



Queen  
Elizabeth's  
— ACADEMY —

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Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### How to make the most of learning at home

Dear parent/carer,

#### How students learn at Queen Elizabeth's

As you will be aware, all subjects at Queen Elizabeth's provide students with knowledge organisers to support them with the topics that they are studying. Students keep these in their knowledge organiser folders so that they have a record of the topics they have done and are able to revisit prior learning when completing homework or revision.

During lessons, including cover lessons, students are given a variety of opportunities to retrieve key knowledge from memory. This is because research suggests that this is the best way to ensure that knowledge is not only committed to long term memory, but that students are able to call on this knowledge when they need it. This is called retrieval practice.

The majority of homework set at Queen Elizabeth's is based around knowledge organisers and learning key knowledge. We also encourage students to revisit key knowledge that they are not able to retrieve in their quizzes at the start of each lesson.

#### Accessing work from home

All students have school email addresses that can be accessed by opening the academy website and clicking on the "log in" icon at the very top of the page. There is then a section for Microsoft 365 for students. Students should log in using their academy username and password. This is usually the year they started at QEA followed by the first letter of their first name and their surname.

Once students have logged into their email they have access to One Drive. This is an online area to share documents. Staff will be uploading and sharing work to these areas in the event of any school closure and students will be able to save their work and email it to staff for feedback. We will be giving students guidance on how to do this in the coming days.



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## Supporting your child with their learning

As a parent you can support your child with learning at home by encouraging them to identify and revisit key knowledge for each of their subject areas. They can benefit from creating their own retrieval activities at home. To do this it may be useful for your child to look at the knowledge they plan to revisit as the first part of their work, but they should be encouraged to make notes as they read through the information as evidence suggests that re-reading alone does not have any positive effect on learning. Once they have identified this knowledge they should close all of their books and knowledge folder and should try to recall the information from memory. They can either do this through a blank page retrieval task, where they write as much as they can recall onto a blank sheet of paper, or they could create a quiz for themselves as they read through the information and then do the quiz from memory.

It is important that once your child has completed their retrieval task that they change pen, for a different colour, and go back to their initial notes and knowledge organisers to check and correct what they have been able to produce. This will show them where they need to focus their work for the next time they revisit this knowledge.

Creating quiz cards is another way students can revisit key knowledge. Using their knowledge organisers they should write a key word, or question, on one side of the card with the answer on the back. They can then use these cards to self test, or ask someone else to test them. The most effective way to use these cards is for them to place any cards that they get correct to the back of the pile while placing ones that they did not answer correctly towards the front so that they revisit them sooner. This is an effective way of revising as the cards can be kept and reused. There are a number of apps that can be used to create revision cards, for example quizlet and brainscape.

We hope that this information helps you to support your child but if you do have any questions please contact us and we will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Kirstie Dixon  
Assistant Principal



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