



Home Learning and Retrieval Policy

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Home Learning and Retrieval Policy

Our Home Learning policy focuses solely on Retrieval Practice; this is the process by which students recall from memory what they have learnt and is a deliberately planned as a response to the changes around curriculum, assessment and terminal examinations.

At John Willmott School we prioritise quality first teaching and our extensive development of 'Teaching and Learning' through our EEE model as well as Curriculum and Assessment ensure that students learn well. The 5 phases of learning: Explanation; Modelling; Questioning; Deliberate Practice and Feedback¹ ensure teaching is sequenced in a way which promotes progress. Throughout all phases of learning students will need to reflect on prior learning in order to make links and be able to elaborate fully on what that they understand. Of course, this allows their subject staff to refine learning and strategically respond to what has not be learnt yet.

We are an evidence informed school and as such we know that Retrieval Practice reduces cognitive load² so that students are better able to strengthen their long term memory, improving retention and ability to recall without prompting or scaffolding.

All homework will be set through Satchel:One (formerly Show My Homework) and this will take the form of Knowledge Organisers and weekly quizzing. As a parent or carer you will have access to these tasks and deadlines. Assessment may be through this platform but will also be through our quality first teaching in the classroom as well as both formative and summative assessment. Students should be using their Knowledge Organisers, which contain the key knowledge to progress, every night and this learning habit should be encouraged.

We recognise that students, parents and carers will need support in fully understanding how to embed 'Retrieval Practice' into their own routines and to assist all in ensuring that Home Learning remains impactful and effective, we will ensure there are regular assemblies; workshops and instructional videos to explain, model and answer questions around strategies such as: self quizzing; multiple choice questioning; flashcards; memory mapping; elaboration as well as clarifying the science behind its use, such as research done by Ebbinghaus³.

If students are not engaging in line with our Home Learning and Retrieval Policy teachers will contact home so that this can be communicated. If this does not improve the Head of Faculty will ask for a parental meeting to take place. If parents or carers have any questions about the Home Learning set, they should contact the class teacher in the first instance.

¹ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ971753.pdf>

² <https://impact.chartered.college/article/shibli-cognitive-load-theory-classroom/>

³ <https://daisychristodoulou.com/2020/04/how-to-remember-anything-forever-the-secret-history/>