



September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 8 Home Learning Requirement September 2026**

#### **Home Learning Systems at a glance:**

- Students will continue to receive a Knowledge Organiser every week to complete home learning from in their workbook.
- Workbooks will continue to be checked by P&A Mentors every Monday.
- Year 8 students will have access to online Home Learning apps called Educake and Sparx Reader/Maths. Students will be expected to complete **30 minutes** of Sparx Reader per week and **30 minutes** of Sparx Maths and Educake **every two weeks**.

At Minsthorpe Community College, we deliver a knowledge rich curriculum in order to facilitate students to know more, remember more and do more. We have therefore designed strategies for students to remember what they have been taught. This letter outlines the expectations regarding Home Learning for this academic year. Home Learning has an invaluable impact on students' progress, and it is vital that Home Learning is supported by parents and carers at home.

#### **What Home Learning will my child be expected to complete at Minsthorpe Community College?**

Students are expected to:

- Read for 30 minutes per week at home using the SPARX Reader programme.
- Learn the weekly knowledge set in their Knowledge Organiser in every subject. This should amount to 30 minutes revision every night at home.
- 30 minutes of Educake (Science) and 30 minutes of SPARX (Maths) every two weeks.

#### **What is a Knowledge Organiser?**

Knowledge Organisers are designed to help your child learn a wide range of knowledge. Knowledge Organisers contain the core knowledge, in every subject area, your child needs to learn in order to achieve academic success.

#### **Where can I find copies of Knowledge Organisers?**

- Students will be issued a physical copy of their latest Knowledge Organiser at the beginning of every half term along with a workbook complete Home Learning in.
- Workbooks are for the full academic year and if lost a new one must be purchased or printed from the school website.
- Knowledge Organisers and workbooks can be found on the school website.
- A PDF of the Knowledge Organiser students will be learning from will be attached to their Arbor every Monday.

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**Principals** Mark Gilmore & Rachael Merritt



### How will Home Learning be set and how should my child's Home Learning be submitted?

Every Monday, your child will be set a Home Learning task on Arbor. The task will direct your child to learn a section of the Knowledge Organiser. The sections will be categorised according to the two-week timetable. We will provide a timetable which details which subject should be studied and on what day. You can find a copy of this timetable below:

| Day       | Subject to Learn                   | Additional                              |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Monday    | English and L4L                    | <b>Sparx Reader 30 Minutes per week</b> |
| Tuesday   | Maths and CDM                      | <b>Sparx Week B</b>                     |
| Wednesday | Science                            | <b>Educake Week A</b>                   |
| Thursday  | French, History and Geography      |                                         |
| Friday    | Design Technology, PE and Creative |                                         |

Students will be provided with a workbook to complete Home Learning in. Students will then show their workbook to their P&A mentor in P&A time every Monday. P&A mentors will check that students have completed a **minimum of 5 subjects** each week.

### What support will students receive to support them in completing Home Learning?

- Students will receive training on how to use their Knowledge Organisers within the P&A curriculum. Everyone Monday and every Tuesday Week B will be dedicated Knowledge Organiser time.
- We have produced a Knowledge Organisers' guide for parents and students which contains 4 key strategies to help your child learn the knowledge in their Knowledge Organiser. There are also supporting videos that take your child through each strategy step by step.

### When will Home Learning need to be submitted?

Home Learning will be set on Mondays every week. Home Learning workbooks must be brought into school every Monday to show to P&A mentors in order for the previous week's work to be checked. Completion of Home Learning is compulsory.

### What happens if my child does not complete their Home Learning?

Students who do not complete their Home Learning or students who require further assistance will be required to attend a 'Knowledge Commitment Session' after school on Thursdays (Y8). This session is an extension of the school day and is compulsory. If your child is required to attend the Knowledge Commitment session you will be alerted via text message. Home Learning is set weekly and must be completed weekly. Students who forget their workbook will also be issued a Knowledge Commitment.

### Knowledge Assessments

Every half-term your child will take a Knowledge Assessment based on the knowledge they have committed to memory. At the end of the year, we will crown a Knowledge Champion. Your child will be rewarded for the number of questions they answer correctly. For example, your child will

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receive a certificate for getting 100% of the questions correct in one subject area and/or being placed within the top 50 students in the year group. Any student who better their previous assessment score will also be issued with a certificate.

Knowledge Assessments will take place on the dates below; it is imperative your child attends college on these days to complete their assessments:

- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026 - Week B Period 3**
- **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2026 - Week A Period 3**
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2027 - Week A Period 3**
- **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2027 - Week B Period 3**
- **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2027 - Week A Period 3**
- **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2027 - Week B Period 3**

### **What happens if my child struggles in the Knowledge Assessment?**

The Knowledge Assessments test students on the core knowledge of our curriculum. This core knowledge is fundamental to success in academic subjects. The Knowledge Assessments will identify gaps in your child's knowledge. Some of these gaps will be addressed in classroom teaching. Some students will require further support and will be offered extended commitments to ensure they are assisted in learning the content in the Knowledge Organisers.

Extended commitments for students will take place on Thursdays after school. These sessions are an extension of the college day therefore compulsory. The sessions are flexible and will continue until the student is ready to make progress independently. The sessions will ensure students have embedded the core knowledge in their Knowledge Organisers into their long-term memory and understand how to use the strategies at home.

The college will contact you in the future if your child needs to attend the extended commitments outlined above.

Minsthorpe Community College's Home Learning Club is available after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; your child can be added to the club via the Arbor App.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Minsthorpe Community College is a school where everyone plays a part in ensuring every child reaches their full potential.

If you require any additional help, guidance or support please do not hesitate to contact Minsthorpe Community College via phone: 01977 657600 or via email: [enquiries@minsthorpe.cc](mailto:enquiries@minsthorpe.cc).

Yours Sincerely,

*L. Ruston*

Mr Luke Ruston  
Associate Assistant Principal  
Director of Pedagogy and Practice

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*G. Middleton*

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Independent Learning Lead

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