

Year 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

English



What are we doing this half term? In this unit students are studying the first of their Language papers. This paper focusses on fiction and tests students on both reading and writing skills. In lessons students will learn the process for approaching the GCSE Language paper, reading the extract and annotating it as well as unpicking questions and responding to them.

Assessments: Students will be assessed on an ongoing basis in class – they will first practise each question and then will complete another same style question using a different extract – this will then be marked and feedback provided. These marks will then form the basis for the end of unit grade.

How can parents help?: Please ensure your child completes all of their home learning on time. Please also encourage your child to read a range of fiction and non-fiction material.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? (Higher) We'll start the half term with probability and then move onto growth and decay and compound measures (Foundation) This half term will be covering ratio and proportion.

Assessments: Students will complete a unit assessment after each topic and a big autumn term assessment at the end of the term. Students will be given a topic list of this assessment.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX (the maths homework platform) spending at least 1 hour per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week correctly. If they do not understand a question they need to see their teacher. Maths homework club runs every Monday in room 1C if students need help.

History



What are we doing this half term? Having started our USA 1929-2000 in the first half of term we continue with this. finishing of 1960s Civil Rights Movement, moving on to other protest movements, social change and the actions of different 20th century US Presidents and then moving on to the Cold War next term.

Assessment - There are three practice GCSE style tests for this topic that will be done over the course of study approx every 3-4 weeks.

How can parents help - encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual detail, memorise the how to answer sheet which contains the components for successful answering of questions to ensure excellent results in final GCSE results. Review class folder regularly to ensure organisation.

Science



The topics you will be studying are:

Biology – organisation.

Chemistry - Bonding, structures and Properties of matter.

Physics - electricity. The topic areas are the same for students doing Triple and trilogy science.

Triple Scientists you will go into more depth in your studies. Assessment will be end of topic class tests.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has correct equipment such as a pen, a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator.

Students will need to purchase revision guides and work books to accompany them this term.

Art



What are we doing this half term?: Our GCSE Art & Design students begin their coursework with a project based on 'Organic Structures'. 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.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Geography students will investigate ecosystems on a small and global scale. We will then focus on the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil. Students will look at the causes and impacts of deforestation and the social, economic and environmental issues which are created.

Assessments: An end of topic written assessment, short and long answer questions, based on past GCSE exam questions. They will cover all of the assessment objectives. These skills will be continually practiced over the course of the GCSE. AO1: Demonstrate knowledge of locations AO2: Demonstrate geographical understanding of: concepts and the interrelationships between places. AO3: Interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues. AO4: Use a variety of skills to investigate questions and communicate findings

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler, glue, scissors and a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Students have a revision help sheet for each topic, and should be encouraged to complete revision notes at the end of each week's lessons, so they are producing them in manageable detailed chunks. Please assist students in keeping their revision folders organised and with detailed notes and diagrams. Students should use GCSE Pod to consolidate knowledge.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? Students will begin the GCSE by learning about the different stages of computational thinking. Students will also have a re-cap on the programming techniques they have learnt since year 7 before moving on to more advanced programming techniques. They will have an introduction to what they will be studying on the GCSE and what is involved in the 2 GCSE exams they will sit in year 11. Students will also learn how to write algorithms in program code and flowcharts.

Assessments: Regular short answer questions will be used to assess student progress. The students will do an end of topic 1 written assessment to assess progress so far.

How can parents help? We ask parents to purchase a copy of the Pearson Edexcel GCSE Computer Science (2020) text book (ISBN 10 no: 1292359994). This can be purchased on Amazon. We also ask students to practice the Python programming techniques that they have learnt since year 8. Students can use the CS Newbs website to practice the Python programming language (<https://www.csnewbs.com/python>).

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we doing this half term? Year 10 students will be sitting their GCSE in Religious Studies at the end of this academic year, meaning they have 1 GCSE examination out of the way and in the bag before they start Year 11.

