



# **Year 7-10 Homework at TKASA**

## **Knowledge Organisers- The Rationale**



# What and why?



## What are knowledge organisers?

A knowledge organiser displays key facts and information that students need to learn.

## Why are knowledge organisers used at TKASA?

Exams focus on the retrieval and application of knowledge, and the depth and breadth of this knowledge has increased over the years. Students are increasingly under pressure to retain information for long periods of time.

Our short-term memory has only limited capacity so large amounts of knowledge must be transferred to our long-term memory, which allows students to recall information in the future whilst freeing up their short-term memory for day-to-day learning.

Research has shown that regularly revisiting knowledge (known as spaced retrieval) helps it to 'stick' because students are forced to work harder to retrieve the knowledge if there is a time delay between the study sessions.

Knowledge organisers and the strategies we use with them are effective in supporting students to learn. If they complete their homework to a high standard, they will become expert 'revisers' but will also see success in class immediately.



# What does effective homework look like?



Research has shown that homework, particularly in secondary schools can have a significant impact upon student progress, but only when these ‘active ingredients’ are considered and implemented:

1. The quality of homework is considered over the quantity.
2. Homework tasks are well designed and linked to classroom learning.
3. The aims of homework are clearly set out to pupils.
4. The barriers to homework completion, such as access to learning devices and quiet spaces are understood and addressed.
5. The independent learning strategies that students should be using are explicitly taught.
6. High quality feedback on the homework is provided to improve pupil learning.
7. The impact of homework on pupil engagement, progress and attainment is carefully monitored.



# How do we ensure homework is effective at TKASA?



## 1) Quality of the homework over and above the quantity.

At TKASA students in Year 7-9 spend 20 minutes and students in Year 10 spend 30 minutes on each subject a day. These concentrated, shorter episodes of homework are much more beneficial for pupils.

## 2) Tasks are linked to classroom learning.

At TKASA students' complete homework based upon the content they are learning in class across a current learning cycle. The KO homework will support them in developing the key knowledge to more easily access classwork. Their homework is monitored in class using knowledge organiser quizzes, but also through the accelerated progress they will be making.



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### 3) Aims of homework must be clearly set out.

At TKASA staff use common language in explaining the rationale of the homework and the benefits from completing it. Students consistently hear these messages in both tutor time and lessons. Alongside this, students receive explicit instructions about the expected presentation and explanations of the strategies. This is in twice weekly tutor slots and termly assemblies, alongside lunchtime homework support sessions if needed.

### 4) Barriers to homework completion, such as access to a learning devices and quiet spaces are understood and addressed.

At TKASA Students have twice weekly tutor time slots in which they receive support around the different homework strategies, as well as an opportunity to catch up missed homework. Alongside this, the library is open after school every day as a quiet place to complete homework where a member of staff is always present to support. Finally, as a school we have removed the reliance upon electronic devices in every subject apart from in Maths where the Sparx learning platform is used. Contingencies are in place for students who may struggle to access this.



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### 5) Independent learning strategies that students should be using are explicitly taught.

At TKASA students receive an assembly to introduce any new homework strategy. Tutors will then model the process in class. The twice weekly tutor slots will be used to offer further support and instruction. Alongside this, on the website parents and students can watch videos of the strategies being modelled.

### 6) High quality feedback on the homework is provided to improve pupil learning.

At TKASA students receive feedback in tutor time. This includes verbal WWWs and EBIs and students have the opportunity to act upon this feedback immediately in the twice weekly tutor slots.

### 7) The impact of homework on pupil engagement, progress and attainment must be carefully monitored.

As a school we continually monitor the effectiveness of our homework policy using several different methods. We welcome feedback and endeavour to be flexible in the delivery to ensure the best outcomes for the students.



Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions about homework at TKASA.