

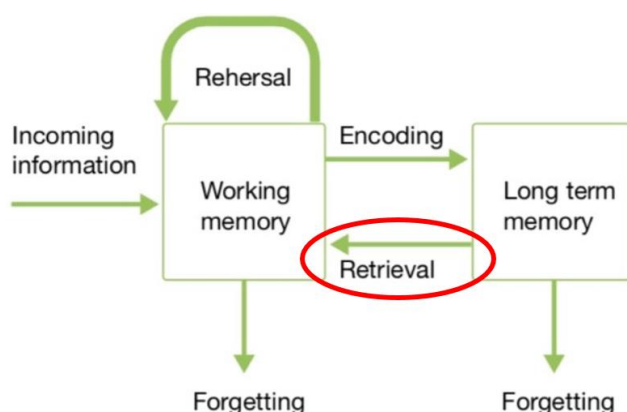
1 February 2021

Dear Parent

### **Supporting Learning at Lees Brook**

I'm writing to keep you informed of some teaching and learning strategies that are being implemented across the school. In all subjects, in the classroom and in the virtual sense, teachers and support staff are focusing on developing our students' long term memory. In order to do this, we are using a series of memory techniques connected to retrieval practice.

Regular retrieval practice allows students to more readily move information from their long-term memory into their working memory, where they are able to apply the knowledge to new situations, such as exam questions or a checkpoint/end of topic test. The diagram below summarises where retrieval practice fits in to the learning cycle.



This model demonstrates how our long term memory works and highlights why it is important that within lessons, homework and revision, retrieval practice is frequently implemented. By regularly retrieving the information learnt in lessons, students have less chance of forgetting the information.

Across the school, teachers are helping pupils embed key concepts into their long-term memory and apply them fluently. Below is a brief explanation of the types of memory work we have been implementing:

- **Retrieval practice:** using a variety of strategies to recall information from memory, for example flash cards, exam questions, low stakes testing, quizzes, verbal questioning or mind maps
- **Spaced practice:** distributing learning and retrieval opportunities over a longer period of time rather than concentrating them in 'massed' practice

- **Interleaving practice:** switching between different topics or different ideas within the same lesson
- **Elaboration:** describing, explaining and enhancing knowledge learnt by linking and making connections

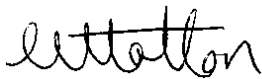
### **How can you help at home?**

At home you can support your child's learning by asking them three things that they have learnt in the lesson or through the day. Every question asked means that they are accessing their long term memory and retrieving the information back into their working memory.

I hope that you find this information useful in helping to give a better understanding of how your youngsters have been learning in school.

Thank you for your support with this. As always, if you have any questions regarding this please contact the school reception and they will direct your call to the relevant member of staff.

Yours faithfully



Mark Hatton  
Assistant Headteacher