

Dear Parent /Carer

18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

I am writing to explain the new independent home learning routines that have been implemented at Castle Hall Academy this year. The academy day now begins with a mastery session (lesson 1). Each session is used to improve memory and retrieval of core subject knowledge. The techniques we are implementing are based on findings from cognitive science and it has been shown that if students implement these techniques across their subjects the recall of the knowledge is more effective.

Each student has been given a 100% book as part of the equipment. It is basic equipment and should stay in their AfL bag. Every day of the week they must memorise and recall a set of core questions and keywords that have been identified by their subject teachers.

They must hand in their homework at the box in their lesson 1 space on the day it is due. The homework must complete one whole side of A4. To memorise the knowledge they may copy it out, but they **MUST** do some retrieval of the knowledge by testing themselves. They have been shown how to do this 'self quizzing' and shown very clearly the expectations of the homework.

Please can we ask for your support in ensuring your child completes the work for the due days as below and that you help your child by testing them? E.g. you may read out the question while they record it on their A4 sheet. It has also been proven that if parents are involved with supporting their child's studies at home, the child is more likely to have successful outcomes by the time they get to their GCSEs. It will also give you an insight into what your child is studying at school.

If a student fails to complete the work or it is not to the correct standard, they will have to remain behind that evening for 30 minutes to complete the work. You will be notified by text message.

The homework timetable for Years 7 - 9		The homework timetable for Year 10	
English	Monday	English	Monday
Humanities	Tuesday	Humanities/MFL	Tuesday
Science	Wednesday	Science	Wednesday
MFL	Thursday	Weekly Review	Thursday
Maths (Maths Watch)	Friday	Maths (Maths Watch)	Friday

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Swain  
Assistant Headteacher

...where hearts and minds connect