

Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

English



What are we doing this half term?: A Christmas Carol: Gearing up to Christmas, students will read Dickens novella, A Christmas Carol. They will learn the plot, characters, themes and context of this story well. In addition, they will make annotations as they go along, preparing them for further study of the book in Year 10, where it will be studied at GCSE level.

Assessments: a mini assessment in week 2 or 3, where scaffolds are provided to help students through this, followed by a summative reading and writing assessment in week 5.

How can parents help?: Please ensure that your child brings their copy of the novella to each lesson. Also encourage your children to read (we always ask this, it really does develop their literacy skills), complete their home learning, and always sign their home learning and reading log.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? (Higher) This half term we will be covering inequalities, solving equations and sequences . (Foundation) This half term we will be covering algebraic skills such as simplifying expressions, index laws, expanding and factorising and substitution.

Assessments: Students will complete a unit assessment after each topic, and will also complete a large assessment at the end of the half term which covers all that they have learnt so far.

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 50 minutes per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week. Maths homework club runs every Monday in room 1C if students need help.

PE



What are we doing this half term?: Through a range of team and individual sports students improve and develop not just their athletic ability but also learn valuable skills to take away such as teamwork, communication, leadership and sportsmanship. With each sport they will develop more advanced skills, tactics and strategies.

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.

Science



What are we doing this half term? Students will continue with their GCSE course in Science (AQA) with Biology topic 1 – Cell Biology, Chemistry topic 1 - Atomic structure and the Periodic Table and Physics topic 1 - Energy

Assessments: Low stake quizzes and summative assessment.

The summative assessment will test students on their knowledge of Biology topic 1 - Cells. This will take place in either w/b 13th November or 20th November. 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>.

History



What are we doing this half term?: Pack your work bag kids because we are heading to the factory! We will start by studying the various aspects of the Industrial Revolution concluding our chronological study into British history. We will then move onto 'events that shook the world' by investigating 9/11, the IRA, Aberfan Disaster, Princess Diana, JFK, the Moon Landings, Civil Rights Movement in the USA, Pearl Harbour and the A-Bomb.

Assessment - Was the A-Bomb justified?

How can parents help? - historical documentaries and books, engaging in the news and explaining the significance of world events, telling your own stories of your experiences through major events.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y9 students will study natural hazards across the globe. They will explore a range of hazards included earthquakes and volcanoes, the impact on people and the environment. Throughout this topic students will develop their decision making and critical thinking skills.

Assessments: An end of topic written project.

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. Investigate relevant web cams to watch natural hazards as they happen, for example, <https://www.skylinewebcams.com/en/webcam/espana/canarias/las-palmas/cumbre-vieja.html>. 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 the information on their revision pages helps build their confidence, that they can recall relevant information.



Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

We will start the year learning about Christian Beliefs covering the concept of God, the trinity, heaven, hell, the problem of evil and judgement.

Students need to attend lessons with the correct equipment, an open mind and a GCSE attitude. Every lesson from day 1 counts towards that final grade.

How can parents help? You can support your son/daughter by encouraging them to use their school subscription to GCSE Pod. Every lesson is consolidated into a short 4-5 minute video which helps students break the course up into manageable bite size chunks.

Drama



What are we doing this half term?: Year 9 will explore the text 'Woman in Black' this half term and will develop their understanding of how this play was created successfully to build a ghost story on stage. Students will learn about the plot and key characters in the text. They will experiment with multi rolling and the importance of accent to convey a range of roles. Students will experiment with building atmosphere and tension to create jump scares, whilst building the audience's imagination through successful delivery of text.

Assessment: Their work will culminate in an assessed piece of theatre which the students will write and perform themselves inspired by their learning on 'The Woman In Black' Ghost story.

Help at home?: Please ensure your child completes their home learning on time and encourage them to research into past and current theatre makers.

Music



What are we doing this half term?: Year 9 will be continuing with Jazz. Students will continue revisiting the blues, before extending their understanding of chords, scale and improvisation.

Assessments: Jazz piece performed in pairs.

How can parents help?: Please ensure your child has a pen, a pencil and their Music book each lesson and provide help with learning the key musical words

French



What are we doing this half term? This term, Year 9 French students will expand their vocabulary through the theme of Holidays. They will have the opportunity to use three tenses, past, present and future and continue to develop their opinions.

Assessments: Speaking describing a picture and through general conversation.

How can parents help? Highlight the importance of language learning in our global world for encouraging tolerance of other cultures as well as giving them the edge in business. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary - www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term?: Students will be building on the Python programming techniques that they have learnt about in Year 8. They will continue to use their computational thinking skills to write, test, debug and run small programs. The students will be learning more advanced programming techniques such as functions and lists in Python.

