

## Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2



### English

**What are we studying?** Novel study: The Hate U Give. We will continue to read this novel, focusing on specific chapters and key moments and using opportunities to develop core GCSE reading and writing skills as we head towards Year 10.

**Assessment:** End of unit test with section A (knowledge) and section B (reading skills)

**How can parents help?** Please assist your child with completing their spelling books, quiz them on the novel, ask them about the plot and characters.

### Maths

$$3x^2=y$$

**What are we studying?** Higher students will cover 'Representing and Interpreting Data', 'Percentages' and 'Ratio and Proportion' in this next half term, and Foundation students will be covering Graphs and Charts.

**Assessment:** Students will continue to complete unit assessments for each topic, and will also complete a spring assessment towards the end of the half term which will cover a mixture of topics they have covered so far this year. Students will receive a topic list for this.

**How can parents help?** Please help students to check they have the correct Maths equipment, especially scientific calculators, and that homework is being completed.

### Science



**What are we doing this half term?** Students will continue with their GCSE course in Science ( AQA ) with Biology topic 3– Infection and Response and Physics topic 1 - Energy

**Assessments:** Low stake quizzes and summative assessment. The summative assessment will test students on their knowledge of Chemistry topic 1 This will take place in w/b 19th of February. 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 GCSE bitesize is a useful resource for homework tasks and revision - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv>

### History



**What are we studying?** For the second half of the Spring Term we will first of all be completing our assessment on World War One, then moving on to look at the Suffragettes and women achieving the vote in 1918 and then on to World War Two. We will be thinking about how and why a man such as Hitler came to power in Germany in the 1930s and the impact that World War Two had, not only in Germany, but across Europe and the wider world.

**Assessment:** World War One

**How can parents help? Read:** The Book Thief by Markus Zusak **Watch:** Saving Private Ryan **Visit:** The Imperial War Museum, London.



### Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

**Welcome to the Full Course of GCSE Religious Studies!**

**What are we studying?** Buddhist Beliefs

**Assessment:** All assessments are out of 24 marks and require the following key skills:

- Key words defined
- Two statements of belief
- Explanation
- The use of scripture as supporting evidence
- Evaluation

**How can parents help?** Discuss RPE lessons with your son/daughter. Play devils advocate and encourage healthy debate about important topics.

### PE



**What are we doing this half term?** Through a range of team 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.



## Art

**What are we doing this half term?:** Students are continuing to explore the Mexican culture and the Day of the Dead festival within their 'Life & Death in Mexican Art' project. Students are inspired by a variety of traditional and current popular culture references alongside artists such as Frida Kahlo and Butch Loctin. 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 continue to 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?** 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.

## French



**What are we studying?** School and school life

**Assessment:** Writing practice and Translation into French

**How can parents help?** Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly, including their spelling, testing themselves or by testing them.

## Spanish



**What are we studying?** School and school life.

**Assessment:** Writing practice and Translation into Spanish.

**How can parents help?** Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly, including their spelling, testing themselves or by testing them.

## Computer Science



**What are we studying?** Fundamentals of Networks

**Assessment:** On the topic above students will answer a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

**How can parents help?** Encourage students to revise using BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zc6rcdm/revision/1>

## Drama



**What are we doing this half term?:** Now students have learnt about a range of devising techniques and possible stimuli to inspire devised theatre, they will be given a project to devise their own piece of theatre over a prolonged project.

**Assessment:** Devising a piece of drama using Devising techniques taught. Writing an evaluation on the work created.

**Help at home?:** Please ensure your child completes their homework on time and encourage them to research into their chosen stimulus in more depth.

## 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 Bolognaise, 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?** 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

**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).

**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.

## 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.

## Music



**What are we studying?** Year 9 students will be swapping projects after half term. Those who have been working on the computers will be on the keyboards working on a project called 'Hooks and Riffs'. The other classes will be on the computers creating a remix of Pachelbel's Canon on GarageBand.

**Assessment:** Students will be assessed on either their finished remix or on a performance of their Hooks and Riffs composition (both 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.