

11 November 2024

Home Learning (Homework) for KS3 students

Dear Parent/Carer

This year we have welcomed a new way of issuing homework which gives our students at KS3 (Y7,8,9) the chance to consolidate what they are learning in class and to teach them a method of being able to revise and recall this information more easily. This is an important skill which will improve their base knowledge and enable them to revise easily in future assessments. We acknowledge that it hasn't gone smoothly since the launch in September so after having listened to feedback and revised the way in which we communicate this to students and their families, I want to take this opportunity to relaunch this with you.

Simply put, the homework system is based on cycles of 3 weeks.

Week 1

Students are given simple work/words or phrases and are asked to produce flashcards that they will use to learn these words. Teachers have already modelled this with Y7 and 9 last half term, and will be modelling this with Y8 this week.



1. Flash Cards

Why flashcards?

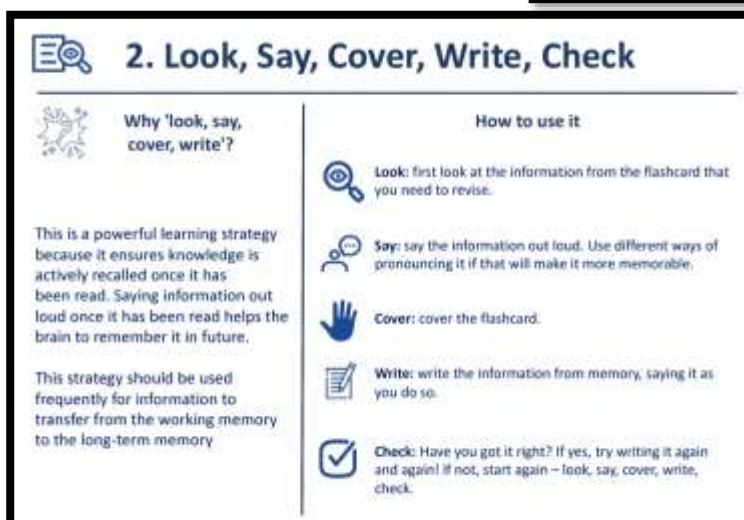
Flash cards promote studying through active recall, which is one of the practices through which our brains learn most effectively.

Flash cards are a great way to put spaced repetition into action.



Top tips

- 1 Creating your own revision cards will help to retrieve information.
- 2 Adding pictures to your flash cards will make them more memorable.
- 3 Use mnemonic devices to help you remember important points about your subject.
- 4 Stick to 5 -10 facts per card. It's important not to overload them with too much information.
- 5 When using your flash cards use them in both directions.
- 6 Recall the information out loud to aid memory retention.



2. Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

Why 'look, say, cover, write'?

This is a powerful learning strategy because it ensures knowledge is actively recalled once it has been read. Saying information out loud once it has been read helps the brain to remember it in future.

This strategy should be used frequently for information to transfer from the working memory to the long-term memory

How to use it

- Look:** first look at the information from the flashcard that you need to revise.
- Say:** say the information out loud. Use different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.
- Cover:** cover the flashcard.
- Write:** write the information from memory, saying it as you do so.
- Check:** Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.

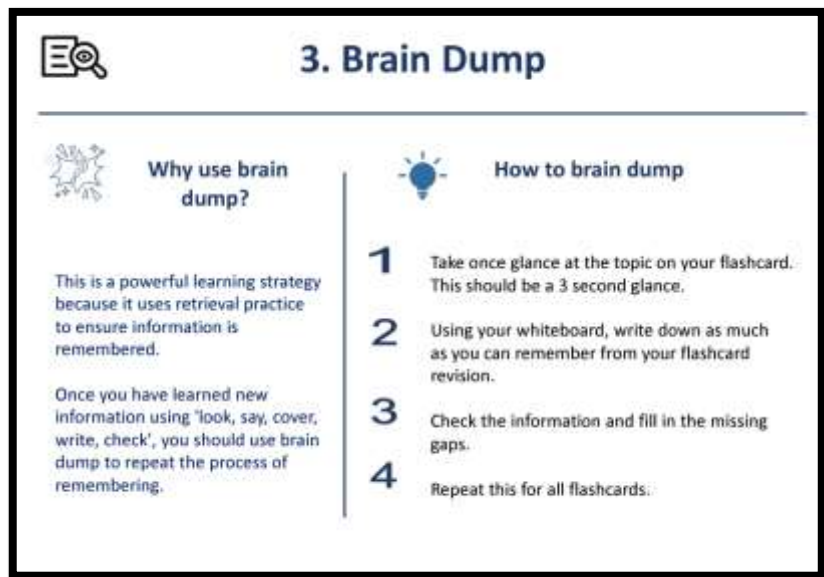
Week 2

Using their flashcards, students learn and test their knowledge using the strategy **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check**. Teachers will check in week 2 that the flashcards have been produced and if not, there will be no sanction give but a negative mark will be added to their culture code score. If homework is consistently incomplete we will contact home and discuss this with you.

Week 3

Brain Dump - students glance at the topic on their flashcard and write down as much as they can remember on their whiteboard. They can then check this and fill in any missing parts.

They should carry out this exercise for all of their flashcards.



3. Brain Dump

Why use brain dump?

This is a powerful learning strategy because it uses retrieval practice to ensure information is remembered.

Once you have learned new information using 'look, say, cover, write, check', you should use brain dump to repeat the process of remembering.

How to brain dump

- 1 Take once glance at the topic on your flashcard. This should be a 3 second glance.
- 2 Using your whiteboard, write down as much as you can remember from your flashcard revision.
- 3 Check the information and fill in the missing gaps.
- 4 Repeat this for all flashcards.

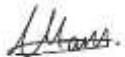
How will the students know what the words/phrases are that they need to learn?

In week 1, the work will be communicated in the following ways

- Teachers will tell students in lessons during that week.
- The work will be uploaded to MCAS during week 1 and it will remain there until the cycle has ended.
- An email will be sent to you each week reminding you of where the children are in the cycle and what they should be doing.
- All work is uploaded to our website

If you have any questions regarding home learning, your first point of contact is your child's tutor. We look forward to working with parents this year to ensure your child's journey at Meden is enjoyable, purposeful, and rewarding.

Many thanks,



Abigail Mann - Deputy Headteacher