

Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 1

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

$$3x^2=y$$

What are we doing this half term?: (1)Number: factors, multiples and prime numbers. (2)Number: writing, comparing, adding and subtracting fractions. 3) Algebra: expanding and factorising with single brackets .

Assessments: There will be an open book unit assessment after each topic and a bigger assessment covering all of the work since September before the end of term.

How can parents help?: Ensure your child has the correct equipment for every lesson such as a pencil, ruler, protractor, compass and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX (the maths homework platform) spending at least 40 minutes per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week

Science



What are we doing this half term?: (1) Biology - Reproduction topic is completed and students start to look at the Adaptations topic, (2) Chemistry - Acids and alkalis is completed and students start to look at the topic of chemical reactions (3) Physics - Light topic is completed and students start the heating and cooling topic.

Assessments: Low stake quizzes at the end of each topic.

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>.

It would be useful to have a KS3 Science revision guide to aid students in preparation for summative assessments – <https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-SCIENCE-REVISION-LEVELS-GUIDES/dp/B008MWXGFO>

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 Term. During each activity block the students will again 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.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we doing this half term?: Year 7 will begin this term with 'How do Jews worship'. This will end with an end of topic assessment.

How can parents help?: Students will need to learn key vocabulary carefully and spend time practicing their skills in explaining and evaluating. You can encourage your son/daughter at home by discussing their RPE lessons and playing devils advocate!

History



What are we studying? Year 7 Students will be continuing their studies of the Middle Ages, moving onto studying the effects of the church and religion in Medieval England including the murder of Thomas Becket and the Crusades. We will evaluate the significance of the Magna Carta and King John and the significance of the Black Death and Peasants revolt. After half term we will be studying a global History unit looking at civilisations outside of Europe.

Assessment: End of unit knowledge and skills test.

How can parents help? Discuss history with your child. Visiting historic sites and museums such as Guildford Castle. Use sites such as BBC Bitesize, encourage wider reading and watching films and programmes such as Horrible Histories.

Spanish



What are we studying? Where I live

Assessment: Speaking topics 1-3 Photo and conversation

How can parents help? Encourage your child to make a bank of flashcards to revise words and phrases. Encourage your child to learn these words and phrases by testing themselves or by testing them. Encourage your child to share what they have learnt in class.

French



What are we studying? Where I live

Assessment: Speaking topics 1-3 Photo and conversation

How can parents help? Encourage your child to make a bank of flashcards to revise words and phrases. Encourage your child to learn these words and phrases by testing themselves or by testing them. Encourage your child to share what they have learnt in class.

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.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y7 students will be investigating settlement.

Assessments: An end of topic written assessment, short and long answer questions. How can parents help? An end of topic written assessment, short and long answer questions.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment 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 the information on their revision pages helps build their confidence, that they can recall relevant information.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? The students will start their journey on learning how to program. They will learn about computational thinking and how complex problems are solved. They will then start to learn basic programming techniques that are used in programs and software. They will do this by using an online platform that uses code blocks and JavaScript to solve challenges.

How can parents help?: Parents can have a look at the code.org website and help their child to get familiar with the online platform that we are going to use.

Drama



What are we doing this half term: Building on skills gained last half term, year 7 will explore a storyline based on 'Gloom Manor'. This Scheme of Learning takes the students on an adventure to explore the Manor house and be introduced to the woman who lives there. Students will develop their skills in building tension and climax in scenes. Students' deepen their confidence in the use of key techniques such as hot seating, whole class improvisation and flashback. They will be challenged to build their own creative responses to scenarios and their own performance skills will be honed.

Assessment: Students will be assessed in their end of unit performance, creative input and evaluation.

Help from home: Encourage your child to hand homework in on time and to enable them time and space to complete this effectively.

Food and Nutrition



What are we doing this half term?: Students arrive with limited skills and knowledge as many primary schools lack the facilities or expertise to teach Food at KS2, therefore much of what they know is taught at home, usually cakes. Year 7 focuses on laying the foundation of basic practical skills and Healthy Eating knowledge to allow students to build upon this in later years. Learning how to use equipment safely is a key focus of this year, with fruits and vegetables being the focused commodity.

Practical lessons include: Eat the Rainbow Wrap, Boiled egg and soldiers, Quesadilla, Flatbread and tzatziki, Cheese and Spinach Muffins, Sausage Koftas.

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

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.

Music



What are we studying? Year 7 will be studying a project on the orchestra, learning about the sections of the orchestra, the instruments, and their individual sounds.

Assessments: Performance of an arrangement based on the New World Symphony 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.