



Knowledge Organiser Guide

for
parents/carers

Oasis Academy Enfield

“Knowledge is power”.

Sir Francis Bacon

Knowledge Organisers

At Oasis Academy Enfield we have created Knowledge Organisers to provide clarity around the most vital knowledge which students need to retain in their long-term memory and to increase communication between academy life and home life. The content in these directly links to what is being learnt in lessons and support the 'skills and understanding' outlined in our schemes of learning. Whilst knowledge organisers will be used as part of teaching, it is important that students create good habits of independent study by reviewing, practising and retrieving the information to ensure the content sticks with them.

Purpose

Knowledge Organisers are based on the information students will need across their time at Oasis Academy Enfield. In order to be successful in their GCSEs, students should use their organisers to keep building on their knowledge. Every student has been issued with a Knowledge Organiser booklet and an exercise book. The content of their exercise books will look different as they record the information for recall in their own preferred way. It will not be 'marked' by teachers but recognised in tutor time. As the year progresses, students will be taught and exposed to different ways of using and memorising the content. Teachers will use them in their teaching and some assessments will be based on them.

The aim is to improve student confidence in accessing the information needed to support learning and to free up thinking space to focus on the application of knowledge and problem solving. Working memory capacity is limited, so by storing more in their long-term memories, students can free up working memory capacity. With careful design and use of knowledge organisers, they can quickly access and retrieve the information they require from their long-term memory.

Research shows that the 'expert' brain draws on a range of knowledge stored in 'long term memory' to solve new problems by making links to old experiences. For students to succeed in a particular area, they must have a foundation of factual knowledge. Knowledge organisers are a way to enable this in a much more systematic way than traditional revision guides and textbooks.

How does it work?

Every school day, your child should attempt to study at least 1 section of their Knowledge Organiser (KO) for their homework. Students will be encouraged to produce their own timetables to organise which subjects they should be studying on which days (it doesn't matter if they have that subject on that day or not, they should follow a timetable). They should aim to spend around 15 minutes on each subject. That means some days they will complete 15 minutes work, other days it may be 30 minutes. Working in this way will help them create good habits for learning.

Using the Knowledge Organiser

Students should use their exercise books to show the work they have done. Each evening, they should underline the previous day's work and date the next piece they do. Some days students may opt to use physical methods such as Flash Cards or online packages such as Quizlet. This just needs noting in their book. They will need to bring their KO and exercise book with them EVERY DAY to school

How can you help?

Have a conversation with your child about how they have used the content. Ask them to explain the methods they have used, starting with those outlined in the guide 'How to use Knowledge Organisers'. Use the Knowledge Organiser, test them to see how much they know and can remember. It is important at this point to recognise, as your child moves through the school, the knowledge they have learned lower down the school will always need recapping.