



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH HOME LEARNING

At The Halifax Academy we encourage all of our students to build on their studies in class through **regular home learning**. We know that establishing **effective routines** from Year 7 supports students' memory, confidence and progress.

WHAT IS RETRIEVAL PRACTICE?

Retrieval practice is a strategy that makes students **think hard and call information to mind**. It is the act of actively retrieving knowledge that boosts learning and **strengthens memory**. We know that it is much more effective than 'cramming' for a test or last-minute revision.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT RETRIEVAL PRACTICE AT HOME?

Your child's teachers have collated key knowledge for their subject in a **Knowledge Organiser**. You can use these to:

- **Ask your child questions** based on the key facts or key words. For example, for Spanish you might say "what's the Spanish word for 'I have'?" or in science, "what is the role of mitochondria?"
- Support your child to make **flashcards**. Students should write questions or key words on one side and answers on the other. They are helpful for **self-testing** or to support your questioning (as above). Flashcards are also useful for **summarising** the key concepts or ideas from Knowledge Organisers and exercise books.



- Ask your child to do a '**brain drain**'. This is where they note down everything they can remember on a topic. You can then cross reference this with the Knowledge Organiser and see if there are any gaps. All pupils have learned about 'brain drains' and 'mind maps' as part of the Learning Programme in school.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD MY CHILD STUDY AT HOME?

Details about the type and frequency of home learning for each subject can be found on the school's website under the Home Learning tab. Talk to your child about their home learning tasks each week. You could also support by:

- Reminding them to **write down weekly tasks** (in their planner) and ticking off when complete.
- Encouraging them to **attend Homework Club** after school. This is particularly helpful if your child requires access to a computer. Details of these clubs can also be found on the website.
- Regular interval practice. We forget knowledge over time unless it is reviewed regularly. Practice and retrieval help to break the 'forgetting curve' and support long-term memory. We recommend **'little and often' revision, using the retrieval practice strategies above.**
- Encouraging them to discuss or show you the progress they are making on **online programmes** such as Sparx, Educake, Language Nut and Bedrock. These programmes allow you to check completion rates and see how much progress your child is making.

