

January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Longbenton High School we are committed to giving our students the best chances of academic success. A key element of this continued drive is a renewed focus on meaningful, yet manageable home learning/revision activities. As part of this focus on independent study we have invested in an excellent online programme called 'GCSE Pod'.

1. Students who regularly complete work on GCSE Pod are statistically likely to achieve 1.5 GCSE grades higher than non-users
2. When we do not complete recall tasks we forget a significant amount of content learned in lessons, often up to 75% (Ebbinghaus' Forgetting Curve shows just how much we forget as humans if we don't regularly revise and return to previous learning)
3. The questions on GCSE Pod are usually multiple choice so are self-marking and give detailed instant analysis of results to students as they are learning

How can you help?

- Please encourage students to attend the homework club, running on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in the 6th Form study after school
- Please encourage students to regularly complete their assignments on GCSE Pod (students can also complete work on GCSE Pod of their own choosing) and other home learning activities, such as exam papers
- Please encourage students to regularly check Google Classroom to see what home learning tasks are being set

If you need any help navigating the site or would like more information about how you can support with home learning please contact me directly via rt@longbenton.org.uk

Students who feature in the school weekly GCSE Pod 'Top 10' are receiving postcards recognising their hard work; these are proving very popular. We are continuing to use other types of home learning, such as revision cards, model maps, past exam papers and vocabulary tests. As a school we are also competing in the national 'Pod Games' competition which monitors usage on the site. We are currently in 10th place on the leader board, which is a wonderful achievement so far.

Thank you again for all your support with independent study and this crucial element of learning.

Kind regards,

Mr Towler