

Year 11 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 1

English

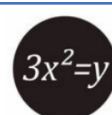


What are we doing this half term? An Inspector Calls Revision & GCSE English Language Paper 2: By Year 11, students have studied the full GCSE English course, so this year is focused on revision, retrieval practice and exam preparation. During the first half term, students will revisit An Inspector Calls through a 'cold read' of the play over several consecutive lessons to refresh their knowledge. They will revise key quotations, explore the playwright's methods, analyse the structure of the play, and revisit its themes and contextual ideas before completing a range of GCSE-style exam questions. Students will then focus on GCSE English Language Paper 2, revisiting the requirements of each question and developing effective exam strategies. They will be provided with revision resources to support their responses and will complete a 'walking talking mock', where teachers model the thought processes and techniques needed to successfully complete a full examination paper in preparation for the November mock exams.

Assessments: Students will complete an in-class An Inspector Calls exam response, receive ongoing feedback on their English Language Paper 2 practice, and sit their November mock examinations.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete all revision-based home learning and bring their copy of An Inspector Calls to every lesson. Supporting them in creating and following a realistic revision timetable will also help them prepare effectively for their mock examinations and GCSEs.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? We will continue with the GCSE syllabus. Students will work with proportion, moving onto transformations, then using error intervals and index laws.

Assessments: Students will have an assessment in October; revising topics that they did not get correct from the year 10 Summer assessments will be a good way to start preparing.

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 tasks based on needs or the curriculum - please encourage your child to complete them on sparxmaths or Mathswatch depending on what is set.

Music



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Music will start by looking at unfamiliar listening questions and exploring Musical Forms and Devices. They will also be introduced to their next set work, the 'Badinerie' by J.S. Bach.

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

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete regular instrumental/singing practice and to listen to lots of music! Support learning musical vocabulary.

History



Welcome to your final year at Thamesmead! Not long to go until the exams so organise your revision time table and go over the topics we have done over the past year. We will continue and complete our study into depth study into Germany in Transition (1919-1939) by investigating Nazi policy and its effect on the German people. We will then move onto the final topic area after October half term - Elizabethan England (1558-1603).

Assessment - 2x Germany Assessments and 2x Elizabeth tests. How can parents help? - Organised, dedicated and sustained revision time using class notes, revision notes and GCSE Pod. The November mock will be Crime and Punishment so students will be set weekly revision home learning tasks for this throughout this half term to prepare them - own revision needed a well.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? At the start of Y11 GCSE Geography students will look at different ways of classifying parts of the world according to their level of economic development and quality of life, such as, gross national income (GNI) per head, birth and death rates, infant mortality, life expectancy etc. They will study the link the Demographic Transition Model. The causes and consequences of uneven development and strategies used to reduce the development gap. Students will study Nigeria and look at the changing industrial structure, including the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) Including type of international aid and the effects on quality of life for the population.

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 continual practiced 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 including glue, scissors and pens for peer and self-assessment. Make sure they keep up-to-date with their human and physical Cornell Notes revision books, so they are producing them in manageable detailed chunks. Use GCSE Pod to consolidate knowledge.

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 set on Sparx Science 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 completes their Sparx homework each week. It is set on Thursday and due in the following Thursday. Sparx should take 1 hour - so students will be set extra homework at certain times during the year. 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. Students should also bring a scientific calculator to science lessons.

French



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 French begins with the topic of community, social issues and environment. We build on our knowledge of past, present and future tenses.

Assessments: There is a 150 word writing assessment on the topic of environment at the end of the half term to give students the chance to show off their newly acquired knowledge on higher level topics, as well as a listening, reading and translation paper.

How can parents help? Ensure your child does not use online translators such as Google translate and instead uses class notes as reference. They have a Pearson Activelearn account which they should use to practise listening and reading regularly. They should also complete exercises from the AQA revision guide which was purchased in year 10. They could create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and review these weekly.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Spanish begins with the topic of community, social issues and environment. We build on our knowledge of past, present and future tenses.

