Birchwood Community High School

Welcome

IAG Evening
September 2023

ASPIRATION KNOWLEDGE KINDNESS

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Purpose of the evening

- Welcome you to our new Year group and House system

- Provide information linked to key areas through our short workshops:

1. Standards, expectations and working together
2. Online safety and using social media responsibly
3. Supporting your child's learning

-Provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions

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Standards, Expectations and working together

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The School Day – September 2023

New school day:

8.30am – 8.40am: Gates open
8.40am – 8.50am: Registration in form *(Equipment check, uniform check, detentions check)*
8.50am – 9.50am: Period 1
9.50am – 10.45am: Period 2
10.45am – 11.05am: Morning break

11.05am – 12.00pm: Period 3
12.00pm – 12.55pm: Period 4
12.55pm – 1.55pm: Lunch and Enrichment

1.55pm – 2.15pm: Form time (*Back to form after line up – assemblies and PSHE programme)*
2.15pm – 3.10pm: Period 5

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Standards

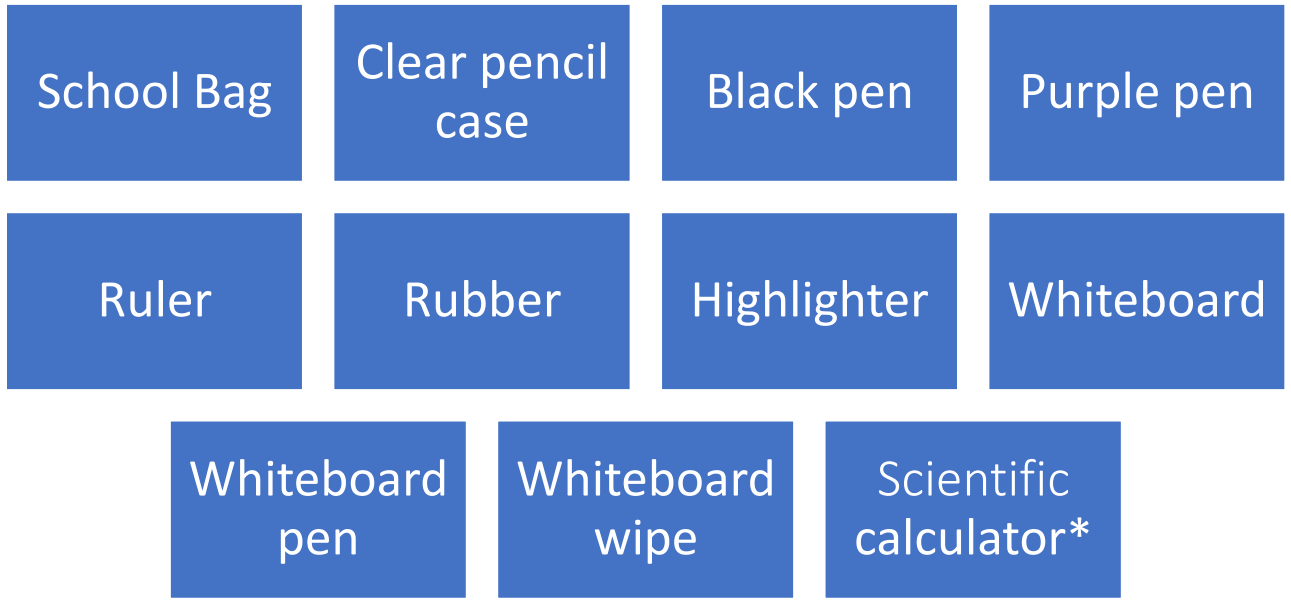
Please ensure your children are on time for school:

- School starts at 8.40am, gates are open at 8.30am

Please make sure your child brings the right equipment:

- School bag
- Fully stocked pencil case
- Whiteboard
- Scientific calculator
- PE kit (when necessary)
- Equipment for specific lessons

  (i.e. cooking ingredients when necessary)



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Standards

- Students should make sure their uniform and appearance matches our school policy:

Uniform

- Blazer on.
- Tie on – school badge showing.
- Shirt tucked in.
- Skirt unrolled.
- School shoes.
- No coat.
- School hoodie only.

PE Kit

- PE shirt.
- PE shorts.
- PE socks.
- Trainers.
- School hoodie, or rugby top/fleece.
- Navy leggings only.

