



September 2025

KS3 Home Learning

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to a new academic year for your child. We're excited to begin the learning journey with your child whether they are new to the school and joining us in Year 7 or are returning to us in Years 8-13. This letter includes information about home learning you will find useful with some additional guidance on how to support your child and the school with Home Learning in Years 7-9.

The Importance of Home Learning

Home learning has been proven to have a significant impact in raising student achievement. It remains an important part of the Meden experience for our students. It is vital that your child is given the opportunity to recall, retrieve and repeat the rich knowledge they are learning in lessons so that they can use this knowledge to make a difference in the world.

Home Learning at Meden

This year, we will continue to build on the success of our revision homework curriculum. It is vital that your child is given the opportunity to recall, retrieve and repeat the rich knowledge they are learning in lessons so that they can use this knowledge to make a difference in the world.

Students will learn three revision strategies to help them know and remember more each year.

At the start of next week, your child will be shown how to access and complete their homework. All information about home learning can be found on a tab under the Parent Portal of the school's website [here](#).

KS3 Homework is set in a 3-week cycle. At the beginning of each cycle the work will be communicated with both you and students in the following ways:

- Uploaded to the Homework section of the website here.
- Uploaded to the Parent portal MCAS (under Important Documents)
- Emailed to students
- Emailed to parents/contacts.

I have attached a simple guide to help you in understanding the structure of the homework and some frequently Q & As.

If you have any further questions regarding home learning, please do contact 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,


Mr Michael Knox
Assistant Headteacher

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO KS3 HOMEWORK


Homework is set in 3-week cycles.

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 will be modelling this with students in lessons. For Years 8 and 9, this will be a repeat of what was modelled last year.




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.

WEEK 2



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.

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 given but a negative mark will be logged and included in 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

What do we ask of you as parent/guardian?

- Please talk with your child about the new words they are learning. Ask them to explain how or why they might use these in lesson and in the real world.
- Please encourage timely creation and completion of their flashcards.
- Please engage and test your child on their learned knowledge. This will support them with retrieving vital knowledge and help them practice the memory skills needed for their assessments and examinations.

Home Learning Q and A

How long should my child spend on each home learning?

No more than twenty minutes.

Is there a space for my child to complete home learning at school?

Yes, the library is open every morning from 8am and after school until 4pm for students to do their homework.

What happens if my child does not complete their home learning?

Students who miss two pieces of homework per half term will receive a phone call home informing parents of their non-completion.

How can I support my child with their home learning?

Please talk with your child about the new words they are learning. Ask them to explain how or why they might use these in lesson, and in the real world.

Please encourage timely creation and completion of their flashcards.

Please engage and test your child on their learned knowledge. This will support them with retrieving vital knowledge and help them practice the memory skills needed for their assessments and examinations.

How do I contact school with any questions?

Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance with any concerns.