**Y7 Parents Information Evening – History.**

*“Discovery favours the well-prepared mind”.*

Good evening,

Committing knowledge to long-term memory is a vital part of your child’s success in education.

Try memorising the following sixteen digits – ‘4871947503858604’.

Now try memorising the following sixteen letters – ‘The cat is on the mat’.

I would hazard a guess memorising the letters was a lot easier, why? Consider the bank cards you carry right now. Isn’t easier to remember the P.I.N. when it is the year you were born?

I suggest the answer is that you have attached meaning from your long-term memory. The sixteen digits were ordered in an unexpected way, as were the sixteen letters. But you had the meaning of the words stored in your long-term memory. You had the knowledge of how to pronounce the letters when grouped into words in your long-term memory.

The human brain can hold three-four things simultaneously in ‘working memory’. *“What’s this got to do with us?”* Well helping students commit information to their long term memory will be vital if they are to be successful in their final end of year 11 exams. *“Bit soon to bang on about Y11 Mr. Scruby*?” Not so! Building a long-term memory takes a long time. In history, their long-term memory will be having a sense of the past. This means knowing when things happen, in which order and details of the different time periods.

*“What can we do about it?”* Encourage your children to read, be strict with them when it comes to completing home works, and take them to historical sites. The more your children know about the past, the more prepared they’ll be when it comes to discovering new ideas about our ancestors.

Below I set out some useful resources and advice.

1. Find a copy of the following **text book** for your child to access at home. ‘Medieval Minds Pupil's Book Britain 1066-1500’ (Think Through History). These can be purchased second hand for only a few pounds online. This will be the book used for home works. Black and white photocopies/ electronic PDFs will be available for those without the book at home.
2. Visit any site with a link to the medieval era, that is between 1066-c.1500. Lewes has its very own **castle**, numerous Norman **churches** and the **Priory** ruins! Further afield, there’s usually a great re-enactment of the 1066 Battle of Hastings in October. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/battle-15-oct/> . Also, just past Chichester is the **Weald and Downland Open Air Museum**, you get to go inside really old houses and snoop around and see how lots of people lived! If you find yourself in London **Westminster Abbey** would be a fantastic destination, as well as The **Tower of London** and **The Museum of London**.
3. Encourage the **reading** of historical fiction, or fact. I attach the recommended reads for the first two terms at the end of this hand out. [**https://padlet.com/LearningHistory/Y7**](https://padlet.com/LearningHistory/Y7) is the link where you’ll find more recommendations.

We look forward to working together over the next five years.

Kindest Regards,

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| **Term 1** | **Aspiring Readers** | **Very advanced readers (books for the whole year);** |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fiction | ‘Dawn Wind’ by Romanry Sutcliff. | ‘The Pillars of the Earth’ (1989) and ‘World Without End’ (2007) by Ken Follet. |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fact | ‘Smashing Saxons’ by Terry Deary. | ‘The Time Traveller’s Guide to Medieval England’ (2009) by Ian Mortimer. |

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| **Term 2** |  |  |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fiction | ‘The Gauntlet’ by Ronald Welch. | See above. |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fact | ‘Stormin’ Normans’ by Terry Deary.  | See above. |
| **Recommended TV** doc. | * The Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom. (BBC Two)
* Terry Jones’ Medieval Lives (BBC Two)
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