Assessments: There is a 150 word writing assessment on the topic of environment at the end of the half term to give students the chance to show off their newly acquired knowledge on higher level topics, as well as a listening, reading and translation paper.

How can parents help? Ensure your child does not use online translators such as Google translate and instead uses class notes as reference. They have a Pearson Activelearn account which they should use to practise listening and reading regularly. They should also complete exercises from the AQA revision guide which was purchased in year 10. They could create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and review these weekly.

PE -GCSE



Final year for GCSE PE - In the Autumn term students will cover sports psychology, physical, emotional and social health fitness together with the consequences of a sedentary lifestyle. Revise and consolidate skills in isolation and game application for practical. 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 and The Ever-Leaner online resources. Students will be continuing to work on their GCSE PE PEP (Coursework), so your supportive is massively appreciated.

Drama



Year 11 will start the year completing the devising process which they worked hard on in year 10. Students will complete and make improvements to their Portfolio of Evidence (coursework) and will complete their Evaluation exam, (evaluating the success of their devised piece performed in year 10). The class will read and explore their set text 'Noughts and Crosses', and will develop their thinking as an actor, director and designer in relation to their set text. They will also watch a digital production from The National Theatre and prepare their evaluation response to it for their written exam.

Assessments: Portfolio of Evidence coursework and Evaluation exam worth 30% of the GCSE.

How can parents help? Continue Please ensure students meet all deadlines for portfolio hand-ins and encourage them to improve their notes for the evaluation exam this half term.

Food and Nutrition



What are we doing this half term? The GCSE non-examination assessment (NEA 1) will begin this term and will consist of Food Investigation task, involving practical work and a written portfolio. The topic will be advised by the Exam board. They will apply their existing knowledge, skills and understanding of Food Science to produce a concise investigation. This together with the NEA2 will contribute to their final GCSE 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. Set up a revision timetable

DT GCSE

What are we doing this half term? AQA Examining Board: **Half term1 (Sept-Oct)** Unit 4: Forces & Stresses, Improving Functionality, Ecological & Social Footprint, 6R's, Planned Obsolescence and Miniaturisation, Unit Test 4, NEA: Generating Design Ideas and Developing Design Ideas. Using Iteration to model possible solutions.

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. Buy CGP, DT revision cards.

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/design-technology/d-t/t>

af41-gcse-design-technology-aqa-revision Buy CGP, DT revision cards.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm>

Art



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 stays up-to-date with their coursework, 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.

Business & Enterprise



What Are We Doing This Half-Term? This half-term, students will continue working on their Component 2 internal assessment, which is worth 30% of their overall BTEC Enterprise grade. Students will begin working on Task 1B of Component 2, where they will develop their own Business Plan. This is an important part of the assessment and will require students to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the course to plan their own micro-enterprise. During lessons, students will be expected to work independently, manage their time effectively and ensure that each section is completed to the best of their ability.

How can parents help?

Regular attendance: Please ensure that your child attends lessons regularly. Coursework and formal assessment work must be completed under the required supervised conditions and not at home, in accordance with Pearson BTEC assessment requirements.

Weekly homework: Please encourage your child to complete all homework by the required deadlines. Homework will help reinforce the knowledge and skills covered during lessons.

Engagement with the course: Encourage your child to review what they have learned, ask questions when they are unsure and actively participate in lessons.

Catch-up sessions: Your child may occasionally be invited to attend a catch-up or additional support session. Please encourage them to attend when invited. These sessions are extremely valuable, particularly if lessons or work have been missed, and provide opportunities for more individualised support to help students get back on track.

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 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 and completing the home learning revision tasks that are set.

BTEC SPORT



What are we doing this half term? This autumn term, Year 11 students on the BTEC Tech Award in Sport (Level 1 & 2) will complete their Component 1 & 2 work in time for our November deadline. They will then begin Component 3. Component 3 focuses on developing fitness to improve sport performance, covering training methods, fitness testing, and programme design. Through practical and theoretical lessons, students will build skills to prepare for their final exam in May. We aim to support their progress and ensure they are ready for this key stage of the course.

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 are organised with their full kit on PE days.