or mistakes.

This is a list of handy videos which talk you through how to use different strategies

Help Videos

Look, cover, write, check. How to do it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLZvCymL4rU>

Key words and definitions. How to do it:

Parents/Carers: Stay Alert. Keep your child at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Stay Safe.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8F1imMEBHU>

Mind maps. How to draw mind maps:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlpK1-yKWk0>

Flash cards. How to make them:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24mwa4gh8Pk>

Cornell Notes. How to use them:

<https://youtu.be/ErSjc1PEGKE>

To gain the most benefit, students do need to successfully retrieve a certain amount of the information during retrieval practice, and for this reason lessons will involve opportunities for low-stakes quizzes which will test the content of the knowledge organisers for each subject. Testing not only aids retention but also helps identify gaps in knowledge which the teachers and students will be able to use to inform their learning going forwards.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Lewis-Dale

Deputy Head (Teaching and Learning)

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