Assessments: Students will be regularly quizzed on the programming techniques that they have learnt. The students will also have an end of unit assessment on the advanced programming techniques that they have learnt about.

How can parents help?: We ask parents to get their child to practice the programming techniques they have already learnt about. Students can use the CS Newbs website (<https://www.csnewbs.com/python>) to practice programming techniques.

Art



What are we doing this half term?: Students research the Mexican culture and the Day of the Dead festival as a starting point for their first project in Year 9. Students are inspired by a variety of traditional and current popular culture references alongside artists such as Frida Kahlo, Alfonso Castillo Orta and Jose Posada. Students refine their skills using a variety of painting and drawing techniques and processes to create their own Calavera celebrating the life of a loved one or someone they admire.

How can parents help?: Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. High quality drawing and painting equipment will support students in completing their work in lesson and at home. Discussing popular culture and examples of art & design in our everyday lives encourages students to make connections and develops visual literacy to support creative thinking.

Spanish

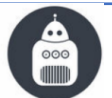


What are we doing this half term? This term, Year 9 Spanish students will expand their vocabulary through the theme of Holidays. They will have the opportunity to use three tenses, past, present and future and continue to develop their opinions.

Assessments: Speaking describing a picture and through general conversation.

How can parents help? Highlight the importance of language learning in our global world for encouraging tolerance of other cultures as well as giving them the edge in business. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary - www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence.

Design Technology (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term?: What are we doing this half term? Students will learn about metal materials. They will cut, drill, file and finish galvanised steel sheet into a desk tidy. They will learn about heat treatment and bending metals effectively. They will also learn about casting metals and make a piece of pewter jewellery/key ring. They will also learn about mechanisms. The project aims to introduce students to practical skills relating to metal. The students will use a range of tools and equipment in order to create products made from metals.

Assessments: The complexity and quality of the material.

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 metal materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed.

DT Graphics (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term?: Students will be learning about what graphics is and how it is applied to different products. Students will then spend time researching colour theory and typography and looking at how graphic products are produced, before embarking on a series of Design Challenges that involve them designing graphic products. The project aims to encourage students to consider how information is communicated, and what makes an effective graphic product, before giving them the chance to create some.

Assessments: Students will be assessed in the areas of Investigation (analysing film posters), Designing (designing a graphic product), Making (producing a graphic product) and Evaluating (evaluating the effectiveness of the final product).

DT Textiles –(Rotation)

What are we doing this half term?: Students will be advancing their decorative skills and design creativity by making a textile wall hanging based on an inspirational theme. It will include printing, embroidery and applique techniques. Students will be introduced to the method of working needed for the new Textile Design GCSE, planned for a September 2022 start.

Assessments: The research task into the inspiration for the design will be assessed, as well as each decorative technique and the final construction.

How can parents help?: Discuss the project, look at existing textile designs that exist in your home and other places. Help them to experiment or practice sewing skills at home.

Food and Nutrition



This year more complex practical skills are introduced in preparation for KS4 study. This ensures that students who opt for the subject at KS4 are well prepared but also those that do not continue with the subject still learn complex skills that they can use at home. A key focus is different pastry skills and considering the different nutritional profiles of different types of pastry. These intermediate skills build on the foundations of the basic skills learned in year 7 and 8. Our students come from a variety of different cultures so a focus in year 9 is International and British cuisines. This topic is sequenced in the final year of KS3 as it pulls through knowledge from the previous years and also from other subjects such as RE, Science, Geography and Maths.

Practical lessons include: Turkey burgers, 50:50 Bolognese, Corn, chilli and cheese empanadas, dough balls and garlic butter, Mac and Cheese, Singapore Noodles.

How will they be assessed?

Students will be given regular verbal feedback within their practical lessons 'in the moment'. This allows students to act upon this feedback immediately for the maximum impact on progress. Students will be assessed via written and practical assessments.

Home Learning

Students are set practical evaluations to reflect upon their practical outcome and own personal performance in practicals. In addition, where students provide ingredients for practicals they will continue to develop their weighing and measuring skills at home when preparing their ingredients for lessons.

Students are encouraged to practice their practical skills out of lessons by helping to prepare and cook meals at home.

To be successful in this subject, students will need to be good at and enjoy:

- ◆ Learning how to cook independently
- ◆ Developing organisational and time management skills
- ◆ Developing problem solving skills and the ability to overcome challenges
- ◆ Teamwork when carrying out practical investigations
- ◆ Learning through practical activities