

Year 11 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

English



What are we doing this half term? Students will begin the Autumn 2 term by revising both Language Paper 1 and An Inspector Calls to prepare them for their mocks. Once mocks have finished, students will then move onto revising Macbeth. We will begin by refreshing our memories of the play by watching the production and being guided by a scene wall, which students will write key quotes onto. We will then go on to revising key soliloquys and extracts from the play, linking to theme and context and helping to secure our understanding of revision skills and key quotations.

Assessments: one in-class MB response, and ongoing in-class feedback on responses.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes all of their home learning, which will be revision-based, and brings their copy of Macbeth to school with them. Helping your children create a revision timetable or clock for Y11 would also be hugely beneficial.

Science



What are we doing this half term? You will be continuing your studies of Biology, Chemistry and Physics this term. Lessons will focus on new learning of the paper 2 topics for each science discipline.

Homework will be revision of paper 1 topics studied last year - that will be assessed in your first mock exams.

How can parents help?

Ensure your child has correct equipment such as a pen, a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. Students need to start bringing their revision guides to lessons towards the end of this term. These books are an invaluable resource for your child's revision.

History



What are we doing this half term? After the November mock we will be starting our fourth and final GCSE topic : Elizabeth I. We are kicking this off with a visit to Westminster which we hope will bring the topic to life and spark students' interest.

Assessment - every 3 units as previously.

How can parents help? Ensure your child is doing home learning. Encourage them to attend revision clinic. Stress the importance of hard work now paying off in the summer exams. Encourage them to read over their class notes and revise as they go as this will make it easier towards the end of the year.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? We will continue with the GCSE syllabus. (Higher) Graphs and inequalities, iterations, circle theorems. (Foundation) Fractions, indices & standard form followed by similarity & congruence and vectors.

Assessments: Students will complete 3 papers in the upcoming November mocks. Paper 1 - Non-calculator, Paper 2 - Calculator, Paper 3 - Calculator.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment for every lesson such as a pencil, ruler, compass, protractor and most important - their own scientific calculator. Students are mostly set weekly individualised tasks based on needs - please encourage your child to complete them on Sparx maths and Mathswatchvle.com.

Business & Enterprise

What are we doing this half term?

The plan for the next couple of weeks regarding B&E is:

- ◆ Student will be completing the last of the Content Area modules of the Business and Enterprise course in the last weeks of term before Christmas.
- ◆ All Content Area (1-8) workbooks have been uploaded to the students TEAMS Files page, along with a link to the NCFE BE revision guide, (available via Amazon) and the link to a Website that we use in class, other Websites are also useful - e.g. BBC Bitesize business pages are helpful with key terms and concepts.
- ◆ All student should aim to start revision as soon as possible, going back over all the modules (1-5) covered in Yr10.

Upon completion of the Content Area modules the students will begin planning and preparing the material for the Business and Enterprise Synoptic Project to be completed in early 2024. This project will account for 60% of the students final grade.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Spanish begins the second half of the Autumn term by revisiting topics studied in the course so far and practising exam style questions in preparation for the mock exams. We then move onto the topic of social problems (poverty, homelessness, health care) as well as charity work, volunteering and technology.

Assessments: Mock exams in Spanish will be in listening, reading and writing skills.

How can parents help? Please encourage students to start revision early and do a little and often. They should regularly be practising topic-related vocabulary as well as practising skills such as listening, reading and writing as well as translation. Ensure your child does not use online translators such as Google translate and instead uses class notes as reference. Students have a Pearson Activelearn account which they should use to practise their comprehension. They also have the Pearson GCSE workbooks (purple) which have a huge amount of exam-style questions, including listening. Encourage them to create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and to review these weekly.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Geography students will be studying economic development in the UK, as a comparison to Nigeria. They will study how the UK has moved from the secondary sector to the tertiary sector, and how this has affected urban and rural areas. Students will investigate the impact of a good transport network and how different strategies can close the UK's north south divide.

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 practised 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 will be given a revision help sheet at the start of each new 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. Use GCSE Pod and Time for Geography to consolidate knowledge. Students should be revising work from Y10 and Y11 a minimum of once a week.

French



What are we doing this half term? GCSE French begins the second half of the Autumn term by revisiting topics studied in the course so far and practising exam style questions in preparation for the mock exams. We then move onto the topic of social problems (poverty, homelessness, health care) as well as charity work, volunteering and technology.

