



21st October 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Today, your child has been issued with a knowledge organiser booklet. The information in this booklet covers the key knowledge required for every subject until February half term. After this time they will be issued with a new booklet for the remaining half of the year. This document should be kept safe at home and stored with the exercise book issued by school. This booklet will provide immediate relevant materials for all subjects and should be used immediately if students are isolating at home and remote learning is not yet available to them. Additionally, your child should be encouraged to do daily self-testing using the methods they have been taught at school.

At St Cuthbert's we know that in order to flourish, students need to build their knowledge carefully and systematically. Learning is like building a wall: every new thing a person learns builds on something they already know. If the knowledge isn't secure before moving on, it is really hard to build and develop stable knowledge and understanding that ultimately leads to success. Knowledge organisers help to ensure that the bottom row – the knowledge that we need to have a good, basic understanding of each subject – is solid and secure.



But just reading or copying the information won't make it stick!

Research says that learning happens most effectively when our brains have to retrieve information. Think about when you set a new password: you will find it really hard to remember until you have had to enter it a few times. This is why all of the techniques we recommend students use focus on retrieving information. When students focus on learning this crucial information at home, it frees up lesson time so that the teacher can develop, extend, challenge, apply and make links.... all the complex techniques that we are trying to build in students every day.

How can parents support this?

- Help to build independence and discipline by removing distractions during period of self-testing
- Engage in the learning of your child by quizzing them after self-testing
- Ask them questions about what they do and don't know – ask them to explain concepts to you
- Make sure that old knowledge organisers are kept safely stored away for revision purposes

We are striving to ensure all St Cuthbert's students work hard to become the best that they can be. More than ever, we value the partnership that we have built with parents. The knowledge that you have about what motivates your child will be instrumental in their overall success.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Knight
Assistant Headteacher