

Our students

At Oasis academy Shirley Park we are committed to ensuring our students are provided with every opportunity to succeed and reach their goals.

In all subjects we strive to have an academically rigorous and coherent curriculum that gives our learners exposure to interesting and challenging skills and knowledge that they will continue to develop throughout their journey with us.

What is the Oasis Horizons Project?

We want to take a step forward in our offer to our young people and their families, to ensure we address inequality that exists outside of the classroom, and to ensure that everyone has the opportunities that they are entitled to.

Oasis Horizons is a scheme being introduced into every Oasis academy throughout the academic year, where each current and future pupil, and their teachers and support staff, will be provided with an iPad to give them access to enhanced online learning.

Independent and home learning

As part of our academy policy students in years 7-10 will be required to complete one e-quiz per subject per week. iPads will be used to access these quizzes and complete these.

Students will be set e-quizzes on various platforms depending on the subject and year group. Most e-quizzes will be set on the platform called “formative” which we will provide a ‘know how’ guide to show how to access these e-quizzes.

Subjects may also make use of other quizzing platforms such as Tassomai, Hegarty maths, sparx and Seneca Learning. All of these platforms support the academies vision in building independent learning habits for our students and effective learning strategies. More information on the use of quizzing is detailed below.

What are e-quizzes?

E-quizzes are online quizzes that students can access using their iPad’s and are completed online. These e-quizzes will increase in the number of questions each week as previous weeks questions are included to reinforce previous weeks learning. The e-quizzes will be multiple choice questions or one word response questions to which are accessible to all learners. Below is an example of how the e-quizzes will develop throughout a half term.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Questions 1-5	Questions 1-5	Questions 1-5	Questions 1-5
	Questions 6-10	Questions 6-10	Questions 6-10
		Questions 11-15	Questions 11-15
			Questions 15-20

What are the benefits?

With our learners we practice effective revision habits and strategies that will give all our students every opportunity to achieve. The strategies we develop with our students are research informed and are proven as more effective than other strategies. These include:

- Retrieval practice
- Spaced Practice
- Interleaving

What is retrieval practice?

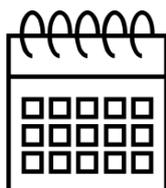
Huge amounts of research has been completed around retrieval practice and is best summarised by Kate Jones in her book *“Retrieval practice; Research and resources for every classroom”*

Retrieval practice is a learning strategy where we focus on getting information out. Through the act of retrieval, or calling information to mind, our memory for that information is strengthened and forgetting is less likely to occur. Retrieval practice is a powerful tool for improving learning



What is spaced practice?

We want to discourage our students from “cramming”. Cramming is where students leave revision to the last moment and tend to try and cram as much as possible into a small time. This is an ineffective revision strategy. What is better than spending 4 hours of last moment revision all on one go? Spaced practice. Spaced practice is regarded as one of the most effective revision strategies and revolves around the ideas of spacing our revision out and practicing little and often. This strategy is heavily involved in our student’s day to day lessons and we are embedding this strategy for our students independent learning and e-quizzes.

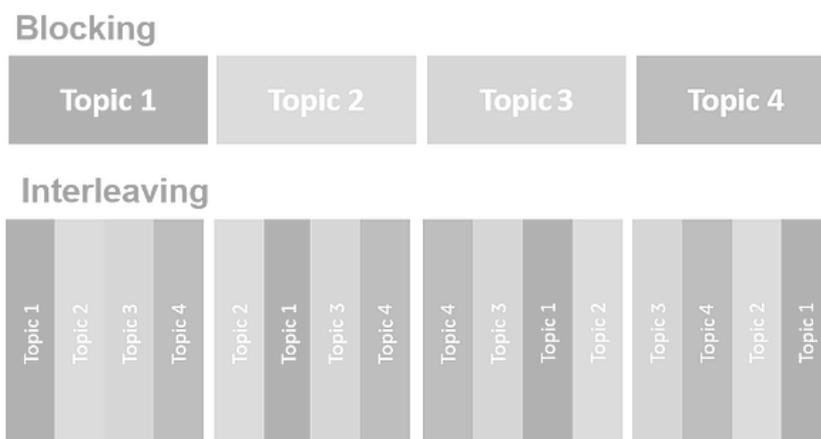


Spaced practice also serves as an important well being tool for our learners as reduces anxiety and stress trying to cram last minute for their exams.

What is interleaving?

Interleaving is a process where students mix and combine topics and subjects in their study rather than revising one topic or subject for a long period of time before moving onto the next.

The info graphic below shows how the two strategies differ



Our e-quizzes over time are designed to put this into practice. Questions across different topics will be mixed up for each quiz ensuring that questions are not “blocked” in terms of topics, but are interleaved through the quiz. Interleaving has been shown to be more effective than blocked practice. This coupled with e-quizzes for most subjects per week will provide better long term retention.

Using the iPads in the academy

The use of iPads may also occur in tutor time and lessons. It is important that the iPads are only brought into the academy when specifically instructed by your child’s teacher as per the OASP iPad usage policy. It is important that parents/carers read the iPad usage policy to which students must adhere to.