Appearance

- Natural hair colour.
- No shaved patterns.
- Single stud earring.
- No other jewellery.
- No ink on hands.
- Subtle make-up.
- No false nails or nail polish.
- No false eyelashes.

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Expectations

- School expects parents/carers to support our school policies.
- Occasionally, students are issued detentions due to not following the school rules. We ask that parents support these by:
  - Reminding their children when these occur – all detentions are set for the following day, and can be seen in class charts the night before
  - Ensuring no appointments are made during the detention window after school that would prevent students attending
  - Re-enforcing the importance of attending detention with their children, and discussing what happened to lead to this point in an attempt that it may not happen again.

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Parental Engagement

Working together..

- It is important that we work together to support your child's progress at Birchwood.
- School is an intense environment, and we will do our best to keep you informed of what is going on.
- On occasion, school may need to contact you, or you may need to contact school to resolve an issue. Please work with us in these circumstances.
- How we resolve issues will directly impact on how students learn from them. As such, it is important we work calmly and efficiently, together, to support your child.

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Parental Engagement

How school will communicate with you..

If there is an issue at school, or in the community that we need to discuss with you, we will:

- **Email/Class Charts (the primary contact on our system):** You may receive an email from any member of staff at school. This may be part of our Polaris team, the office staff, or one of your child's teachers. This will open up an email dialogue regarding the issue, and can be used to resolve the issue, or arrange a meeting with yourself.
- **Phone (the primary contact first, then working through the list on our system):** A member of staff may contact you via telephone to discuss an issue directly. This can lead to the arrangement of a meeting in school. Sometimes it is important to discuss certain things face-to-face, so please try to come in to school if invited.

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Parental Engagement

How you can communicate with school...

If there is an issue at school, or in the community that you need to discuss with us, you can:

- **Phone:** Call the office on 01925 853500. The office staff will take a message and pass this to the member of staff you would like to speak to. They will then contact you back. Our policy states that this will be done within a maximum of 48 hours, but we try to work much quicker than this.
- **Email:** You can email staff through the contact us email or through classcharts. The Year team will usually be your first point of contact. Please try to remember that staff also have families and understand that we may not be able to respond during the evening or weekend.

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Parental Engagement

What NOT to do...

Please do not:

- Arrive at reception demanding to speak to a member of staff. There are 1000 students, and it is most likely that the person you want to speak to will not be available at that time.
- Phone the office and shout/issue abuse to the person who answers the phone.
- Write abusive emails to members of staff.
- Avoid dropping things off if possible- the office gets very busy

We want parents to work alongside the school. On occasions there may be issues that we have to work together to resolve, please work with us calmly. Our school policy states that we will not tolerate abuse. If parents are abusive, they will not be allowed onto school premises.

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ONLINE SAFETY – PARENTING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

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MINIMISING RISK!

- E-safety or online safety is all about minimising risk. It's about being aware of the possible threats that online activity can bring, and how to deal with them.
- These risks are grouped into four categories:
- **Conduct**: children's behaviour may put them at risk
- **Content**: access to inappropriate or unreliable content may put children at risk
- **Contact**: interaction with unsuitable, unpleasant or dangerous people may put children at risk
- **Commercialism**: children's use of platforms with hidden costs may put them at risk
- Ofcom's Media Use and Attitudes Report 2019, released in February 2020, found that between the ages of nine and ten smartphone ownership doubles. This means it is more important than ever to keep young people safe online. With increased exposure to the internet and a surge in social media use, the following information can help parents and carers understand the importance of young people adhering to e-safety guidelines.

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What is the problem?

There is a risk of seeing sexual content and of bullying

Your childs location could be shared automatically with their contacts which could put them in danger if they have strangers as 'friends' on the app (SC). A new 'meet up' feature allows people to get directions to another user's locations, if they are sharing their location.

There is a risk of children being 'groomed' by strangers into sharing pictures and information about themselves. Gangs also use apps to groom and recruit children.

As parents/carers…….we need to be confident that our children are using social media apps wisely and safetly.

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Facts!

