



Transition to Secondary School

Thursday 2nd October



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Edmund Rice and the Eight Essentials

Mrs C Slattery

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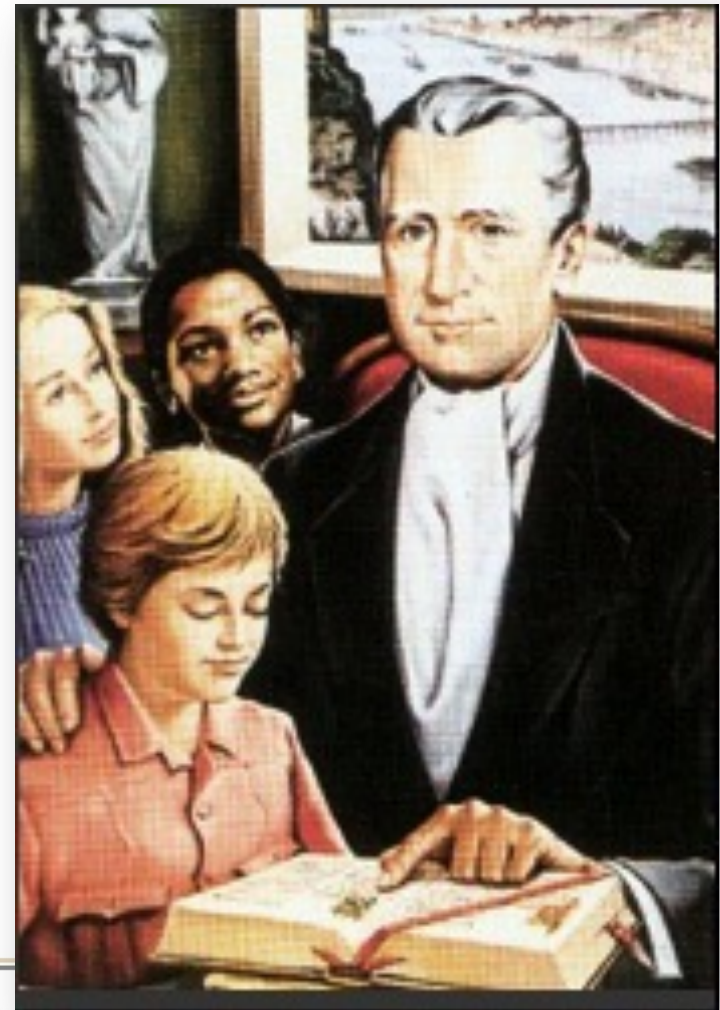


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Blessed Edmund Rice

Founder of the Christian Brothers

- Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice was a Roman Catholic missionary and educationalist
- The founder of the Congregations of Christian Brothers





Year 7 Practicalities

Mrs S Shorey

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Practicalities

- Lockers, bags, lost property
- Parentmail/ ParentPay
- Website – for key information
- **Key dates:**
 - Mass of Welcome – Tues 7th October 2025
 - Alton Castle – Monday 13th/Tuesday 14th October 2025
 - Carol Service – Weds 17th December 2025

Planners

- Check regularly
- Manage time for home learning/ independent learning
- Comments from staff
- Record of absence
- Key information about schools rules, learning and revision

Week 1 Commencing: 16th September 2019

Subject	Home Learning Details	Date Due	Done
French	Complete exercise 1	Thu	✓
RS	(HL) on hobbies Research capitalism key points	26th J/L	
Ma	(HL) Worksheet on fractions add questions only	Fri 20th	✓
Sci	learn key words	J/L	
Mu	listen to jazz music	J/L	
DT	(HL) Complete initial idea of pen holder	Mon 23d	✓
Sci	be Cells revision card	J/L	
Eng	(HL) Draft first paragraph of my biography	Weds 18th	✓
PE	learn football rules	J/L	
Geo	(HL) Rivers sheet, sketch	Fri 20th	✓
Hist	read Romans book	J/L	
Na	Finish worksheet from the lesson		
Spanish	learn Spanish colours	Mon 23d	
RS	(HL) for a test complete capitalism	Fri 27th	
Eng	leaflet, in colour Read		

Punctuality Record

Subject	Home Learning Details	Date Due	Done
Art	(HL) Collect newspapers for collage	Mon 23d	✓
Sci	(HL) Poster of 'lab rules' Sales minimum	Tue 24th	✓
ICT	(HL) Design fish tank for the online game	Thu 26th	✓
Games			
French	Construct a paragraph (HL) about your hobbies (4 lines)	N/L	✓
Ma	Revision card - fractions	J/L	
DT	Design more pen holders	J/L	
Geo	Learn continents	J/L	
Hist	(HL) Roman army exercise in book	Tues 24th	✓

