

Year 11 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 1

English



What are we doing this half term? An Inspector Calls revision, Language paper 1 revision: By now your children have covered all of the GCSE course content and year 11 is all about revision, interleaving, and practise questions. In the first half term we will carry out a 'cold read' of An Inspector Calls (reading it over three lessons back-to-back) to refresh students' memories. We will then be learning quotations, key methods used by the playwright, study the structure of the play and wider ideas around it, and of course have a go at a number of practise questions. After that we will walk students through Language Paper 1, remind students of the demands of each question, provide them with 'how to respond' resources for revision, and do a 'walking talking mock', where we take them through a full paper in preparation for their mocks.

Assessments: one in-class AIC response, ongoing feedback on Language responses, followed by the November mocks.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes all of their home learning, which will be revision-based, and brings their copy of An Inspector Calls to school with them. Helping your children create a revision timetable or clock for Y11 would also be hugely beneficial.

Science



You will be continuing your studies of Biology, Chemistry and Physics this term. Lessons will focus on new learning of the paper 2 topics for each science discipline. Trilogy starting with topic 5 in each subject - homeostasis and response, energy change in reactions and forces. Triple students are working on rates of reaction, inheritance and selection and finishing waves to move on to electromagnets. Homework for all will be revision of the paper 1 topics studied last year - that will be assessed in your first mock exams.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has correct equipment such as a pen, a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. Students need to start bringing their revision guides to lessons towards the end of this term. These books are an invaluable resource for your child's revision.

PE (Core)



Students will receive a balance of activities with the goal of further developing their love for physical activity and their ability to perform with confidence. Students will choose an activity to participate in for a half term block. All students have one lesson per week and options are changed each half term.

Assessment: Students are not formally assessed in core PE.

How can parents help?: Support and promote the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices. Please ensure students are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? We will continue with the GCSE syllabus. (Higher) Graphs and inequalities, iterations, circle theorems. (Foundation) Fractions, indices & standard form followed by similarity & congruence and vectors.

Assessments: Students will complete a non-calculator paper towards the end of September.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment for every lesson such as a pencil, ruler, compass, protractor and most important - their own scientific calculator. Students are mostly set weekly individualised tasks based on needs - please encourage your child to complete them on Sparx. Please also look out for a new homework and assessment platform called Mathswatch, which will be very useful for more exam style practice.

History



Welcome to your final year at Thamesmead! Not long to go until the exams so organise your revision time table and go over the topics we have done over the past year. We will continue and complete our study into depth study into Germany in Transition (1919-1939) by investigating Nazi policy and it's effect on the German people. We will then move onto the final topic area - Elizabethan England (1558-1603).

Assessment - 3x Germany Assessments (dependent on where you got up to last year) and 2x Elizabeth tests.

How can parents help? - Organised, dedicated and sustained revision time using class notes, revision notes and GCSE Pod.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? Students will be learning all about cyber security, the ethical side of computer science and the laws involving computer science. Student will also be starting a guided programming project. This will enable students to practice their computational thinking skills and all of the programming techniques required to complete the paper 2 exam. Students will also be revising topics and theory learnt in year 10 in preparation for the first mock exam.

Assessments: Students will be given exam style questions each lesson to guide revision and help reflect on progress. These exam questions will be used to check the students are revising for the upcoming mock exams.

How can parents help? Students have been emailed programming revision tasks to be completed over the summer. Students need to spend 40 minutes a week practising their programming skills. Students also need to spend time re-visiting the topics that were learnt about in Year 10.

Business & Enterprise

What are we doing this half term?

Students will be completing the Unit 1 : Content Area 6 - Finance, during early September (recapping already covered material). Students will move onto Content Area 7 - External Impact Factors and then Content Area 8 - Planning. This will complete all the Unit 1 Material. Following this we will begin revision all the Unit 1 content in preparation for the Exam, this exam accounts for 40% of their final grade.

How can parents help? Ensure your child is completing all home learning tasks and revising for at least 20 mins a day. They will be assessed on all 8 Content Areas in Unit 1. There is a revision guide available. Please engage in your child's revision and ask them to explain key terms/ concepts/ advantages and disadvantages to you. If they can 'explain it' it means they understand it. The BBC bitesize KS4 business pages are helpful with understanding key terms and key concepts.

Along with the Mr Hart website that students are familiar with, there are also two great YouTube channels that will help with explanations and how to answer extended response questions: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE9uWsZ2C3NYzzKRlo_mntw and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd4ION3OznEHVSdhfe4eu4w>

BTEC SPORT

Welcome to BTEC Sport - In the Autumn term students start by learning the components of fitness and the principle of training.

Assessment: students will start their Unit 1 Aim A assignment on Fitness for Sport and Exercise.

How can parents help? monitor progress of coursework towards the assignment brief. Please ensure students meet all deadlines.



Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

Year 11 will start with a conclusion to the Christian Practices module before swiftly moving on to learn about Religion and Life. Your son/daughter will be examined on Christian Practices within a few weeks of coming back after the summer holidays. In the Religion and Life module we will be covering some challenging and controversial topics this term including abortion and euthanasia. Students will be required to discuss religious attitudes towards these topics as well as fully justify their own personal opinions.