- Childrens use of the internet is becoming more mobile and interactive offering young people more opportunities to interact and meet new people. It has never been more important to make sure you are helping your child stay safe in the digital world.
- Childrens internet use has reached record highs with 5-15 year olds spend 15hours a week on line (internet matters)
- The number of children with a social media profile doubles between the age of 10 and 11. 43% of 11 year olds have a social profile.
- 44% of 5-15 year olds have their own tablet and together with smartphones are the most popular for going online.
- 71% of children aged 12-15s who own a mobile are allowed to take it to bed with them?
- Biggest parental concern – Parents are concerned that children will actively engage in risky and dangerous behaviour such as contacting people they don't know!

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Parental Controls

- If using a smartphone, check content lock is set
- Set parental controls on your home broadband
- Control App downloads and purchases
- Make game consoles safe and secure
- Use safety mode on You Tube and google
- If using social networks, check privacy settings
- Involve your children when setting up these controls.

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What about privacy on Apps?

- 11-15 year olds use on average 5 different websites and apps to communicate with friends at home, the most popular being Instagram (60%)
- If your child is using these networking sites and apps, please get up to speed on how they can manage their privacy settings on the APP itself – your children will probably know more that you think !

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Check they know the rules!

Do not share personal information like phone numbers and email address online.

Only talk to real friends and family if they are on sites with a social media element.

Explain that people they meet on line might not be who they say they are.

Tell them to be a good on line friend and not to say nasty things even if it is just a joke!

Use secure and legal sites to download music and games.

Make sure your child checks with you before downloading any programs to avoid viruses.

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Key issues you may want to discuss

CYBERBULLYING:

- Prevention is always better than cure when it comes to this issues. Help your child understand the consequences of what they share on line and encourage them to be "kind online". If they are the victim of cyberbullying be sure to keep all messages as evidence and block the bullies. You have a right as a parent to log cyberbullying issues with the police alongside any kind of threatening or malicious communication – you would also notify the school if this happens as we would need to monitor.

SEXTING:

- There are many reasons why young people get involved in sexting: exploring sex, and relationships or pressure from a partner or friends. Parents are advised to have honest and open conversations about the implications of sending an explicit image (nude image) and highlight that it is illegal.
- If your child has sent a nude image and it has been posted on line then please report to CE OP and Childline who can help remove the image from the internet. You can also contact the police and advise them.

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#Ask the Awkward

Talking regularly with your child about relationships and sex can help develop shared understanding, trust and support between you. TALK LITTLE, TALK OFTEN.....ASK THE AWKWARD!

Being on line is an important part of how young people 'do relationhsips'.

More and more young people are using online spaces for their social and romantic lives.

Children tell us that they would like their parents/carers to talk with them more about this.

We know that this is difficult sometimes with your child so 'Think you know' have created resources on line to help explore on line relationships with secondary aged children.

Make these conversations part of everyday life!

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What now…

- Look at our website for more information and new social media updates.
- Ring/email key staff in school – HOY AHOY and the Polaris team if you have some concerns or you need some advice.
- **Other key websites:**
- CEOP
- Childline
- Internet matters
- Think you know

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Snap Chat Guide

- DON’T FORGET TO TAKE A GUIDE ON YOUR WAY OUT
- THANK YOU!

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Homework

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Name: Cells revision

Issued: 17/5/2023 | Due: 23/5/2023 | Miss Eleanor Crookes | Science | 7F/Sc | Created: 17/5/2023 | Type: Homework

Please bring in revision notes/flash cards based on the following topics:

- Cells
- Specialised cells
- Unicellular organisms
- Cells/tissues/organs
- Circulatory system
- Muscular and skeletal system

Your TMA will be on Tuesday 23rd

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Week A				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Geography	Science	Maths	MFL
Computing				
Week B				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	EPR	Science	Maths	History
Computing				

