

Subject: A Strong Start to the Academic Year: Homework

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we embark on the exciting journey of a new academic year at OIEA, it is our pleasure to reach out to you to highlight the significance of our partnership in ensuring a successful start to homework this year. We believe that parents play an integral role in supporting their children's learning, both inside and outside the classroom, and we greatly value your involvement.

We are thrilled to introduce you to Carousel Learning, an innovative online software platform that will be integrated into various subjects to facilitate homework quizzing. Homework will begin to be set **this week**, as a trial run no consequences will be set for the first two weeks to provide time for students to get used to this new system.

Carousel Learning is designed to promote knowledge retrieval—a powerful technique for reinforcing learning and memory retention.

Here are some key principles of retrieval practice that we will emphasize throughout the academic year:

- Retrieval supports the transfer of knowledge from short-term to long-term memory.
- It equips students with the essential skill of finding information when required.
- Retrieval should be regular.
- Effortful retrieval strengthens memory and deepens understanding.
- Spaced retrieval, where students quiz themselves on past lessons, is highly effective.
- Low-stakes retrieval, involving self-quizzing and self-correction, promotes active learning.

To support your child as we begin this academic year, we encourage you to: help them to log onto ClassCharts to access their homework, support them in completing the quizzes on Carousel and other platforms like MathsWatch, provide a time in the evening that homework is completed and use the timetable provided to structure their learning after-school. On the next page you can find a five step guide to using Carousel Learning.

It is important to strike a balance during the school year. While academic engagement is crucial, your child also deserves time for relaxation, leisure, and personal growth. We recommend creating a flexible homework schedule that aligns with your child's needs and interests.

As we enter this new academic year, we are excited to partner with you to ensure your child's educational journey is enriching and successful. Together, we can build a strong foundation for their continued achievement.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Leach

References on Retrieval Practice:

Roediger, H. L., & Karpicke, J. D. (2006). Test-enhanced learning: Taking memory tests improves long-term retention. *Psychological Science*, 17(3), 249-255.

Dunlosky, J., Rawson, K. A., Marsh, E. J., Nathan, M. J., & Willingham, D. T. (2013). Improving students' learning with effective learning techniques: Promising directions from cognitive and educational psychology. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 14(1), 4-58.

# Five ways to support your child with their Carousel homework

Carousel is an online quizzing platform that we use for homework. Students have access to question and answer flashcards which they use independently to learn important knowledge and then complete a quiz to test their knowledge.

Flashcard  
revise

Take quiz

Studentmark

Teachermark

As time goes on, students will learn more and more in school. In order to make sure they don't forget all this information, Carousel uses evidence-based strategies to help strengthen their memories over the long term.

The best way to use Carousel is over time, not just all in one evening. Instead of doing all the work the night before it is due. To support this there is a timetable when subjects homework will be set, then it will be due 7 days later.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	English	Science	History	DT
IT	MFL	PE	Geography	Art
		Dance	Business	Health and Social
		Food/Hospitality	Drama	RE
				Music

1

Links to the quizzes will be on ClassCharts. Form tutors can provide logins if you or your child does not have one. A how-to video is provided on the QR Code.



2

Ask them some questions from the flashcards and make sure that their answers are the same (or very similar to) the flashcard answers.

3

Mark their quiz with them and make sure they are being honest about what they got right and wrong.

4

Make sure that if they get less than 80% on the quiz, they go back to the flashcards first, and then retake the quiz.

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