



THE NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL

Lionheart Educational Trust

The Newbridge School
Forest Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3SJ

01530 831 561
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www.newbridge.org.uk

Executive Principal Julia Patrick
Co-Heads of School Mike Gamble & Mick Rowbottom

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, can we thank you for your patience as we navigate our new systems. This year we have introduced new IT systems used to communicate and email parents and carers as well as the trust's Beehive portal.

We hope you have managed to log into Beehive. For parents to use Beehive, you will need to register. To do this, you need to go to the website and then click the register button:

<https://beehive.lionhearttrust.org.uk>

More information on Beehive including FAQs, a tour of the system and instruction on how to register can be found here: <https://lionhearttrust.org.uk/beehive>

Our students have got off to a fantastic start. Collectively they have already received 6541 Achievement Points in the first three weeks. By logging on to Beehive, you will hopefully be able to see the Achievement Points your child has been awarded and join us in congratulating them for their hard work and efforts.

Tutor Parent Meeting

On Thursday 13th October, we will be inviting parents and carers to come into school and meet their child's form tutor. This is an opportunity for you to visit the school, meet your child's tutor and discuss how your child has settled into the new academic year.

Further information regarding this evening will be sent out next week.

Homework

At The Newbridge School, homework is an important part of our curriculum. It is an essential element of learning as students build their knowledge, skills and understanding as they progress from Year 7 to Year 11.

Homework is important because it enables students to:

- Continue learning outside of the classroom
- Consolidate newly acquired knowledge and revise prior learning
- Develop independent learning skills
- Involve parents/carers in their learning

Homework is an essential factor in achieving success at Key Stage 4 and staff will set students key pieces of homework. These homework tasks will appear on Beehive so both students and parents can see exactly what homework is set and when.



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These pieces of homework are compulsory and, following the half term break, students will start to receive consequence points for not completing and submitting their homework. We will be explaining this to students prior to the half term break.

Running alongside these homework tasks is a recommendation that students carry out independent study each week. This could be completing past papers, completing revision using online resources, e.g. BBC Bitesize, and revising key topics taught using their exercise books, revision guides or knowledge organiser.

This means that there will never be an occasion where students don't have homework or independent study to access at home.



Regular retrieval practice is important because active retrieval helps to move learning to our long-term memories. At The Newbridge School, we use 'low stakes quizzing' to check how much students are remembering and to practice retrieving important knowledge that has previously been taught.

We will regularly teach and remind students ways in which they can revise, and students will receive knowledge organisers for the different topics they are being taught.

What is a knowledge organiser?

A knowledge organiser is a set of key facts or information that students need to know and be able to recall/remember in order to master a topic of work.

Key Stage 4 qualifications are becoming increasingly challenging. Most subjects have lost their controlled assessments (previously known as coursework), and these have been replaced with additional exam papers. The focus of these exams is the retrieval and application of knowledge. This means our students need to retain even more information for longer. For students to achieve successful outcomes at Key Stage 4 and beyond, independent study involving practice, repetition, retrieval and application of skills and



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knowledge are essential. Homework provides students with opportunities to practice and refine these key elements of learning and it is paramount that students master these skills in Key Stage 3.

Our short-term memory is designed to be just that and has limited capacity and we need to try and put our learning in to the long-term memory. The secret to success is to regularly revisit the knowledge being learnt (known as 'spaced retrieval'). This helps to transfer the knowledge from the short-term memory to the long-term memory. This not only helps to make it 'stick', but it also frees up our short-term memory for day-to-day learning and experiences.

Over time, students will build up a core bank of facts, quotes and vocabulary that will help them succeed in exams and assessments. Using knowledge organisers to revise and learn will also develop independent learning skills that will be invaluable for when students revise for their Key Stage 4 exams.

Supporting Your Child Through Key Stage 4 Parent Forum

To assist you in supporting your child at home, we would like to invite you to a parent forum focussing on revision and independent study. This will take place on Thursday 3rd November at 5.30pm and will be for Key Stage 4 students and their parents/carers. During this evening we will explore the most effective ways which students can revise and study, including how to use different revision methods and ways in which parents can support their child in their studies at home. To book your place on to this parent forum, please use the booking system found at the following link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lionhearttrust/t-dvvyvdx>

We look forward to meeting many of you on the 13th October at our Tutor Evening and our Support Your Child Through Key Stage 4 Parent Forum on Thursday 3rd November.

Kind regards

Mr M Rowbottom
Co-Head of The Newbridge School

Mr M Gamble
Co-Head of The Newbridge School