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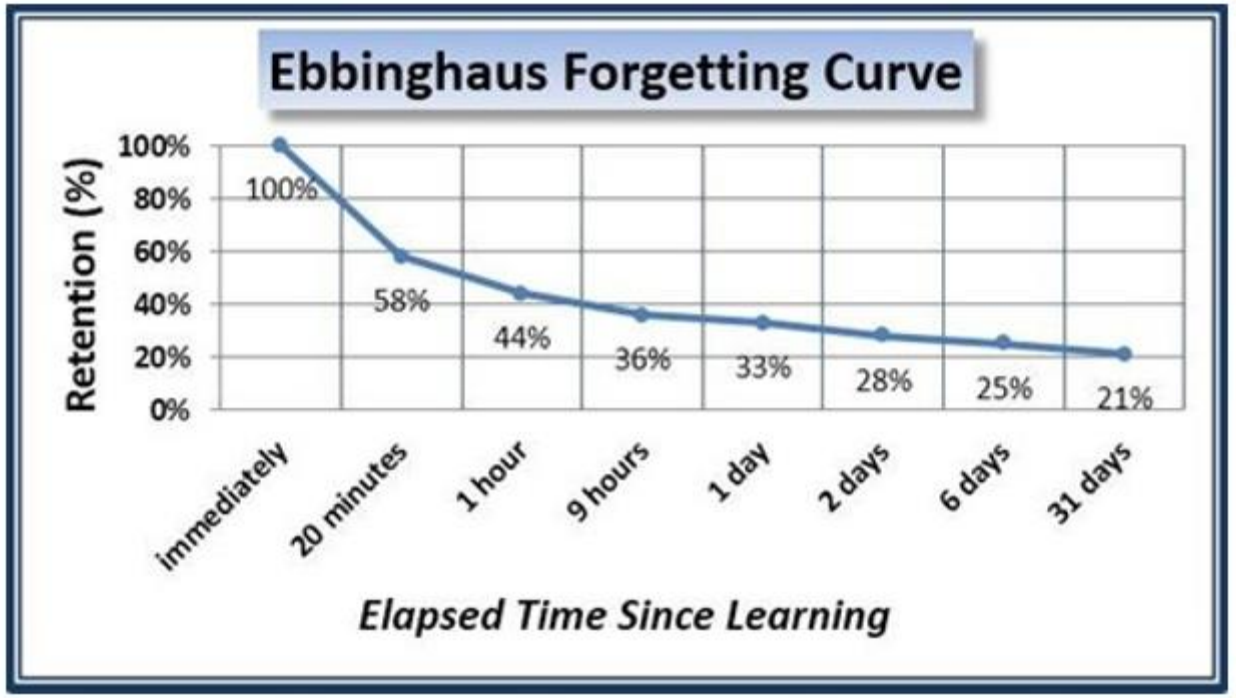

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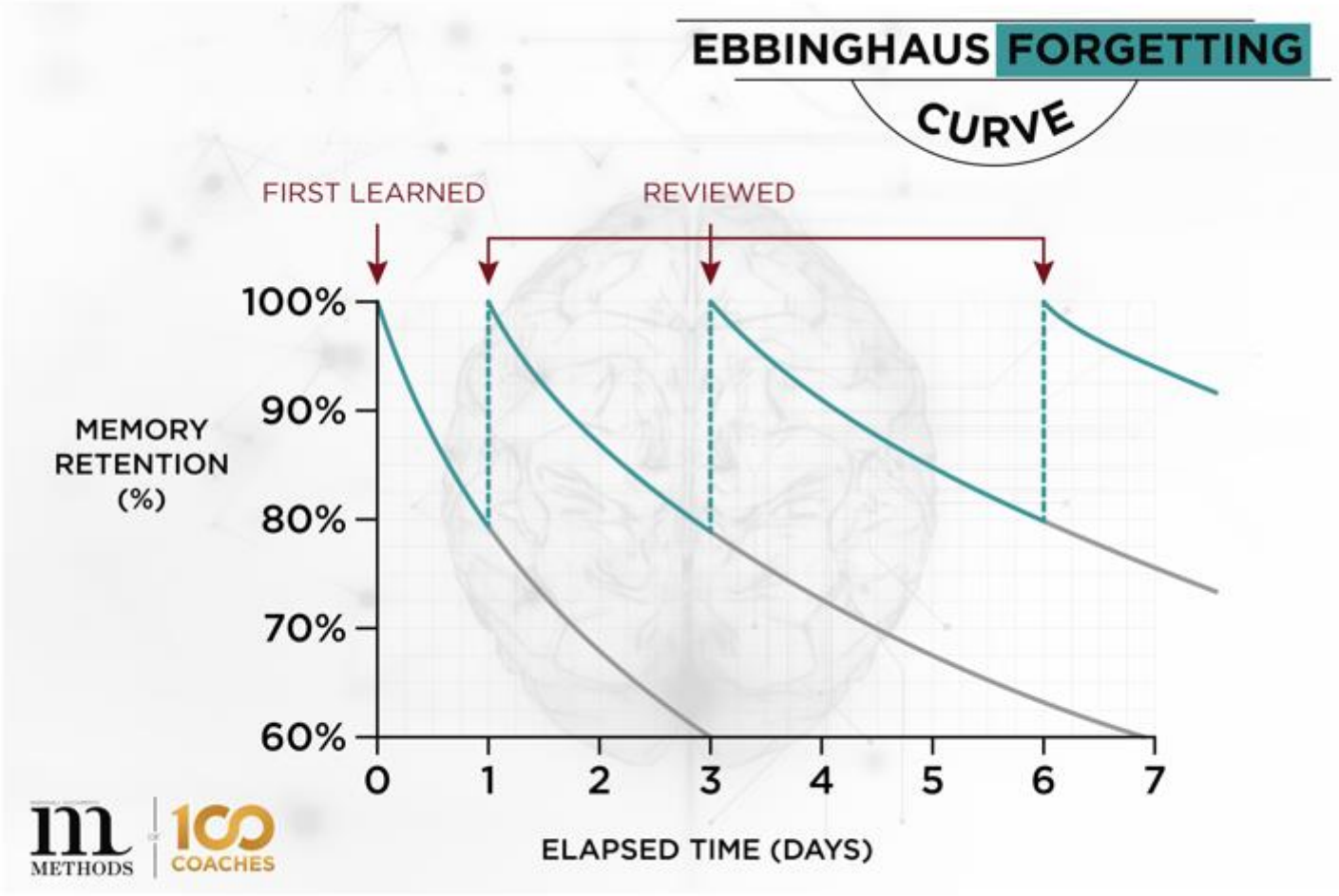

