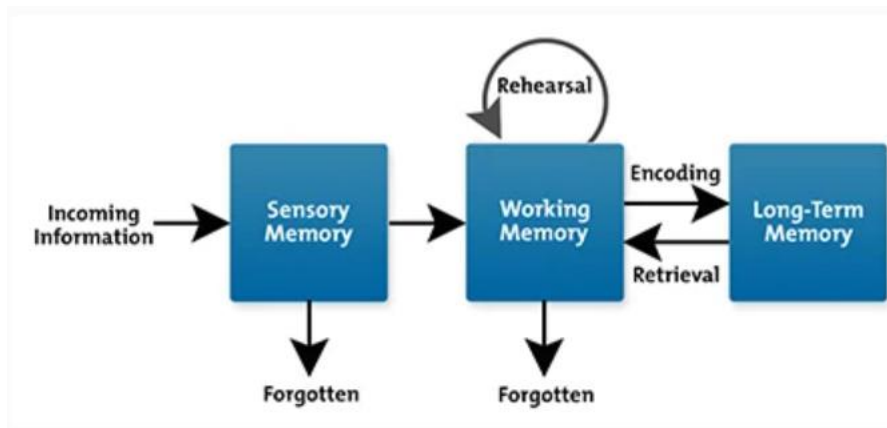


Dear Parents/Carers,

Our latest quick 'Explainer' to allow you to understand our systems and structures is about why we teach using 'Packets' and not using text books!

3. Packets

At Kirk Hallam, Scholars do their work in a set of Packets instead of Teachers using PowerPoints, text books and exercise books. The reason for this is to ensure that we keep our Teaching as direct and simple as possible. Evidence is conclusive that where we overwhelm children with different types of information, they can easily get confused, lose where they are and not learn effectively. This is summed up in the diagram below:



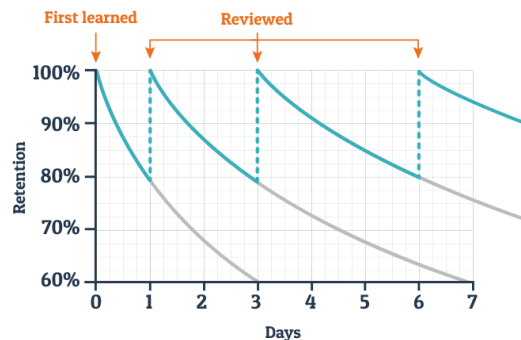
Effectively, if we overload children's senses by having them flip from a PowerPoint to a text book and then to a blank piece of paper, we make it harder for them to learn. Our job as a school is to make things as easy for them to learn and achieve as we can and to remove any distraction. This is true for all children, but even more important for children with a Special Educational Need.

Our Packets allow teachers to use a Document Camera, or Visualiser, to display the same material to the class that they have in front of them. This ensures that Scholars know exactly what to write, which section to read and where they need to do their writing. Another side effect of this is that Teachers know exactly where to look for Scholars answers when they check their work. This means that feedback can take place immediately and children can be swiftly guided back to any corrections they need to make.

Another key idea behind our Packets is that they help us to Quality Assure lessons and make sure that we don't move on to new material until we are 100% certain that Scholars understand what has been taught. This sounds simple, but very often if we move on too quickly, we can open up learning gaps in younger years that cause problems for Scholars when they reach year 11. At Kirk Hallam, we aim never to move on until we know that our classes have learned what has been taught.

To make this happen, we use things like quick quizzes and practicing remembering work done the previous lesson or previous week. The diagram below shows you why we do this:

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



Having Packets also adds to the sense of routine calmness we are building in the school. Rather than lessons being unpredictable, we start and end every lesson the same way with a 4 minute silent task. This allows us to ensure that Scholars can move to their next lesson with a clear idea of what to expect and also creates a clear difference between each subject for each period of the day. Each Packet also provides a clear structure for each lesson and means that we don't need to waste time with activities like cutting things out and sticking them down... **We can focus on learning, learning, learning.**

As you will see, we are also trying to prepare Scholars for their lives after us. By using files, we aim to ensure that they are used to being organized, that they understand what it means to be prepared for future activities and that they always have the correct materials for the job. Yes for us this is about having a pen, pencil, ruler and Folder... In the future, they may need a hard hat, University texts, their notebook or even their surgical gown!

I hope you have found and our other explainers' useful documents as you begin to understand some of the changes we have made in order to **Be Excellent.**

Yours sincerely

Damian Belshaw
Head of School