

**Subject: New homework strategy**

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to inform you about the new St Antony's approach to homework that was launched this year. You may have noticed your child coming home with homework booklets - this is part of the new approach. **If you were at a recent information evening, you will already know about this**, but we want to make sure everyone has clarity around homework.

**Short version:**

**The new homework strategy is essentially a 5-year structured revision programme to help students know more, remember more and be able to do more.** KS3 uses booklets containing knowledge organisers and short retrieval questions. Revision guides with application questions are added in year 10. In year 11, pupils use their revision guides to help them complete exam practice workbooks in line with a schedule – this forms the basis of year 11 revision.

**Detailed version:**

**Background – The need for change, and research**

Last year, we asked pupils what they thought about homework at St Antony's. Pupil feedback can be summarised as "homework is a waste of time, and nobody checks it anyway". Clearly, this highlighted the need to improve homework provision.

As a result, we have developed a new homework strategy using a research-led approach: [Homework | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)

The research states:

1. Homework has a **significant positive impact, particularly with pupils in secondary schools.**
2. Homework that is **linked to classroom work** tends to be more effective.
3. It is important to **make the purpose of homework clear to pupils.**
4. The **quality** of the task set appears to be **more important than the quantity.**

As a result, we have moved away from online platforms and towards booklets. Moving away from online platforms means pupils don't need their phone or other device to complete homework. This minimises distractions and means devices can be put away to allow pupils to concentrate fully on their homework, completing it quicker and to a higher standard. Furthermore, exams are written and pupils need to develop the independent study and application skills over time to be successful. Our new homework strategy supports this.

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St Antony's  
Roman Catholic School

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### **New homework strategy**

Based on research and examples of good practice, we have developed a 5-year homework strategy/structured revision programme that complements the learning pupils undertake in lessons. Homework now forms part of our memory strategy where pupils revisit essential knowledge repeatedly through retention and retrieval activities, homework and assessment. This approach is designed to help pupils know more, remember more and be able to do more. This makes lessons easier, tests easier and exams easier, but it also means pupils can engage with more demanding work and achieve higher, opening up access to college courses and further study beyond St Antony's.

**Key stage 3** homework booklets include knowledge organisers from current and prior learning with questions that match the knowledge organisers. The knowledge organisers contain the essential knowledge from each topic; the knowledge we want pupils to never forget. The questions are mostly short retrieval questions to help pupils quickly revisit essential knowledge to help them embed it in their long-term memory. All of the knowledge needed to answer the short retrieval questions is found within the knowledge organisers. This approach helps pupils build up a wide body of essential knowledge to draw upon in lessons and future learning. Homework booklets typically last for a half-term or a term and include weekly or biweekly retrieval questions, depending on the subject's contact time.

**Year 10** adds in GCSE revision guides (where available) or an equivalent. Pupils still engage with short recall questions in a booklet to help embed essential knowledge. Additionally, the revision guides provide the depth needed for GCSE studies along with associated application questions, all of which are completed in the homework booklet. This increase in depth and complexity supports the embedding of essential knowledge and helps pupils to become more familiar with independently applying the knowledge.

**Year 11 builds** on year 10, replacing the booklets with an exam practice workbook. The revision guide contains the essential knowledge in GCSE depth, the workbook contains exam style questions. Each page in the revision guide has a matching page in the workbook. Pupils complete the workbook using the revision guide to help. This means they are revising; revisiting and embedding essential knowledge, filling gaps in knowledge and practising applying their knowledge to exam style questions – **the perfect revision.**

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An overview is shown below:



As all subjects are different; there can be slight variations between subjects to allow for subject disciplinary, but homework in all subjects is still based around this research-led approach.

Pupils receive feedback on their homework in lessons. Pupils self-assess their homework based on the feedback provided by the teacher. This supports pupils to develop their metacognitive skills.

Homework is still signposted on SatchelOne so that you and your child see what they need to complete, when it is due in and whether it has been completed yet.

All pupils have been provided with an A4 plastic homework folder to help them look after their homework. Pupils **don't** need to carry all homework booklets, revision guides and workbooks at all times. They should bring in the homework they need on the days they need it.

For pupils who prefer to complete their homework in school, homework club runs Monday-Thursday, 3:15-4:15, in computer room two.

Any pupil not completing homework will be placed in a homework detention with their class teacher to ensure the homework is completed and the pupil doesn't miss out.

**We welcome your feedback regarding our new homework strategy. Feedback can be provided by clicking [here](#).**

Kind regards,

Mr D Shaw

*Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum*

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