Letter Home ☐ Minutes read this week 60

AM - fantastic answers in French (CA) SDD 19/9/19 - Art - No homework (CA)

A. Smith Parent's Signature Tutor's Signature



Year 7 Home Learning: 60 Minutes-A-Day

Day of the Week	Amount of Home learning	Time slot(s) set aside for Home Learning
Monday	60 minutes	
Tuesday	60 minutes	
Wednesday	60 minutes	
Thursday	60 minutes	
Friday	60 minutes	
Saturday & Sunday	120 mins	

Taking responsibility

Attendance & punctuality - **every** lesson counts
Meet **every** deadline
Bring **all** equipment and textbooks
Know the course content and sequence
Become an **independent** learner
Seek the support you need to manage your learning
Catch up on missed work to avoid gaps in learning
Prioritise your learning over outside commitments

How to use my 60 mins:

1. Complete anything that is due tomorrow.
2. Start any homework that is due in two day's time.

If you complete this before the 60 minutes is up:

3. Pick a lesson you had today and set yourself an Independent Learning Task.

After the lesson

Complete all work and unfinished tasks to avoid gaps in learning
Review and reflect on your learning e.g. Test yourself from memory to check your understanding
Address misconceptions and gaps in knowledge with your teacher
Become an expert through practice. The more the practice, the better the performance
Be proactive in completing past exam question(s)
Respond to teacher feedback and redraft your response / paragraph / essay
Recap knowledge and skills

Revision

Retrieval – retrieve information from memory without any cues
Spacing – retrieving information after a gap
Interleaving – revise different topics and subjects, don't spend too long on one thing
Metacognition – understand how you learn and what your strengths and gaps are
Dual coding – Combine visuals with words to help you remember learning
Elaboration – Use questions to expand on answers and explanations
Use key revision techniques e.g. self-testing flashcards (Leitner method), brain dumps, self-quizzing, the Pomodoro technique etc.



Y7 Tutor Programme – Autumn term

Autumn Term

Transition to Secondary School – Support Networks & Study Skills	
	My Support Network – Transition
	Learning for Excellence – Taking responsibility
	My Strategies – Transition
	Learning for Excellence – Before/During/After the lesson – Senior Prefects
	Listening and giving instructions – Oracy
	A Town Called Glum – Building relationships – Preconceived ideas
	Learning for Excellence – Revision
	Learning for Excellence – Revision – Flash cards
Half Term	
	Maintaining health friendships – Building Relationships
	Butterfly of Balance – Young Minds – Time management
	Learning for Excellence – Revision – Folding frenzy
	Learning for Excellence – Extend your knowledge – Senior Prefects
	Christmas waste debate – Oracy
	Christmas Quiz

*Plus additional time specific resources e.g. anti-bullying ppt, Economist topical debate



Extra – Curricular Activities

<u>Creative</u>	<u>Virtues</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Health</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Orchestra “ Choir “ Drama “ Art Club “ Crochet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ Nurture garden “ Sustainability Club “ House /Form Mass “ Retreats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ House reps “ Chaplaincy representatives “ Library ambassadors “ Sports leadership “ Leading in lessons “ Organisation of events “ Form fundraising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “ School sports teams “ External sports teams “ Jujitsu club “ Social sports “ House events



Sports Teams

- All students are expected to play for the school team if selected
- Fixtures may be after school or a Saturday morning



Year 7 Trips

- Alton Castle 😊
- Bikeability
- Warwick Castle
- Alton Castle (3 days)
- Space Centre





Rewards and Sanctions

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Rewards

- Achievement Points
- House Points
- Certificates
- Form Prize
- Individual Prizes



KS3 REWARDS

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

Achievement Points are awarded for academic excellence or distinctive behaviour as an excellent ambassador for our community.

