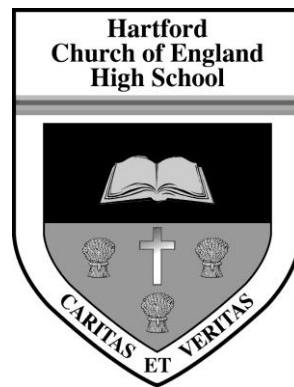


September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

### **Knowledge Organisers**

Over the course of this week, we will distribute **knowledge organiser** booklets to all students in Years 7 to 11. The purpose of these is to equip our learners with the skills and knowledge they need to achieve their very best as we develop and deliver a 'knowledge rich' curriculum across all subjects. They are a vital teaching and learning tool; therefore, it is essential that students have them at all times and do not leave them at home or at school.

Research suggests that the ability to learn, retain and recall knowledge is essential to examination success where students need to retrieve and apply knowledge to a range of different contexts. This puts increasing pressure on students to know and retain even more information for longer. Typically, when students leave their revision until a few weeks or even days/hours before examinations and tests, this presents a problem. Our short-term memory has limited capacity and students find themselves unable to retain the information so they become stressed and often give up, convincing themselves they are no good at revising or that they 'can't do that subject'.

The secret to success is to regularly revisit the knowledge learned. This helps transfer the knowledge from the short-term memory to the long-term memory, which not only helps to make learning 'stick', but is also frees up our short-term memory for day-to-day learning and experiences.

To that end, students will receive knowledge organisers for each of the subjects they study; each knowledge organiser is a concise collection of the core knowledge they need to learn and be able to recall in order to master a particular topic or unit. To support this process our teaching staff are building 'Do Now' retrieval activities at the beginning of all their lessons and the knowledge organisers will be the basis for most learning homework that is set. This might range from learning key words, spellings or remembering dates and definitions.

Many parents and carers ask us how they can support their children at home. Many are worried that they do not have all of the subject-specific knowledge to be able to help, and some worry how to check that their children have done their homework and revision. The knowledge organisers will help you to do all this easily and, on our website, under 'Students', you will find some videos and useful tips on how best to use them.

If you have any questions in the meantime about either the knowledge organisers or any other matter regarding your child's progress, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Peña