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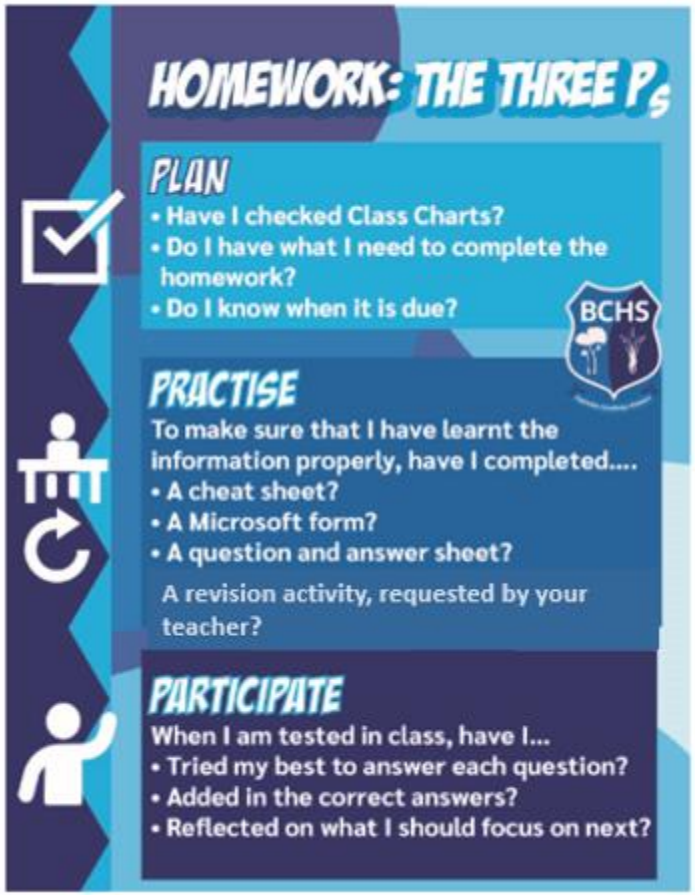

