The Warriner School Principles of Teaching

"We cannot change a child's prior attainment, but we can change their future."

Knowledge Organisers

"Knowledge organisers contain the basic knowledge needed to underpin learning, be successful in lessons and ultimately the assessment." Steve Margetts.

The Purpose

Knowledge organisers are documents that contain the core knowledge for teaching a component. Well-written knowledge organisers engage parents with curriculum content, and allow every child, regardless of their socio-economic status, attendance or previous education to access the core knowledge they need to be successful.

Knowledge organisers have three purposes:

1. Planning tool: Set out all of the core knowledge that children must learn to understand to access the component and address common misconceptions.

2. Assessment tool: The check for understanding so that children are learning what they need to learn.

3. Quizzing tool: Used for retrieval practice of the core knowledge they need to understand.

What makes an effective one?

To have the desired effect, knowledge organisers need to be well written. There are three principles well written knowledge organisers have, these are:

- Focussed

- Sequential

- Accessible

How to use one

- Facilitating retrieval practice.
- Reducing cognitive load.
- Promoting deeper understanding by outlining key themes and concepts.
- Supporting previous learning – revisit, reinforce and fill in the gaps.
- Enhancing homework, revision and self-study (Look-Cover-Write-Check, spaced practice).
- Engaging parents with curriculum composition.
- Self-testing.
- Hand out at the start of each unit/topic.
- Engaging with low-attending students.
- Create a 20-question low-stakes quiz.
- Dual-coding.
- Apply High-Five strategies.

How to make one

1. Define the scheme: Mapping out the core knowledge and concepts also allows students to consider any connections with previous units or links between sub-topics. The aim of knowledge organisers is to ensure that all pupils have the essential declarative knowledge.

2. One side of A4 only. One per curriculum component.

3. Sequence the schema: Consider which foundational concepts pupils will need to cover before they can move on to others. Think about what components of knowledge are needed to build the composites.

4. Decide on presentation: One of the core principles behind knowledge organisers is accessibility for all. As a result, present the information in the easiest way possible. Use bullet points in knowledge organisers, trying to stick to a fact per bullet point. Avoid lengthy paragraphs. You can also use tables, diagrams and dual-coding.

5. Include tier 3 vocabulary: have keywords on every page along with the definitions linking to the core knowledge.