Our Ref: RA/SM/ABA-GCSE

Monday 6th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer and Student

**Core Knowledge at Stafford Manor High School**

I am writing to you today to share the tutor homework for this half term, which is designed to improve the long-term memory of your child.

Building long-term memory in school is essential. It provides a strong foundation for future learning, enhances critical thinking, and fosters a lifelong love for acquiring knowledge. This lasting understanding helps individuals adapt to change and navigate the complexities of the modern world.

We intend to do this by focusing on the core knowledge that has been covered at Stafford Manor High School during the last half term.

**What is Core Knowledge?**

Just as a solid foundation is crucial for a stable structure, core knowledge forms the building blocks for intellectual growth and critical thinking. It provides students with essential facts, concepts, and skills that enable them to tackle more complex subjects and solve real-world problems. Without a solid grasp of core knowledge in areas like mathematics, science, literature, and history, students may struggle to make meaningful connections and develop a well-rounded perspective.

**What are we going to do?**

After half term, your child will be provided with a core knowledge booklet for the *previous* half term. This booklet will contain the most important information that we have covered in all of our subjects to this point.

Every Monday, your child will be set a homework to learn the core knowledge for **one** of these topics. This topic will change each week, as seen below:

* Week Commencing the 6th January: English
* Week Commencing the 13th January: Maths
* Week Commencing the 20th January: Science
* Week Commencing the 27th January: Option Subjects 1\*
* Week Commencing the 3rd February: Option Subjects 2\*
* Week Commencing the 10th February: Option Subjects 3\*

**What does your child need to do?**

Attached to this letter is the core knowledge for the half term, which can also be found on the school website under ‘Parents – Core Knowledge – Spring Term 1’.

Each ***Monday***, during tutor, your child will start to produce 5 flash cards for the week’s focus.

Their homework for the week is to complete their flash cards (aim for about *10*) and **learn them**.

\*When the focus is on option subject 1/2/3, your child should choose a different option subject that they study each week, so they have covered at least 3 by the end of the term.

**What can you do to help?**

Using the copy of the core knowledge attached, you can support your child by doing the following:

1. Check that they have done their 10 flash cards for the week. If not, encourage them to complete them.
2. Quiz them every day on the flash cards until they can remember them. For more detail, see the information below, as well as the QR code which contains a video showing you exactly how to use flash cards.

**Detailed information:**

1. Get three boxes and label them Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
2. On Tuesday, ask your child each of the questions on their flash cards. If they get it right, place it in the Thursday box. This can be done several times on each day.
3. A qr code with red squares

   Description automatically generatedIf they get it wrong, tell them the answer and place it in the Wednesday box.
4. On Wednesday, re-ask the questions from the Wednesday box and place them all into the Thursday box once you have gone through them all.
5. On Thursday, ask **all** of the questions to see if they have remembered them.

To see an example in practice, scan the QR code on the right.

**How will we assess your child’s knowledge?**

On a Thursday, tutors will check to see if the flash cards have been created – *please ensure that your child brings them to tutor on this day* – if done, achievement points will be awarded on Class Charts.

On a Friday, the tutor retrieval quiz will be focused mostly on the core knowledge they have been revising throughout that week.

By working together, we can help to build a love for learning and ultimately provide even greater opportunities for our children.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Barnes

**Extended Leadership**