

# Knowledge Organiser Guide

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for  
parents/carers

Bridgewater High School

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**Knowledge  
is power.**

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Sir Francis Bacon

## Knowledge Organisers

Knowledge Organisers have been created to provide clarity around the most vital knowledge which students need to retain in their long-term memory and to increase communication between school life and home life. The content in these directly links to what is being learned in school and support the 'skills and understanding' outlined in KS3 AWOL Statements and KS4 Programmes of study. Whilst Knowledge Organiser 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.

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## Purpose

Knowledge Organisers are based on the information students will need across their 5 years at Bridgewater High School. 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, folder and workbook. The content of their workbooks and folders 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 helps them create good habits for learning.

## Using the Knowledge Organiser

Students should use their work 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 what how they have used the content. Ask them to explain the methods they have used, starting with those outlined in this book. 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.

## How can they use their KO?

Students can use their KOs and book in a number of different ways but they should not just copy from the Knowledge Organiser into their book. There are some more ideas and strategies listed below on how they can self test.

- Asking someone to write questions for them which they then answer.
- Writing their own challenging questions and then leaving it overnight to answer them the next day.
- Creating mind maps.
- Creating flashcards.
- Putting key words into new sentences.
- Look, cover, write and check.
- Mnemonics
- Drawing a comic strip of a timeline.



Mindmaps



Flashcards

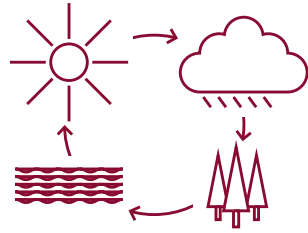
My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming Planets!

Mnemonics



Cartoon Strip

- Using the 'clock' template to divide the information into smaller sections, then testing themselves on different sections.

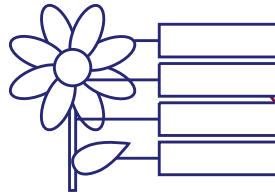


Diagrams of Processes

- Spelling tests.

- Definition tests.

- Drawing diagrams of processes.

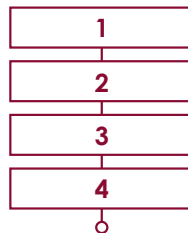


Annotate an Image

- Draw images and annotate/label them with extra information.

- Doing further research on the topic

- Creating fact files



Flow Charts

- Creating flowcharts.

## Study Timetable/Parent Checker

Each day your child should use a page of their exercise booklet to evidence their work. Once they have completed their 15 - 30 minutes of work the parent/carer should sign this off.

It will look something like below:

Week 1			
Day	Subject 1	Subject 2	Parent/Carer Sign Off
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday	Maths	DT	
Thursday	MFL		
Friday	Science	Music	