

English



What are we doing this half-term?

Novel Study: This half term, students will study *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. Through the novel, students will explore Gothic conventions and themes of identity, belonging, friendship and growing up. They will develop key reading skills by retrieving information, making inferences, analysing characters and settings, and exploring the writer's language and methods. Students will also begin to develop their analytical writing through PEE paragraphs.

Assessments: Students will complete three checkpoint assessments: a reading skills check, a guided formative assessment with detailed feedback, and a final summative assessment.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to read regularly and discuss what they are reading at home. Support them in completing their home learning and remember to sign their reading log each week.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? (1) Number skills such as factors, multiples and primes; using negative numbers; multiplying/dividing; powers and roots. (2) Expression, Solving Equation & Substitution. (3) Measures & Time

Assessments: Year 7's will do a baseline assessment within the first week of term. There will also be a triweekly unit assessment after topic 1, 2 and 3, as described above.

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 home learning platform) spending at least 40 minutes per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week

History



What are we doing this half-term? Students will begin their journey through history by first establishing, understanding and being able to explain key historical skills, these being the foundations of history throughout their time in school. We then jump into the time machine and begin our study into medieval Britain and the major changes that took place in the 11th Century. Avoiding battle axes, flaming arrows and cavalry charges we look at the events and results of the Battle of Hastings before building a castle and planning how to attack our enemies using trebuchets, siege towers or just sit and wait for them to run low on supplies.

Assessment: checkpoint knowledge and skills.

How can parents help? Historical books, documentaries (including *Horrible Histories!*) and weekend trips (while the weather is nice!) to history in real life Battle Abbey in Sussex usually does a Battle of Hastings re-enactment in October half term. Windsor Castle or the Tower of London.

Science



What are we doing this half term?

- 1) Cells in Biology lessons
- 2) Particle model in Chemistry lessons
- 3) Sound in Physics lessons.

Assessments: 3 (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) assessments carried out in class over the half term.

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 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p>. It would be useful to have a KS3 Science revision guide for revision purposes. - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-SCIENCE-REVISION-LEVELS-GUIDES/dp/B008MWXGFO>

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we doing this half term? Year 7 students begin their Religious, Philosophical and Ethical education by asking an important question: *Why can reasonable people disagree?* We will explore what religion, philosophy and ethics are before investigating one of the most influential figures in human history, Jesus. Students will examine historical evidence about Jesus and compare how Christians, Jews and Muslims understand his life and significance. Along the way, they will learn how different worldviews can lead people to different conclusions whilst still respecting one another.

Students will need to learn key vocabulary carefully, develop their ability to use evidence and come to lessons ready to think deeply and discuss respectfully.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Students will start their drama voyage by exploring and developing their interactive and team skills, through a range of introductory and physical based exercises. They will cover the core elements of performance skills, including freeze frame and spoken thought. Pupils will develop and refine their imaginative responses and grow their confidence to express themselves in a variety of ways and appropriately.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to talk about their drama lessons and their involvement. Taking them to see live drama productions wherever possible. Encourage pupils to involve themselves in drama outside of lesson time: they can attend Drama club on a Friday after school or local Drama groups.

PE



What are we doing this half term? PE lessons at Thamesmead are based on key areas Resilience, Enjoyment, Solidarity, Positivity, Empathy, Collaboration and Tolerance. Students will take part in a range of activities on a half term rotation. During each activity block the students are taught skills, tactics and strategies to develop their knowledge and understanding of the activity area. Students will engage in a wide range of sports and movement-based activities from conventional sports such as Netball, Football, and Rugby to the non-conventional such as Physical Literacy and Handball.

Assessments: Students will be assessed throughout the practical blocks of work.

How can parents help? Please ensure students are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Art



What are we doing this half term? Our Year 7 Art & Design students first project is exploring 'The Formal Elements of Art'. Over the course of each lesson students will examine each formal element, looking at how artist's such as Michael Craig Martin and Yayoi Kusama use it in their artwork. Students will create a booklet that documents their exploration over the first half term. This project also includes learning about colour theory, colour mixing and painting techniques.

How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. 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 begin their geographical adventure with the Weather and Climate topic. We will cover climatic zones, micro climates and tropical storms (hurricanes). Throughout this topic students will develop their skills in data collection, analysis and drawing conclusions.