Assessment: The year will begin with the 'Christian Practices' module on Paper 1 before completing the 'Religion and Life' module on Paper 2. 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.

How can parents help?: 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? GCSE French begins the second half of the Autumn term with the topic of school and free time activities, expressing themselves with more advanced language and learning more about tenses and the culture of French speaking countries.

Assessments: There is a GCSE style speaking assessment at the end of term and a chance to show off their knowledge on the topics previously studied in the first half of the Autumn term as well as the new topics.

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 a Pearson Activelearn 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 10.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Spanish begins the second half of the Autumn term with the topic of school and free time activities, expressing themselves with more advanced language and learning more about tenses and the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Assessments: There is a GCSE style speaking assessment at the end of term and a chance to show off their knowledge on the topics previously studied in the first half of the Autumn term as well as the new topics.

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 a Pearson Activelearn 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 10.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Year 10 Drama students will continue their exploration of key practitioners in theatre history this half term, and will learn about the theories and conventions of Bertolt Brecht a German director and playwright working in the 1930s and 40s. Students will learn about Brecht's didactic style of theatre and will implement their learning in an assessed piece of Drama at the end of the half term.

Assessments: Students will also be introduced to the GCSE Devising assessment criteria and will explore a stimulus to inspire their own piece of didactic theatre. Students written reflections on their piece of devised theatre will also be assessed to develop students analytical skills in anticipation of their GCSE devising coursework later this year.

PE -GCSE



Welcome to GCSE PE - In the Autumn term students will cover the structure and functions of the musculo-skeletal system and one sport. They will improve their understanding of this activity and gain appreciation of the tactics and strategies that can be applied in game situations.

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

How can parents help - encourage and schedule time for your child to read over class notes and review their class folder regularly to ensure organisation. Use GCSE Pod, The EverLearner and Brainscape online resource. Ensure students complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on practical PE days. A ringbinder, dividers, plastic wallets and highlighters are essential items for theory.

PE (Core)



What are we doing this half term? All students follow a curriculum which covers team and individual sports. However, the focus is to provide opportunities to develop lifelong participation in sport and exercise. 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? Please ensure students complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on PE days.

DT GCSE

What are we doing this half term?: We will cover design communication, sketching, modelling and complete a seating design challenge. We will also look into the associated theory relating to the main material knowledge of woods, polymers, metals, paper and boards as well as textiles and electronics. We will also discover design strategies including research skills, creativity strategies and the work of existing designers and companies.

Assessments: There will be two theory unit assessments which will run in exam conditions to practice exam style questions. The seating design challenge will also be assessed.

How can parents help?: Take an interest in the theory work they are doing, as well as getting them to show you their sketching work. Practice makes perfect, so encourage doodling!

Music



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Music starts with an overview of the Eduqas course and by looking at each of the elements of music. Students will begin a composition task using either Garageband or Logic software on the Macs, developing their ICT and composing skills.

Assessments: Formative teacher feedback of compositions, listening tasks in lessons, and an informal solo performance to the rest of the class.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete regular instrumental/singing practise and to listen to lots of music! Support learning musical vocabulary.

Food and Nutrition



An introduction to GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition and the key concepts and content of the course. Students will begin to develop an array of culinary techniques, as well as a robust knowledge of nutrition, including kitchen safety, gaining the confidence to cook with a range of ingredients and a focus on developing high level practical cookery skills. They will expand their knowledge of nutrition and will plan and produce their own nutritious meals. Students will gain a good understanding of Food Spoilage and Contamination, Micro-organisms and Enzymes involved in Food production.

Practical lessons will include a range of skilled dishes

What parents can do to help: Experiment with dishes and food at home adapting and improving on recipes. Promote healthy food choices. Instil a love of food and nutrition by involving your child in the preparation of family meals perhaps insisting they prepare a meal once a week to practise their culinary skills. Encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual details.