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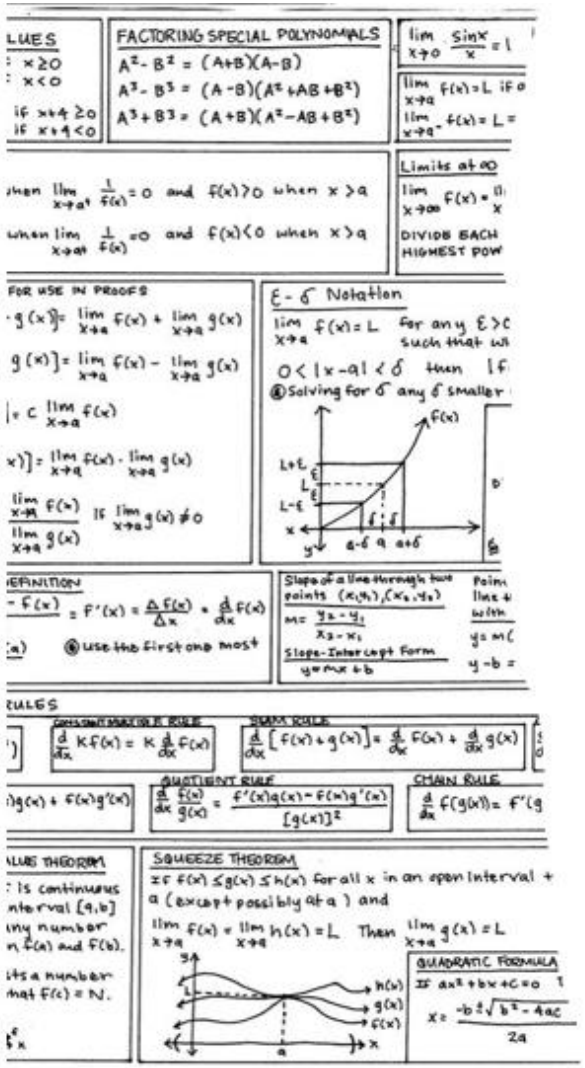

What is a cheat sheet?

A sheet, created by you, that helps you to learn the information that you have been set for homework.

This can look different, depending on the subject.

Key points:

- Read and process the information, first.
- Key information.

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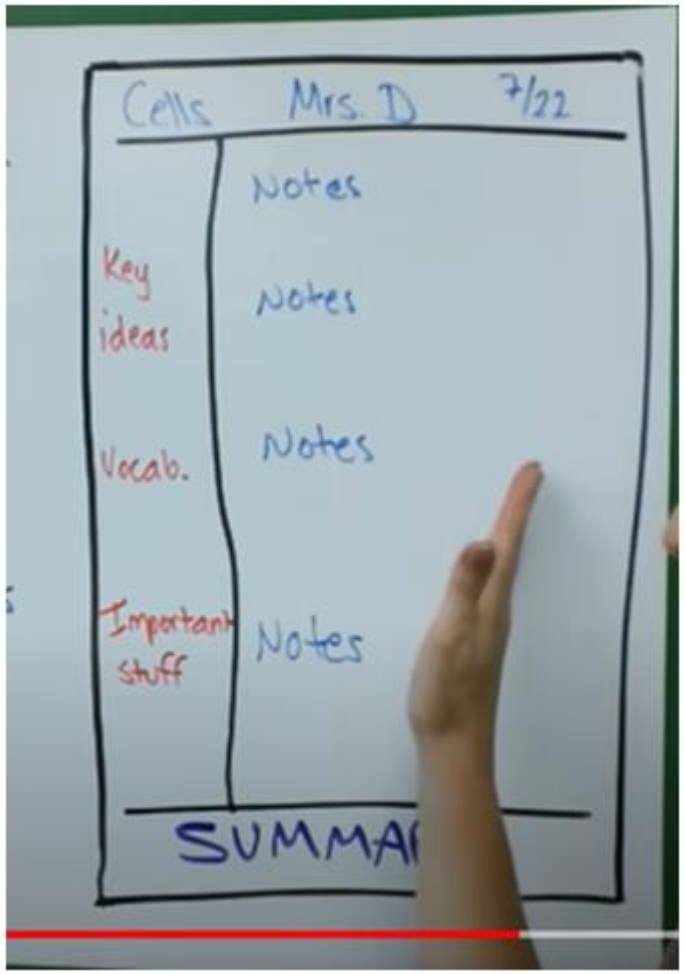

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1. Be specific

Identify the specific piece of information that you want to learn. The more precise that you are, the more chance you have of remembering it for longer.

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2. Test yourself

The best way of revising is to test yourself on the information that you are learning. Create a cheat sheet/ a question and answer sheet/ flashcards and then use the 'look, cover, write, check' method.

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3. Time

Set a timer. Your brain responds well to having a deadline- a time limit helps to keep you focused. 25 minutes is the ideal chunk of time to work for.

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4. Mark it....Quick!

When you are testing yourself, the best time to go through the answers is straight away. Using a mark scheme on your own work really helps you to understand what you have done well and what you need to include next time.