Assessments: Mock exams in French will be in listening, reading and writing skills.

How can parents help? Please encourage students to start revision early and do a little and often. They should regularly be practising topic-related vocabulary as well as practising skills such as listening, reading and writing as well as translation. Ensure your child does not use online translators such as Google translate and instead uses class notes as reference. Students have a Pearson Activelearn account which they should use to practise their comprehension. They also have the Pearson GCSE workbooks (purple) which have a huge amount of exam-style questions, including listening. Encourage them to create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and to review these weekly.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 will start with continuing the devising process, and will gain further support in lessons to complete their Devising Log. This will complete the Devised Unit and 40% of the GCSE course. In the second part of this half term, Year 11 will begin their text in performance unit and will start work building a performance from a script (given to them by their teacher and assessed by a visiting examiner in February). Students will be working on this all half term, and will develop a deep understanding of their role, block their performance and develop their acting skills using a range of rehearsal techniques. Alongside this practical unit, Year 11 will continue to prepare for their Written exam and will work on The Crucible text ensuring plot and character are fully understood across the play. Students will look at this text from the view of an actor, director and designer and will be set a range of essay questions to prepare them for the written exam in June.

How can parents help? Please help your child to ensure their devising Log deadlines are met, and that quality time is spent completing this essential coursework.

Art



What are we doing this half term? Our GCSE Art & Design students begin Year 11 by developing their 'Identity' project into an 'Altered Portrait' project and exploring this concept in their own chosen direction. 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 meets our final coursework deadline on Friday 16th December. Leading up to this 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.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? Students will be learning all about cyber security, the ethical side of computer science and the laws involving computer science. Student will also be starting a guided programming project. This will enable students to practice their computational thinking skills and all of the programming techniques required to complete the paper 2 exam. Students will also be revising topics and theory learnt in Year 10 in preparation for the first mock exam.

Assessments: Students will be given exam style questions each lesson to guide revision and help reflect on progress. These exam questions will be used to check the students are revising for the upcoming mock exams.

How can parents help? Students have been emailed programming revision tasks to be completed over the summer. Students need to spend 40 minutes a week practising their programming skills. Students also need to spend time re-visiting the topics that were learnt about in Year 10.

DT GCSE

What are we doing this half term? We will be looking at the Non-Exam Assessment and continuing onto the initial design ideas and getting them to a high standard. We will also continue onto developing, modelling and assessing construction techniques for the final prototype. In theory sessions, the students will revisit the theory content that has the highest difficulty, in order to aid the recall in the exam. They will also practice a range of exam style questions.

Assessments: The NEA is assessed throughout and the final outcome will form part of the final grade. We will also be using past papers to help assess student knowledge.

How can parents help? Continue to be a good vocal client, checking in on their design work and giving constructive feedback. Take them to shops that sell similar products to their chosen design work and let them look at them to get an idea of how they are constructed.

Music



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Music will start by looking at unfamiliar listening questions and exploring Music for Ensemble and Film Music.

Assessments: Formative teacher feedback of compositions and listening tasks in lessons.

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.

PE -GCSE



PE (Core)



What are we doing this half term? Students will receive a balance of activities with the goal of further developing their love for physical activity and their ability to perform with confidence.

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.

Final year for GCSE PE - In the Autumn term students will cover physical, emotional and social health fitness and well-being together with the consequences of a sedentary lifestyle. Revise and consolidate skills in isolation and game application for practical. Students will then be progressing onto the Sport Psychology unit, where they begin to learn how sports performance is affected in different ways.

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

How can parents help - Actively assist with their revision and continue to support their use of GCSE Pod, The EverLearner and Brainscape online resources.

Food and Nutrition



What are we doing this half term? The GCSE non-examination assessment (NEA2) will begin this term and will consist of tasks, involving practical work and a written portfolio. Students will plan, prepare, cook and present 3 high skilled dishes. The topic will be advised by the Exam board. This will provide students with an opportunity to showcase their creativity and culinary skills. They will apply their existing knowledge, skills and understanding of nutrition to produce a concise portfolio that will together with the NEA1 represent 50% of their final grade.

What parents can to help: Experiment with dishes and food at home adapting and improving on recipes, practising their culinary skills. Encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their Year 10 class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual details.