1 AP =

'one off' excellence - a lesson / piece of work / making a positive contribution

3 AP =

Excellence over half a term / representation of the school

5 AP =

Excellence over a term / exceptional contribution / achievement

LEVEL 1 - 2

Head of Year

Bronze/Silver Planner award

LEVEL 3

Award and Stationery

Head of Year Gold Planner Award

LEVEL 4

Head of Year Breakfast

LEVEL 5

Keystage Leader Ice-cream

LEVEL 6

Headteacher Afternoon Tea

CURRICULUM

- . Achievement Points
- . Planner awards
- . Praise post cards

ATTENDANCE

100% in a term =

- . letter from Head of Year and 10 achievement points

100% over the academic year =

- . letter from the Headteacher

Termly Attendance Shield =

- . the form in each Key Stage (3+4) with the highest attendance

End of Year Attendance Shield =

- . the form across both KS3 and KS4 with the highest attendance

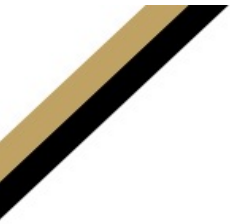
THE FORM GROUP, FROM EACH YEAR, WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ACHIEVEMENT POINTS WILL CELEBRATE WITH DOMINOS PIZZA AT THE END OF THE YEAR



Sanctions

- Verbal warning/Note in planner
- Next Day Detention
 - Graduated start to the year
 - NDD from 7th October
- Friday Night Detention
- Lesson Removal
- Isolation





Attendance and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead **Mrs C Machin**
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead **Mrs C Cirino,**
Mrs C Slattery, Mrs A Pearson



Attendance Procedures

- Telephone on first day of absence, and every day there after
- Written reason in planner
- Please book medical appointments around the school day where possible
- Students whose attendance falls below 96 % will be closely monitored
- Attendance reviews, letters of concern, support and intervention
- If absence persists and deteriorates to below 90%, further intervention and a referral to the EWO will take place



Attendance Procedures

- Holidays are not permitted during term time
- Parents must only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. Leave of absence forms are available on the website and must be submitted for the attention of Mrs Slattery 4 weeks in advance for consideration
- Under national rules (August 2024), all schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons
- The school is under no obligation to accept reasons given for absence should there be any doubt of its validity



Punctuality Procedures

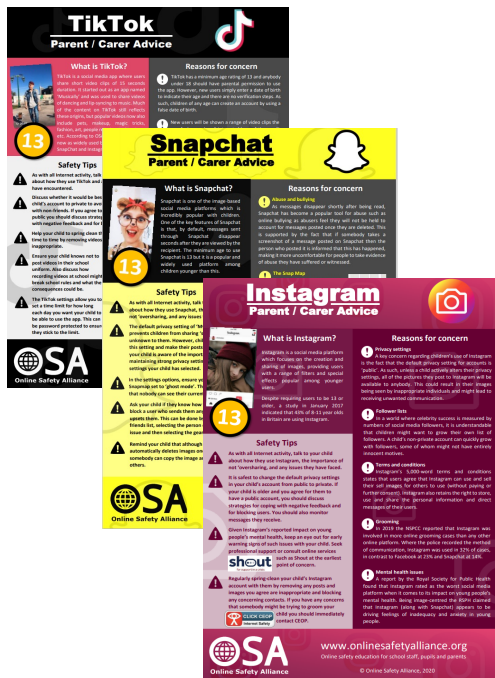
- Students must be in registration at 8:40am
- Morning Registration/Assembly starts at 8.40am
- Students arriving after 8.40am will be marked as late
- Please inform the school if your child is going to be late
- Students who are late to school 3 times will be given a next day detention
- 3 next day detentions for lateness = Friday night detention
- Punctuality reviews with students frequently take place by pastoral staff
- Persistent issues with poor punctuality (arriving after the register closes) will be referred to the EWO



Online safety

- NSPCC, Childnet, Internet Matters & CEOP offer advice on keeping your child safe online
- As soon as your child shows an interest in engaging with technology, it's time to begin sharing simple online safety strategies with them (Will Gardener CEO of Childnet)

Tik Tok, Snapchat, Instagram, Whatsapp, are just a few of the wide range of social media platforms available. Please note that children should not be accessing these apps under the age of 13 years old.



