

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 9 pupils,

This week the pupils have been hearing about the effect that good attendance has on academic performance. At The George Eliot School, we strive to provide the best learning environment for all pupils in order for all pupils to achieve beyond expected levels of progress.

Consequently, it is of fundamental importance that pupils meet the school attendance target of at least 95%. Lost hours of learning time can have a detrimental effect on learning and achievement. It is vital that parents and carers encourage their child's regular and punctual attendance at school.

We have also explained to our pupils why we insist on them engaging with the School's approach to homework and revision.

At The George Eliot School, we believe that a robust homework system plays a vital part of developing the whole child and ensuring pupils have the skills to manage their learning independently throughout their academic career. We provide pupils with a set of online quizzes each week that focus on key knowledge for their subjects.

To support you with this I have attached our guide to homework at The George Eliot School. A copy of this is available on the school website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stanton.' with a period at the end.

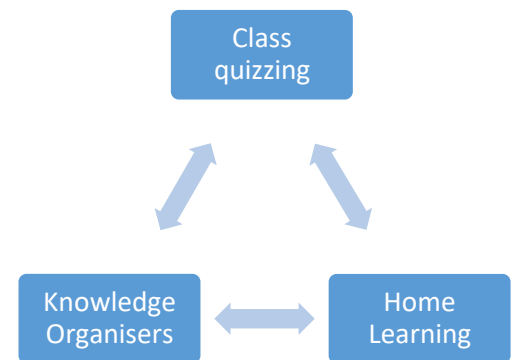
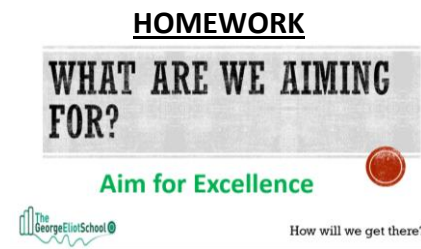
Mrs D Stanton
Vice Principal

Principal – Mrs Homeira Zakary

Raveloe Drive, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 4QP

Telephone: 024 7674 4000

Fax: 024 7674 1530



Key Principles

The quizzing aspect of the homework is rooted around these four key principles:

- **Quizzes help pupils learn**
- **Quizzes give teachers' feedback**
- **Quizzes promote test expectancy**
- **Studying is more efficient after a quiz**

The interleaving aspect of homework is based around the theory that **repetition of ideas** is important in **building retention of knowledge**.

- A ten-question quiz will be assigned for every pupil from every subject teacher on a Monday morning. This will be put on Doodle. (Some subjects are every other week.)
- All answers can be found in their Knowledge Organisers.
- Pupils are expected to revise, self-quiz and prepare for their quizzing in class.
- The quiz closes the following Monday morning.
- From the following Monday onwards, pupils will be quizzed in their lessons based on the homework they have been set.
- Pupils will have access to computers before school, lunchtimes and afterschool.
- The school have homework clubs that run throughout the week to support pupils.
- **A score of 8/10 awards a pass for this quiz and constitutes a satisfactory standard.**
- A learning catch up will be given to any pupil who has a score below 8 (without valid reason) and they will be supported by staff to do some additional work to meet the expected standard in that subject or will have general support on how to revise and work in short bursts to support them with their quizzing.
- Learning catch ups will be every **week**. They are for thirty minutes. A text will be sent informing parents if they are needed to stay behind.
- There is one learning catch up per week. A pupil will only ever do one a week.
- Learning catch ups are about supporting the child to build the routines, revision skills and encourage independent learning. A 'little and often' approach will also support the new demanding GCSEs which rely heavily on the recall on key information.

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How we help.

In form time, everyday pupils are working with their tutors to build effective routines for memorising key knowledge. This will continue all half term for years 7-10.

The SEND department are working hard with pupils who need that extra support. They will be available and will offer further advice and support to build the repertoire of skills and strategies for quizzing.

Pupils who attend learning catch ups will be given the additional support, guidance and time to work with staff and develop the routines needed for learning and to prepare for the demands of the new GCSEs.

These are some suggests we get pupils to try:

***Starters** - Choose from a selection of scrumptious activities, to help you begin the learning journey!*

Mnemonic it – Make a sentence to help you remember the first letter of each of the keywords, or to help you remember the order of something happening.

Selfie it – Read your KO and write the top three most important facts from it on separate post it notes. Have a competition with your friends on who can selfie with them in the coolest place!

Map it – Produce a mind map of the information from your knowledge organiser. Try to organise it into specific groups of information, making it easier to remember the small chunks.

***Mains** - These tasty mains will help you consolidate the knowledge.*

Test it – Write a set of 5-10 questions about what you have learnt. Swap your questions with a friend and answer each other's questions.

Practice it – Look at the information, cover it and write what you remember, check back and repeat until you remember it three times in a row.

Flash card it – Once you have begun to remember parts of your KO, start making flash cards of the information that is a bit tricky or that you are finding hard to memorise. Ask your family, carer or friends to test you on this specific flash cards.

***Desserts** - These delightful puds will help you demonstrate your mastery!*

Teach it! – Choose a lucky family member, carer, friend or pet and teach them what you have learnt, get them to write a sentence about what you have taught them in your book for evidence!

Link it – Get a friend to give you three random inanimate objects and choose three of your keywords to link to each object in less than seven steps.

Newspaper article it – Research and find an interesting article. Write 5-10 sentences about how the article links in to the content on your KO.

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Other Homework

Additional homework might be set especially in preparation for examination in upper school.

Examples include: Exam questions, GCSEPod, further reading of topics.

The class teacher sets this homework on Doodle. This homework is **not subject to sanctions or learning catch ups** if not completed. Instead we would like to reward and celebrate with all pupils who do complete this homework and develop good routines for their GCSES.

The Maths department set pupil homework on Heggarty Maths.

How you can help?

- Speak to your child about their quiz and support them by quizzing them over the week. (Remember the answers will be in their Knowledge Organisers.)
- Use Doodle and GCSEPod (KS4) to support the revision process.
- Use their planners and get them to try different ways to learn key knowledge.
- Check your child's homework.
- Pupils will get quicker and more efficient as they practice this style of learning. They should aim for **10 minute short bursts** on each subject.
- They should have quizzes from each main subject weekly. Some subjects: P.E, R.E, Drama, Art, Music and Computing will be issued over a three week cycle.
- The quizzes should be dated so you can see what is for each week.
- Please encourage your child to feedback any concerns to their form tutor.

If the pupil is having any difficulty with Doodle or if circumstances are such that it might affect the pupil feeling successful with this system then please speak to the child's form tutor who will be happy to support things in school.

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