Please talk about these topics at home and encourage healthy discussion. Students would do well to watch the news and research case studies from the UK and abroad. You do not need to purchase a revision guide for your son/daughter but if you wanted to supplement what we are covering in the classroom the AQA Spec A Christianity and Buddhism book is very good.

French



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 French begins with the topic of describing our home, and local and global issues related to the environment. We then focus on social issues, charity and voluntary work and build on our knowledge of past, present and future tenses.

Assessments: There is a 150 word writing assessment on the topic of environment at the end of the half term to give students the chance to show off their newly acquired knowledge on higher level topics, as well as a listening, reading and translation paper.

How can parents help? Ensure your child does not use online translators such as Google translate and instead uses class notes as reference. They have an AQA vocabulary booklet with words and phrases to learn and they also have a Pearson Activelearn account and also a 'thisislanguage' account which they should use to practise listening and reading regularly.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Spanish begins with the topic of describing our home, and local and global issues related to the environment. We then focus on social issues, charity and voluntary work and build on our knowledge of past, present and future tenses. **Assessments:** There is a 150 -word writing assessment on the topic of environment at the end of the half term to give students the chance to show off their newly acquired knowledge on higher level topics, as well as a listening, reading and translation paper.

How can parents help? Ensure your child does not use online translators such as Google translate and instead uses class notes as reference. They have an AQA vocabulary booklet with words and phrases to learn and they also have a Pearson Activelearn account and also a 'thisislanguage' account which they should use to practise listening and reading regularly. Encourage them to create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and to review these weekly in Year 11.

Music



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Music will kick off by studying the second set work, Badinerie by J.S. Bach. Students will also be completing their free compositions, before we take a look at the set briefs for composition number 2.

Assessments: Formative teacher feedback of compositions and listening tasks in lessons.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to complete regular instrumental/singing practise in preparation for their GCSE Solo Performance on Monday 15th January. Please provide support with learning key musical vocabulary, students have a glossary in the back of their Music book and a list of keywords on Teams.

PE -GCSE



Final year for GCSE PE - In the Autumn term students will cover physical, emotional and social health fitness and well-being together with the consequences of a sedentary lifestyle. Revise and consolidate skills in isolation and game application for practical. Additionally, students will finish the content for Paper 1 topic Movement Analysis (2/3 lessons).

Assessment : Students will complete a unit assessment after each theory topic.

How can parents help - Actively assist with their revision and continue to support their use of GCSE Pod and The EverLearner online resources.

Drama



Year 11 will continue the devising process which was started in the summer term of Year 10. Students will continue to research and create their own play and will perform this by October half term. Alongside this they will write their portfolios.

Assessments: Devised performance and portfolio (Real GCSE unit). This devised unit is worth 40% of the GCSE course with 60 marks given for the portfolio and 20 marks for the performance.

How can parents help? Please ensure students meet all deadlines for the portfolio home learning and encourage them to take an active part in the devising process. Students will continue to benefit from seeing theatre online or live theatre.

Food and Nutrition



The GCSE non-examination assessment (NEA) will begin this term and will consist of tasks, involving practical work. Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a 2-course menu. This will provide students with an opportunity to showcase their creativity and culinary skills. They will apply their existing knowledge, skills and understanding of nutrition to produce a concise portfolio that will represent 50% of their final grade.

What parents can to help: Experiment with dishes and food at home adapting and improving on recipes, practising their culinary skills. Encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their Year 10 class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual details.

DT GCSE

What are we doing this half term? We will be looking at the Non-Exam Assessment and continuing onto the initial design ideas and getting them to a high standard. We will also continue onto developing, modelling and assessing construction techniques for the final prototype. In theory sessions, the students will revisit the theory content that has the highest difficulty, in order to aid the recall in the exam. They will also practice a range of exam style questions.

Assessments: The NEA is assessed throughout and the final outcome will form part of the final grade. We will also be using past papers to help assess student knowledge.

How can parents help? Continue to be a good vocal client, checking in on their design work and giving constructive feedback. Take them to shops that sell similar products to their chosen design work and let them look at them to get an idea of how they are constructed.

Art



What are we doing this half term? Our GCSE Art & Design students begin Year 11 by developing their 'Identity' project into an 'Altered Portrait' project and exploring this concept in their own chosen direction. Coursework is worth 60% of a student's final GCSE grade. Students are assessed against the following objectives: AO1 Developing Ideas, AO2 Experiment & Refine, AO3 Recording Ideas, AO4 Present. These assessment objectives are equally weighted and students are graded holistically based on all the work they complete.

How can parents help? Please ensure that your child stays up-to-date with their coursework, our students are expected to be spending 3 -4 hours a week working on their art coursework at home outside our timetabled lessons. A space for students to work on their art coursework during evenings and weekends is an excellent way to support their progression. Students purchase a pack of materials at the beginning of the course but if parents are able to also purchase acrylic paints for students to also use at home, this would be a really supportive measure to ensure that coursework can be completed both at home and at school. If parents are also able to support students in visiting different museums and galleries and engaging in conversations about artworks, this is a great way to prepare them for and support them throughout the GCSE course.