Students will find these on the St Joseph's College website

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Mental health and wellbeing support

- Counselling
- Education and Mental Health Support Practitioner (EMHSP)
- Wellbeing workshops
- Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA)
- School nurse
- Mental Health Ambassadors



Learning Support/SEND

Mrs A Pearson

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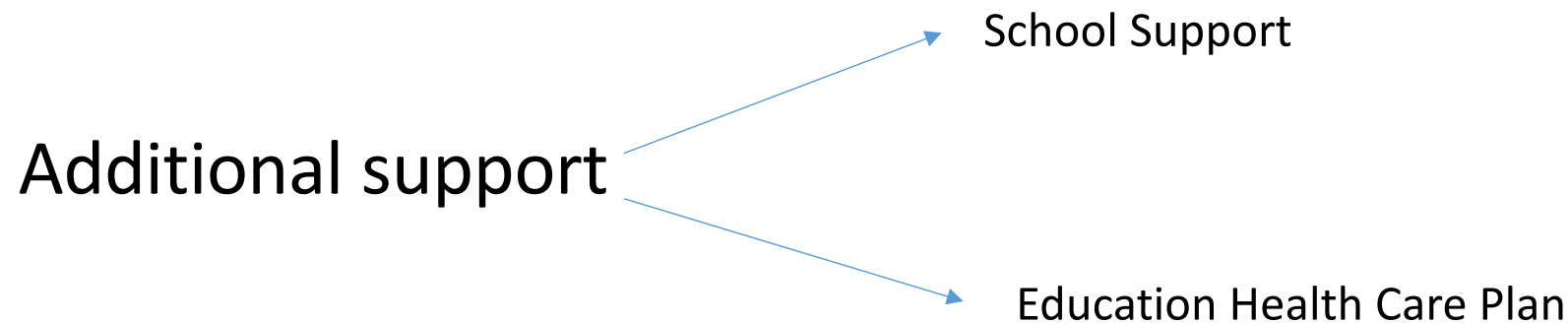
The Department

- SENDCO: Mrs Pearson
- Learning Support Practitioners (LSPs):
 - Miss Barnett
 - Miss Keever
 - Mrs Penson
 - Mr Grund
 - Mrs Holdcroft



Graduated Response

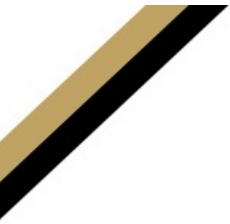
Universal support- for all including those with mild or emerging needs.



Identification

- Year 7 STAR reading assessment
- Primary school transfer information
- Feedback from teachers
- Further targeted assessments might include:
 - Reading accuracy, speed, comprehension
 - Spelling
 - Processing speed
 - Receptive language acquisition
 - Handwriting
- Privately commissioned assessments



- 
- If you have concerns about your child's progress and you think they might have a special educational need, or they have a disability affecting their ability to manage in school, contact the SENCO



Further information

- SEN Information Report- on school website
- Stoke Local Offer



Assessment & satchel:one

Mr. Banner



Revision – Key techniques!

Retrieval – retrieve information from memory without any cues

Spacing – retrieving information after a gap

Interleaving – revise different topics and subjects, don't spend too long on one thing

