



02 July 2026

Dear Families

**Families Focus Group (FFG) - Wednesday 10 June 2026**

Thank you to everyone who joined our recent FFG meeting. It was great to see more parents and carers turning out and sharing their thoughts on two new initiatives for September 2026. Assistant Headteacher, Mr Quigley opened proceedings talking about 'Master's of Knowledge' our new homework strategy for Year 7. Mr Cowlin, Deputy Headteacher then presented our plans to introduce 1:1 devices. You can see a copy of their presentation below:

[FFG Presentation 10/06/26.pdf](#)

**Masters of Knowledge**

This program will be our new homework provision for Year 7 in September 2026. It is designed to help students build habits to support them retaining the key knowledge needed across the curriculum. Subjects will provide this knowledge, broken down into weeks, which students will then learn to support their progress in lessons. We will support students with a range of strategies to do this and there will be tutor time activities as part of our program to support this recall.

We will build a significant reward program to incentivise students to come and show their great work. The Ambition Table will be staffed with senior staff and students will bring their weekly work for a reward. These will build over time.

Most importantly, students will know more and be able to do more in lessons as a result. Year 7 students will really see their progress soar in their knowledge checks and application assessments when they commit to this program.

There were some questions raised in the FFG which are summarised below:

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| How will students with specific needs, e.g. ADHD, be supported as one strategy does not work for all students? | Students will be provided with a range of strategies which students will be trained in for the first few weeks in September. Students can select their preferred method and can supplement it with any resources that support them.                          |
| Will all subjects be covered?                                                                                  | Yes. There will be a two week suggested program where each subject will be covered at least once for 15 minutes in that fortnight. This will be a suggested program so students and families can alter this and take ownership of when each subject is done. |
| What about English and maths?                                                                                  | These will be covered by this program but students will also need to do their Sparx English and maths each week as they do now.                                                                                                                              |
| Will there be after school provision for those who need it?                                                    | Yes. We will make sure there is an advertised slot that is staffed for students to go to and complete Masters of Knowledge work if this is needed.                                                                                                           |

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| When will it start? | No homework in the first two weeks while we explain and train the students. Then we will have English, maths and science for a selected period followed by other subjects by October half term. |
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Feedback from families was really positive as it offers a more simplistic program that can be reviewed easily with clear impact on learning that will support the students in the classroom. There was useful feedback and this has been included in the final plan for September.

We will then review in the first half of next year and decide if this is embedded further within Key Stage 3.

### 1:1 Devices

This is a parental scheme where we are proposing that all students would have a device for their lessons. Following feedback from a range of stakeholders, we are proposing this to be rolled out in September 2026 for Year 12 who will be asked to have a device for all of their lessons.

We will be recommending families buy an iPad from a supplier we have sourced who can offer a much reduced price and the ability to pay in small monthly payments. We have done a lot of research into the best devices for this purpose and it has come back time and again that iPads are the most effective, long-lasting and high quality device for what we would like to do in the classroom. We are saying that Year 12s who already have a different device can bring this, however, if we were to move forward with this scheme in September 2028 and in lower year groups, we would request all students have the same device to support teaching and learning.

In the session, we discussed the evidence behind this approach and why we think it is the best route forward for the students and their progress. There were some questions:

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| How are these monitored?                  | Devices would be managed on a management console in school and locked down so that students could only use the apps we install on the device. Their internet usage would also be monitored in line with DfE guidance as it is a school provided device.<br>When the payment scheme ends, the device ownership would be transferred to the family and any restrictions lifted at their request. |
| Will students just be on screens all day? | No. A core part of this is that we believe the devices to be a true support for learning and not a replacement for the traditional pen and paper. We are mindful of examinations moving online in the future but we do not believe we need to do this and believe that students should only be using them at the right time and for the right activity.                                        |
| Why an iPad and not another device?       | Research has shown the iPad will be more cost effective in the long run as it lasts for longer in terms of battery life and speed. Other models that have been used by schools have not had the same longevity and we do not want to ask families to fund devices we do not believe will last.                                                                                                 |
| What happens regarding damage?            | Any iPad bought through the scheme has full accident and theft cover for the length of the scheme. This is all managed through the third party we have enlisted to supply the devices and families are able to make the claims as necessary.                                                                                                                                                   |

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| Could students in other year groups choose to opt in sooner than in the possible proposed plan? | Yes. We have worked with the supplier to build a portal for families across the school to access the discounted price and potential to pay in instalments. More details will follow. |
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We are excited by this scheme and will be writing to families this week with details. This has been through consultation with students, families, staff and governors and we believe it has the potential to revolutionise our student experience. However, we will be reviewing the success of this launch over the first half of 2026/27 and then will make a decision on whether this is taken further through the school and which year groups are correct for this.

Finally, can I thank all those parents and carers that have attended our Families Focus Group this academic year, your feedback is always welcomed and essential to our school improvement.

Have a great summer

Mr Paul Street  
**Deputy Headteacher**