Assessments: Check point assessments and 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 pens for annotating answers. Testing students on the information on their revision pages helps build their confidence. 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.

French



What are we doing this half term? This half term, students will make a start on their learning journey. The emphasis is on independence; using the target language with confidence in the classroom!

Assessments: Students will be doing a vocabulary test every two weeks. The end of module assessment will be Mid-October.

How can parents help? Try to learn some French along with your child and help them realise the importance of learning another language for our multicultural world. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary such as www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? This is an exciting time for our year 7 students who may be starting Spanish for the very first time! We begin our journey to Spain with classroom vocabulary and personal information. The emphasis is on independence; using the target language with confidence in the classroom!

Assessments: Students will be doing a vocabulary test every two weeks. The end of module test will be Mid-October.

How can parents help? Try to learn some Spanish along with your child and help them realise the importance of learning another language for our multicultural world. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary such as www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? As students get older they will be going online more often. In computer science students will be learning about the dangers of being online and what they can do to protect themselves. They will learn all aspects of online safety. Topics they will learn about include: online grooming, cyberbullying, radicalisation, digital footprints and online wellbeing. The students will be looking at different scenarios and completing written work based on those scenarios.

Assessments: Students will be doing an assessment every three weeks as a check for understanding and mastery.

How can parents help? Parents can start researching and talking to their child about the dangers online. Parents can help by making sure that the students complete the home learning tasks that help them prepare for the assessments.

DT – (Workshop Rotation)



What are we doing this half term? Year 7 Workshop - Introduction to Materials, Timber Construction and acrylic.

Students to undergo timber construction by producing a wood joint learning to create it accurately using tools and equipment from the workshop. Students will be taught to produce Orthographic Drawing and Manufacturing Processes (Wood & Acrylic).

Assessments: Checkpoint assessment: out of 10 Skills test – Making: out of 15
Checkpoint assessment: out of 10 Practicals 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! Complete home learning from www.stem.org Watch programs such as - How it's made and follow our stem learning program for challenges to complete at home.

DT Textiles (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term? Yr 7 Graphics/Textile - Introduction to fabric construction and designing a logo for the textile product. Include: Fabric Types, Construction, Material Properties and Smart Materials – Design and Make Pencil Case Project

Assessments: Checkpoint assessment: out of 10, Skills test – Evaluation: out of 15, Checkpoint assessment: out of 10

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. Look at labels on clothing and discuss different fabrics and uses around the home. <https://www.thegreatbritishsewingbee.co.uk/rstanding>.

DT Product Design (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: Checkpoint assessment: out of 10, Skills test – Investigation: out of 15, Checkpoint assessment: out of 10

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. Stem club Design a rocket! <https://www.schoolscience.co.uk/ukroccompetition>

Music



What are we doing this half term? Students will be introduced to the elements of music and how fundamental they are in being able to analyse all genres of music. We will start off by performing and reading rhythms as a class through West African Drumming.

Assessments: Students will be assessed formatively on their performance skills learnt on Djembe drums, but also through a simple listening and appraising test where they have to describe features of the music they hear.

How can you help? Encourage your child to listen to a variety of music at home and question them about what is happening in the music e.g. which instruments they can hear.

Food and Nutrition



What are we doing this half term?

Students begin their Food & Nutrition journey by developing essential kitchen safety, hygiene and food preparation skills. They will learn how to use equipment safely, understand cross-contamination and develop confidence using the hob and oven. Theory lessons focus on healthy eating, the Eatwell Guide, 5-a-day, food origins, food waste, seasonality and basic food science such as heat transfer.

Practical dishes may include: Eat the Rainbow Wrap, Boiled Egg and Soldiers, Quesadilla, One Cup Pancakes, Flatbread, Cheese and Spinach Muffins, Chickpea Curry and Sausage Koftas.

Assessments: Students will receive regular verbal feedback during practical work. Assessment will include practical skill checkpoints, theory quizzes and written knowledge checks.

Home Learning

Students will complete practical evaluations and be encouraged to help prepare meals at home to develop independence, weighing, measuring and organisational skills.

To be successful in this subject, students will need to enjoy:

Learning practical cookery skills

Working safely and hygienically

Developing organisation and time management skills

Solving problems and adapting to challenges

Learning through practical experiences