Metacognition – understand how you learn and what your strengths and gaps are

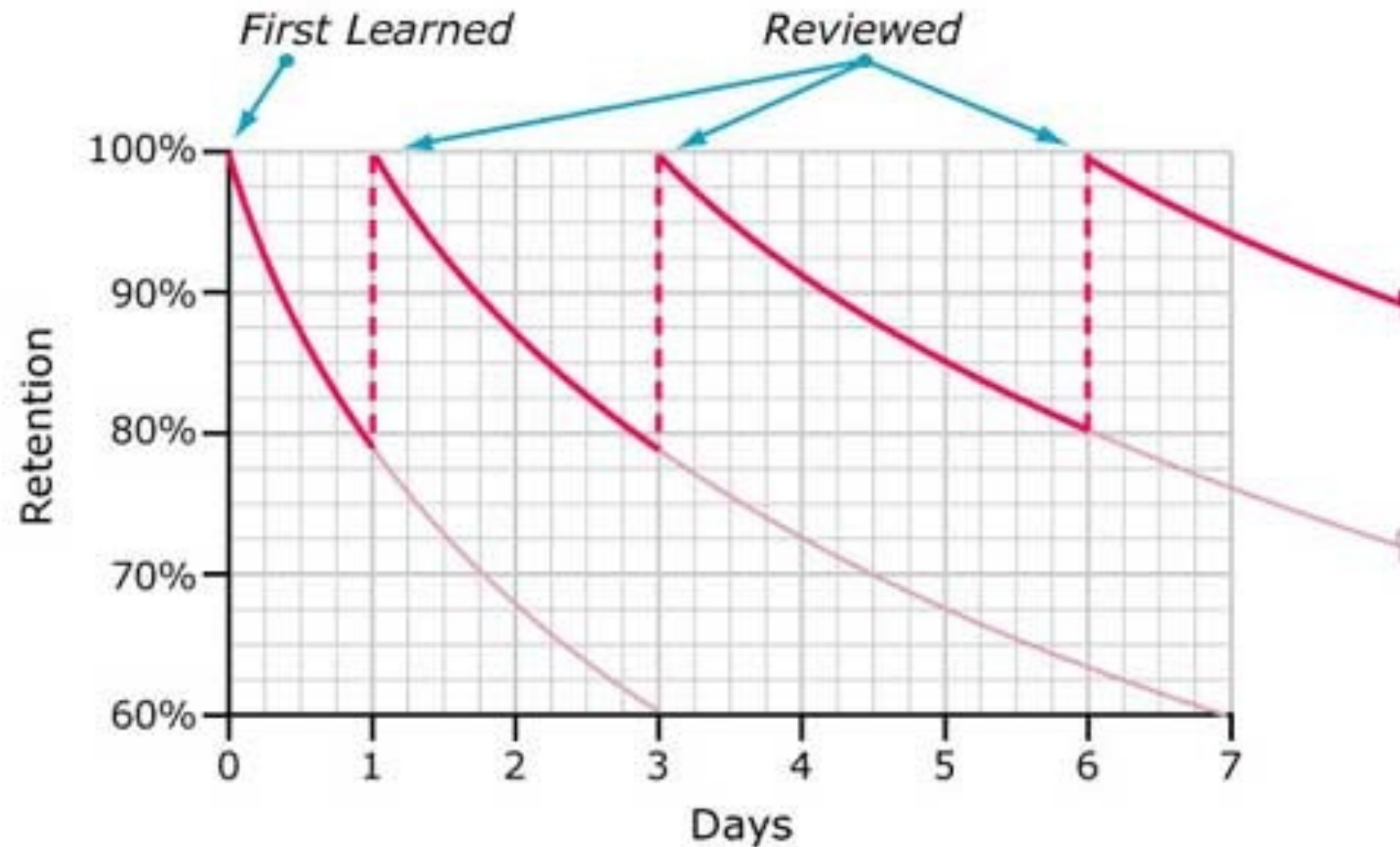
Dual coding – Combine visuals with words to help you remember learning

Elaboration – Use questions to expand on answers and explanations

Use key revision techniques e.g. self-testing flashcards (Leitner method), brain dumps, self-quizzing, the Pomodoro technique etc.



Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



What is retrieval practice?

- **Retrieval practice** is a learning technique where students try to recall information from memory, like answering questions or taking quizzes, rather than just reviewing notes or reading
- This method helps strengthen memory and improves long-term learning because it encourages active recall of the material



How parents can help with retrieval practice

1. **Ask questions:** Parents can quiz their children on what they learned in school that day or ask them to explain key concepts
2. **Use flashcards:** Encourage your children to make flashcards with questions on one side and answers on the other. Parents can help by reviewing the cards with them
3. **Create mini-tests:** Parents can make short quizzes or practice questions to help their children test their knowledge
4. **Encourage self-quizzing:** Teach children to regularly quiz themselves without looking at their notes, which reinforces learning
5. **Practice spaced repetition:** Review material at different intervals, like after a day, a week, and a month, to help retain knowledge over time

Report Layout

Name: A. Student

Form: 7ER

Subject	Assessment (%)	Year 7 Average (%)	Progress	Attitude to Learning
Art	74	61	Excellent	1
Design Technology	82	80	Good	2
English	57	63	Limited	3
Geography	71	57	Some	2

**(Plus, in July, a holistic comment from the form tutor and HoY
about wider contribution and development)**



Attitude to Learning criteria

1 - Above SJC expectation

2 - At SJC expectation

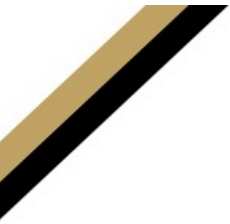
3 - Below SJC expectation



Year 7 Key Dates

- Mon. 12th January 2026 – Year 7 assessment week begins
- Thurs. 12th February 2026 – Year 7 data only reports issued and Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Mon. 1st June 2026 – Year 7 exams begin
- Thurs. 16th July 2025 – Year 7 full report sent home





