



December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of our Key Stage 3 students

Thank you for the support you are giving your children with homework. It has been tricky navigating the MCAS and Student Portal apps, but we hope that some of the initial teething issues have been resolved.

We were delighted to host a BBA coffee morning last Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December about homework, it was lovely to meet parents and carers of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students. Of course, it isn't always possible for people to attend due to commitments so we thought a quick overview of FAQs would be useful.

### **Why do we use knowledge organisers for homework?**

We are informed by the latest educational research on memory and the importance of focusing on knowledge for each subject. The idea is that the more we retrieve knowledge and revisit it, the more likely we are to retain it in our long-term memory. For students to do well in assessments they will need to retrieve their subject knowledge. Our knowledge organiser booklets are designed to present the key knowledge each term.

### **Is homework on the Student Portal?**

No. The main instruction on Student Portal is to look at the knowledge organiser booklet and answer the questions provided. Homework is completed using the knowledge organiser booklet and the exercise book provided. Students do not need to look on the Student Portal to know what to do for homework – they need to use their knowledge organisers.

### **Are all homework tasks in the knowledge organiser booklet?**

Not quite, maths is on Mathswatch and Music is on teachinggadget. Reminders of this are in the knowledge organiser booklet.

### **How will my child know when their homework is due?**

On the front of the booklet there are due dates. Maths, English and Science are set/due every week. All other subjects alternate, with 3 homework tasks per term. At the back of the booklet there is a homework timetable with the specific lessons on which the homework is due, teachers will give students information.

## What if my child is struggling or needs help?

Homework club is on Mondays and Thursday from 3-4pm in the library. It is run by LSAs and our Homework Lead. Your child could drop in and ask questions or complete their homework with support.

## What can I do to support my child?

Praise them for their effort with homework. Remind them of Homework Club. Encourage them to complete their homework for the beginning of each week so that it is in their bags ready for their teacher to check.

## Do they need to submit homework on the Student Portal?

No, their homework will be checked in their homework exercise books by their teachers.

## Who can I contact if I have questions?

On the second page of the knowledge organiser booklet there is list of Curriculum Leaders and year team emails. You can also contact [farva.ali@clf.uk](mailto:farva.ali@clf.uk) , Homework Lead, and myself at [ali.griffiths@clf.uk](mailto:ali.griffiths@clf.uk) if you have further questions.

With very best wishes for the Christmas break.

Ali Griffiths



Associate Assistant Principal



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