

Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2

English



What are we studying? Poetry Masters: In this unit students will learn about poetic techniques used by writers and learn the art of interpreting poems. They will also begin to explore how understanding contextual factors influence a writer's work.

Assessment: End of unit assessment tests grammar, knowledge (of poetic techniques, for example), reading skills, writing skills.

How can parents help? Discuss the poems your child has been studying; ensure Lexia, reading logs and spellings are completed each week.

Maths



What are we studying? Angles and Shapes: We will be looking at the different special angles in 2D shapes including Polygons and angles between parallel lines. Decimals: Operations of decimals, and converting between decimals, percentages and fractions. Equations: We will be looking at solving 1 step and 2 step equations, solving more complex equations and solving by trial & improvement.

Assessment: Year 7 will be doing an assessment once each unit of work has been completed. There will also be an assessment based on all of the content covered since September.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler, protractor, compass and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX spending at least 1 hour per week doing their home learning.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we studying? Religious Festivals.

Assessment: All assessments are out of 24 marks and require the following key skills:

- a) Key words defined
- b) Two statements of belief
- c) Explanation
- d) The use of scripture as supporting evidence
- e) Evaluation

How can parents help? Discuss RPE lessons with your son/daughter. Play devils advocate and encourage healthy debate about important topics.

Science



What are we doing this half term? (1) Biology – Adaptations (2) Chemistry - Chemical reactions (3) Physics - Heating and cooling

Assessments: : Low stake quizzes and summative assessment.

The summative assessment will test students on their knowledge of Reproduction, Acids and Alkalis and Light . This will take place in w/b 20th February. Your child's teacher will give the exact date via Teams.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. The BBC KS3 bitesize is a useful resource for homework tasks and revision - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p>.

Art



What are we doing this half term? Year 7 students are moving onto a project based on 'My Journey to School'. Students will explore landscapes by artist such as David Hockney and Henri Rousseau. Students will demonstrate their exploration of the formal elements and colour theory to create a painting based on their own observations.

Assessment: Students are graded holistically throughout the project based on the 4 assessment objectives detailed in their sketchbooks.

How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. This may include documenting their journey to school. Drawing equipment and good quality colouring pencils will support students in completing their work in lesson and at home.

Music



What are we studying? Year 7 students will be using triads to compose a fanfare piece in ternary form.

Assessment: A performance of a fanfare composition in pairs.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child has their Music book, a pen, and a pencil every lesson. Support your child with learning keywords, developing their musical literacy and encourage them to listen to music at home.

PE



What are we doing this half term?: Students will continue to take part in activities this half term which is from a different rotation to the Autumn and Spring 1 terms. During each activity block students will be taught a range of skills, tactics and strategies to develop their knowledge and understanding of the activity areas they are studying.

Assessments: Students will be assessed throughout the practical blocks of work.

How can parents help?: Please ensure students complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Drama



What are we studying this half term? Hamlet by William Shakespeare through the use of abstract theatre and physical theatre.

Assessment: Performance in the style abstract/physical theatre.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their home learning on time, encourage them to express themselves in lesson and complete wider reading around the topic.

Spanish



What are we studying? Going to town - places in town and directions

Assessment: Listening and Reading

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

French



What are we studying? Going to town - places in town and directions

Assessment: Listening and Reading

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

History



What are we studying? For the second half of the Spring Term we will be finishing of England in the Middle Ages and completing an assessment on this. We will then be moving on to non-British wider-world History studies looking at civilizations and architecture from all four corners of the globe; from the Great Wall of China to the temples of Machu Pichu. We will be finding out how and when different civilizations have developed in different parts of the world and developing our global awareness of other historical cultures and societies.

Assessment: England in the Middle Ages

How can parents help? Encouraging your child to watch historical documentaries and reading books on ancient civilizations Visiting The British Museum, London.

Computer Science



What are we studying? Principles of Programming

Assessment: On the topic above students will answer a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise using BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7tp34j>

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y7 students will develop their understanding of different countries and how cities can be built in “impossible places” such as Las Vegas. Throughout this topic students will develop their data collection, presentation and analysis skills.

Assessments: An end of topic written assessment, short and long answer questions. An end of topic written assessment, short and long answer questions.

How can parents help? A fully equipped pencil case including glue, scissors and a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Make sure the literacy sheet is fully completed and test students to confirm that they know the keywords and definitions. Make sure the revision notes for the assessment follow the guidance on the revision help sheet, to include definitions, diagrams and explanations to aid in learning the information. Testing students on recalling the information on their revision pages, this will help build their confidence.

Design Technology (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term?: We will be looking into the key terms that we use to describe material properties and wood based materials. We will start practicing cutting wood joints to build confidence and resilience then move onto creating a phone stand made from bent plywood. We will be trained on the sanding machine and understand general health and safety and how to perform a risk assessment.

Assessments: Students will be assessed on the finger joint practical work which they have the opportunity to repeat and improve. They will also create a phone stand out of a laminated plywood curve. Practical's will be marked on accuracy and quality of finish.

How can parents help?: Take an interest in the project work and skills they are learning and discuss them. Help them look at products made from wood materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed. Make some IKEA furniture!

DT Graphics (rotation)

What are we doing this half term?: Students will be given a design context which they will use to design and manufacture a tea light holder that has a pattern inspired by a historical design movement. The project aims to develop students' awareness of design movements whilst encouraging them to reflect upon the needs of different clients. The students will also be given the opportunity to experiment with CAD in order to produce innovative designs.

Assessments: Students will be assessed in the areas of Investigation (analysing patterns and their appropriateness for a tea light holder), Designing (designing patterns that would be appropriate for the tea light holder) and Evaluating (evaluating the final product).

How can parents help?: Students will be designing a product for a real world situation, so discussing what customers might want from the products they buy would be useful. It would also be helpful to talk through what design movements are to help support with students' understanding.

DT Textiles –(Rotation)

What are we doing this half term?: Students will be using recycled fabrics or items of old clothing to design and produce a cultural cushion. The project aims to introduce and develop an understanding of basic Textiles, and to ensure the creative process of the design and make project is acknowledged. Students will also develop an appreciation and awareness of different cultures, and learn how they can reflect on the principles of a certain culture through the medium of colour and fabric.

Assessments: The research work that is completed will be assessed for accuracy and how well inspiration has been drawn from it. The final constructed product will also be assessed using quality and complexity as the benchmarks.

How can parents help?: Discuss the project, look at existing textile products, turn them inside out and understand how they were constructed. Help them to experiment or practice sewing skills at home.

Food and Nutrition



What are we doing this half term?: Students will be introduced to health and safety practices within Food Preparation and Nutrition which will give them an understanding of how to prepare, store and cook food safely. They will learn about the eat well guide and will expand their knowledge on healthy eating and dietary requirements. They will develop their researching skills and be introduced to sensory analysis and evaluations.

The practical lessons will include Veggie dippers, couscous salad, boiling an egg, pizza wheels and planning a healthy muffin. These lessons have been chosen to introduce different food preparation equipment, using the hob, grill and oven, demonstrating the correct food cutting techniques, safely and accurately as well as understand the basics of food preparation to work safely within a practical food lesson.

Assessment: will include, Sensory analysis, Research into nutrition, Making of their own healthy muffin.

What parents can do to help: encourage a love of food by letting your child demonstrate their chopping skills when cooking at home. Let them take responsibility for collecting and weighing out their own ingredients for practical lessons.