



MSG/EDY
4 January 2024

Dear Blaise Families

As you are aware, at Blaise High School, students use Knowledge Organisers to complete self-quizzing homework every evening. We wanted to take the opportunity, at the start of a new term, to remind you of why we do this and how you can support your child to get the most out of their knowledge organiser.

Why we have Knowledge Organisers

We believe that the powerful knowledge contained in Knowledge Organisers has the power to transform the lives of our children. Powerful knowledge means knowledge that changes how our students think, that gives them deep and exciting understanding, and which will allow them to climb their own personal mountain to the very best universities in the country or careers of their choosing. The knowledge in the Knowledge Organisers is the backbone of our curriculum. It has been carefully selected by our Heads of Department so that if students come to lesson confident on the knowledge they've learnt in their homework, they will have a head start in that lesson. Students who *know* more find it easier to *learn* more. Conversely, if they haven't done their self-quizzing, students will have to work harder to keep up with the content in that lesson. Students have an opportunity in their Low Stakes Quizzes at the start of every lesson to show what they know from their self-quizzing and our teachers refer to knowledge from the knowledge organisers when it comes up in lessons.

Why we do self-quizzing

Self-quizzing using 'look, cover, write, check' is an evidence-based strategy for memorising information. It's not enough for our students to be familiar with the powerful knowledge in the knowledge organisers; we want them to know it inside out and be able to recall it with ease. **It is so important that students use this strategy, rather than just copying out the definitions, otherwise they won't retain the knowledge over time.**

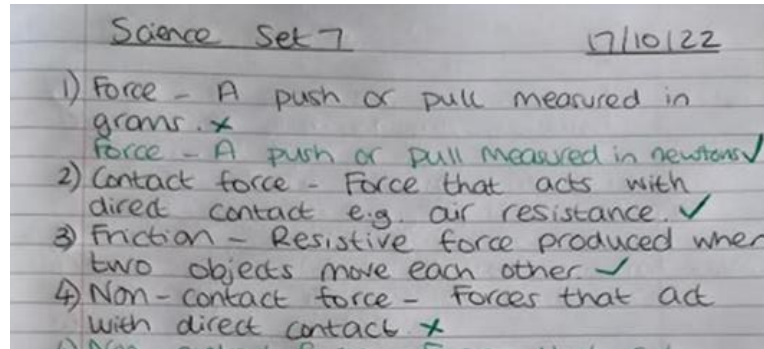
We also want all our students to develop good study habits from KS3, which will support them to work independently for longer periods of time in KS4, when they sit their GCSEs, and beyond. Completing 30 minutes of homework is a great way to embed this habit.

Our assessments enable students to see the link between effort and success: those students who do their homework consistently to a high standard, using 'look, cover, write, check', perform well when it comes to their assessments. This reflects the broader message we want our students to understand that hard work leads to success.

What excellent Self-Quizzing looks like and how you can help

We have very clear criteria for what excellent self-quizzing looks like. In reality when students 'look, cover, write, check' properly, they make mistakes, which is an important part of the learning process. We would therefore expect, in the vast majority of self-quizzing homework's, to see some definitions corrected in green pen, as per the example below:





Students have been reminded of why we do self-quizzing and how to self-quiz effectively in their re-inductions on Thursday 4th January. We also wanted you as parents and carers to be aware that all self-quizzing must have the features listed below, otherwise a detention will be issued:

- Date and title underlined on top line
- Numbers in the margin
- Full page completed with no gaps between lines and with the definition starting on the same line as the keyword
- Writing all the way across the page
- Green pen marked
- Neat presentation

Please contact us if you would like to discuss this further, or see further examples of excellent self - quizzing.

You can help at home by:

- checking with your child each night that they have done their self-quizzing homework and that it has the features listed above
- ensuring that your child is covering up their knowledge organiser when they do the 'write' stage of 'look, cover, write, check' by using their whiteboards.
- testing your child on the knowledge in their self-quizzing book so that they can see how well they know the definitions and to help them identify the ones they may need to revise again

There is a video summary of this letter [here](#).

Thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Standing
Assistant Head