Reading at secondary school

Mrs C Slattery

Learning to read, reading to learn



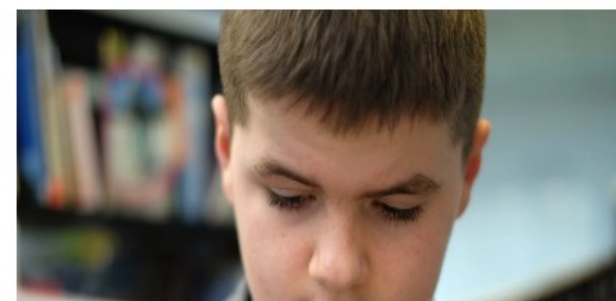
[Home](#) > [Press Office](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [New study highlights the importance of reading to the whole school curriculum](#)

New study highlights the importance of reading to the whole school curriculum

Published 26/02/2020

Children who are weak readers will struggle as much in maths and science at GCSE as they do in English and in arts subjects, according to one of the biggest ever studies of student reading.

The findings show that while there is a significant connection between reading ability and success in all GCSE subjects, the link between good reading and good grades is actually higher in maths than in some arts subjects like English literature and history.





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Many teenagers 'can't read GCSE exam papers'

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E pupils have reading level of a 13-year-old

Many GCSE pupils have reading level of a 13-year-old

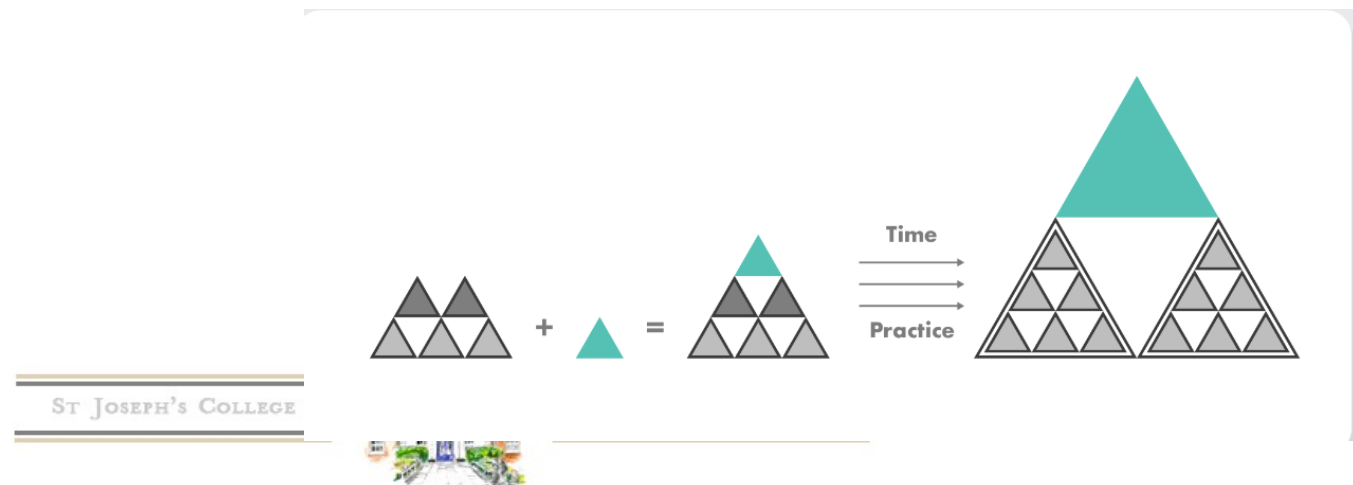
Researchers say this could hinder pupils' ability to comprehend exam questions





Alex Quigley: 'Vocabulary is the Golden Thread of the curriculum'.

The way to remember vocabulary in the long term is to make as many connections as possible.





Benefits of reading for pleasure

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Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile





Reading makes you happier

- You can reduce stress levels by reading for just 6 minutes!
- Reading puts your brain into a state similar to meditation, and it brings the same health benefits of deep relaxation and inner calm
- Readers are 21% less likely to experience depression than those who don't read

Reading improves your focus, memory and makes you more likely to achieve success!

- All these skills will come in so handy when revising.
- Reading really is an investment in your future.



Accelerated Reader & STAR tests

- STAR tests each term
- Fortnightly reading home learning set in English
- Incentives for reading
- ePlatform



Reading tips for parents (DfE)

- Make the most of events in school, e.g. ePlatform, Scholastic book fair (November)
- Don't force your child to read something that doesn't interest them (even if you're worried about how much they're reading)
- Ask about conversations your child is having with the school librarian and teachers – each subject is likely to have suggested wider reading





Thank you

Any Questions?



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