

## Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 1



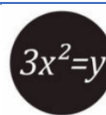
### English

**What are we studying?** Non-fiction text study examining equality and justice followed by novel study: The Hate U Give. In this unit students will learn and practise their language skills, which will be so essential next year as they begin their GCSE course, through the medium of a novel study. Last year students loved this text - as did the teachers!

**Assessment:** Section A: knowledge on context and plot; Section B: series of questions on an extract. Section B: writing. Students will write - and perform - a powerful speech.

**How can parents help?** Ensure your child has completed their home learning; discuss the novel with them, discuss any misconceptions that they may raise around the topics explored within the novel.

### 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 4C if students need help.

### History



**What are we studying?** Year 9 will be continuing their studies of World War One, considering issues such as medical advancements, the contribution of troops from the Empire and why the Allies won the war. In the second half of term we will move on to looking at Suffragettes, women and the vote.

**Assessment:** End of unit knowledge and skills test. Discuss history with your child. Visiting historic sites and museums such as the Imperial War Museum. Use BBC Bitesize. Encourage wider reading and watching of historical films such as War Horse.

### Science



**What are we doing this half term?** Students will continue with the following GCSE topics - Biology topic 1 Cell Biology, Chemistry topic 1 Atomic structure and the Periodic Table and Physics topic 1 Energy

**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 GCSE bitesize is a useful resource for homework tasks and revision - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv>



### Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

**Welcome to Full Course GCSE Religious Studies!** Students will have 2 hours a week of GCSE teaching ready for the exam at the end of Year 10. We will start the term learning about Religion, Peace and Conflict and then move on to Buddhist Beliefs.

**How can parents help?:** 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. 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.

### Computer Science



**What are we doing this half term?:** The students will finish off learning about advanced programming techniques. They will then be refreshing their knowledge about computational thinking. They will be learning about the algorithms stage of computational thinking and looking at how searching and sorting algorithms are used to process data.

**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. They can also use the BBC Bitesize website to find out about searching and sorting algorithms.

## 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.

## Geography



**What are we doing this half term?** Y9 students will study ecosystems across the globe. They will focus on the rainforest and polar regions. Throughout this topic students will develop their decision making and critical thinking skills.

**Assessments:** 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.

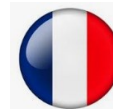
## Drama



**What are we doing this half term?** Students will explore and learn about infamous news events through history and use these as stimuli for devising theatre. The Scheme of Learning will begin with the shocking school shooting in the 1970s committed by Brenda Ann Spencer. Students will learn about this event, and use thought tracking to consider what led this girl to such an atrocious act.

Students will discuss how such events could be prevented and mental health support will be shared. Through the half term other true crime will be discussed and students will refine their performance skills and develop their ability to cooperate in groups to devise their own response to events.

## French



**What are we studying?** Environment including recycling, global problems, protecting the planet and natural disasters

**Assessment:** L assessment (75%) + Reading (25%)

**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.

## PE



**What are we doing this half term?:** Through a range and individual sports students will continue to 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 continue to 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. on PE days.

## Spanish



**What are we studying?** Environment including recycling, global problems, protecting the planet and natural disasters

**Assessment:** L assessment (75%) + Reading (25%)

**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.

## Food and Nutrition



**What are we doing this half term?:** 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"

## 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 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.

## 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).

**How can parents help?:** Offering students feedback about the work that they are doing is always helpful as it enables students to reflect upon the effectiveness of their work.

## Music



**What are we doing this half term?** The first project in year 9 will be about Jazz. Students will start the year by 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.