



2 November 2021

Dear Y8 and Y9 parents, guardian, carer

## Brainscape

Over the last 18 months, we have been determined to ensure that students are able to understand their own metacognitive processes and to know not only how, but to significantly improve their long-term memory. We have set out to create a homework strategy whereby students are able to self-quiz effectively every evening and not only build a successful habit but also understand the benefits of the strategy. Your child will know and understand:

- 'The Forgetting Curve'
- Long-term memory
- Working memory
- Cognitive overload

In year 8 and year 9 we are now including our additional technique in the form of a flash-card application in to student's homework routines. From 8<sup>th</sup> November, all students in years 8 and 9 will switch from their additional 15 minutes of self-quizzing to an additional 15 minutes of 'Brainscape' per evening. The current homework schedule can be found on page 2 of the student planner.

Please find a link to a video which explains the changes here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qPT4XtxENOy-Pc6UP--jfUVjhFoB8diy/view?usp=sharing>

Brainscape is proven to work due to the algorithm which ensures that students learn through spaced repetition. In essence, students study flashcards and the application ensure that more challenging concepts are studied more frequently than easier know concepts. Students are able to rank their confidence for each flashcard on a scale from 0 to 5 and to repeat the process until they have mastered the deck of cards given. Once they have mastered a deck, their teacher is able to upload additional cards. Brainscape can be accessed via a mobile or desktop application.

If you wish to find out more about Brainscape please find further details here:

<https://www.brainscape.com/spaced-repetition>

This week your child will receive their Brainscape class code and will have a number of tutor sessions which show them how to use the application effectively. The application can be accessed through our school 'Calcium' page and students can login 'with Google' from here. Alternatively, students can access Brainscape through an application on a smart phone. It is imperative, when signing in, that students use their school 'google credentials' to access their classes:

For Year 9: [19surname.forename@poolehigh.co.uk](mailto:19surname.forename@poolehigh.co.uk)

For Year 8: [20surname.forename@poolehigh.co.uk](mailto:20surname.forename@poolehigh.co.uk)

If you feel your child will have any difficulty accessing the application please ensure that they attend homework club (3-4.15pm in the library) in the first instance. For any further issues please do get in touch with the year office.

Yours sincerely ,

Mrs V Stillman  
Assistant Headteacher