YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🌍 GEOGRAPHY

What are we doing this half term? GCSE Geography students will investigate ecosystems on a small and global scale. We will then focus on the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil. Students will look at the causes and impacts of deforestation and the social, economic and environmental issues which are created.
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 such as a pencil, ruler, glue, scissors and a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Please assist students in keeping up to date with their Cornell Note Books for human and physical geography, which include revision help sheets for each topic. Students should use GCSE Pod and the Time for Geography video clips to consolidate knowledge.

📖 ENGLISH

What are we doing this half term? Students will be studying A Christmas Carol for English Literature. They will explore plot, theme and character and essay writing skills.

Assessments: Students will complete an exam style question on A Christmas Carol.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes all of their home learning on time. Please also encourage your child to read a range of fiction and non-fiction material.

➗ MATHS

What are we doing this half term? Students will now move onto algebra topics including simultaneous equations and rearranging formula, before moving onto trigonometry.

Assessments: Students will complete a unit assessment after each topic and a big autumn term assessment at the end of the term. Students will be given a topic list for this assessment.

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 1 hour per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week correctly. If they do not understand a question they need to see their teacher.

🔬 SCIENCE

What are we doing this half term? The topics you will be studying are: Biology - organisation, Chemistry - chemical changes -acids and alkali then electrolysis. Physics - electricity. The topic areas are the same for students doing Triple and trilogy science. Triple Scientists you will go into more depth in your studies.

Assessment: will be half termly topic tests. How can parents help? Ensure your child has correct equipment such as a pen, a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator.
How can parents help? Make sure your child is completing their weekly Science Sparx homework. Students will need to purchase revision guides in the second half of this term.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

RPE

What are we doing this half term? In this unit, Year 10 students will explore the beliefs and practices that are central to Jewish life today. They will study key aspects of Judaism including the Synagogue, prayer, Shabbat, kosher dietary laws, festivals and ceremonies such as Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Through these topics, students will gain a deeper understanding of how religious beliefs influence daily life, identity and community for Jewish people around the world.

Students will develop their ability to explain religious practices, interpret sacred teachings and evaluate the significance of different traditions. They will be encouraged to make connections between beliefs and actions, consider diverse viewpoints within Judaism and construct well-supported arguments about the role of religion in contemporary society.

This unit reflects Thamesmead School's vision of being committed to excellence, nurturing individuals, respecting our community and fulfilling potential. As students explore themes such as commitment, community, respect and identity, they will develop a greater appreciation of religious diversity while building the confidence to communicate their own ideas thoughtfully and respectfully. [thamesmead...rey.sch.uk], [teachback.co.uk]

How can parents help? Parents and carers can support learning at home by encouraging students to discuss what they have learned about Jewish traditions and by exploring how religious practices can influence people's values and daily choices. These conversations help students develop curiosity, cultural understanding and the critical thinking skills that are central to success in RPE and beyond.

HISTORY

What are we doing this half term? Having started our USA 1929-2000 in the first half of term we continue with this. finishing of 1960s Civil Rights Movement, moving on to other protest movements, social change and the actions of different 20th century US Presidents and then moving on to the Cold War next term.

Assessment - There are three practice GCSE style tests for this topic that will be done over the course of study approx. every 3-4 weeks.

How can parents help - encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual detail, memorise the how to answer sheet which contains the components for successful answering of questions to ensure excellent results in final GCSE results. Review class folder regularly to ensure organisation.

MUSIC

What are we doing this half term? Students are continuing to practice exam style questions on the elements of music, compose a piece of music from a given brief, and work towards developing their performance fluency and accuracy.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🎭 DRAMA

What are we doing this half term? Year 10 Drama students will continue their exploration of key practitioners in theatre history this half term and will learn about the theories and conventions of Bertolt Brecht a German director and playwright working in the 1930s and 40s.

Assessment: Students will learn about Brecht's didactic style of theatre and will implement their learning in an assessed piece of Drama at the end of the half term. Students will also be introduced to the GCSE Devising assessment criteria and will explore a stimulus to inspire their own piece of didactic theatre. Students written reflections on their piece of devised theatre will also be assessed to develop students' analytical skills in anticipation of their GCSE devising coursework later this year.

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE

What are we doing this half term? Students will continue learning content based on Component 1- Exploring Enterprises. These include Aims and Activities of Enterprises, Skills and Characteristics of Entrepreneurs, Market Research Methods, SWOT Analysis and PEST Factors.
Assessments: Regular formative assessments and knowledge checks.
How can parents help? Parents can help by ensuring that their child completes all home learning and is keeping up with their independent revision at home.

🎨 ART & DESIGN

What are we doing this half term? What are we learning this half term? Our GCSE Art & Design students begin their coursework with a project based on 'Organic Structures.' Coursework is worth 60% of their final GCSE grade.

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.

🏅 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

What are we doing this half term? All students follow a curriculum which covers team and individual sports. However the focus is to provide opportunities to develop lifelong participation in sport and exercise. All students have one lesson per week and options are changed each half term.
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.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🏅 BTEC SPORT

What are we doing this half term? Year 10 BTEC Sport students have been working through Component 2, Learning Outcomes A and B, focusing on the different components of fitness and their importance in sporting performance, alongside developing an understanding of the skills, rules and responsibilities of officials across a range of sports. After half term, students will continue with Component 2, moving onto Learning Outcome C, which focuses on developing their ability to improve the sporting performance of others. Students will explore different coaching techniques, including planning and delivering skill-based drills, demonstrating correct techniques and providing constructive feedback to help others improve. They will also learn how to organise and adapt practical activities to suit different abilities and sporting needs. Alongside their classroom learning, students will continue to participate in weekly practical lessons, where their sporting skills, techniques and decision-making will be assessed across a variety of sports. These practical sessions provide valuable opportunities for students to demonstrate their abilities, develop their confidence and prepare for the practical assessments that form part of their BTEC Sport qualification.

🏅 GCSE PE

What are we doing this half term? Welcome to GCSE PE: In the second half of the Autumn term, pupils will cover the structure and functions of the musculo-skeletal, cardio-vascular, respiratory systems, and training They will improve their understanding of this activity and gain an appreciation of the tactics and strategies that can be applied in game situations. To track progress, pupils will complete an assessment after each theory topic.

How can parents help? Parents can best help by encouraging and scheduling time for their child to read over class notes and review their class folder regularly for organisation, and by supporting their use of the online resources: GCSE Pod, The EverLearner, and Brainscape. Additionally, please ensure pupils complete home learning tasks on time and are organised with their full kit on practical PE days, noting that essential items for theory include a ring binder, dividers, plastic wallets, and highlighters.

💻 COMPUTER SCIENCE

What are we doing this half term? Students will begin the GCSE by learning about the different stages of computational thinking. Students will also have a re-capon the programming techniques they have learnt since year 7 before moving on to more advanced programming techniques. They will have an introduction to what they will be studying on the GCSE and what is involved in the 2 GCSE exams they will sit in year 11. Students will also learn how to write algorithms in program code and flowcharts.

Assessments: Regular short answer questions will be used to assess student progress. The students will do an end of topic 1 written assessment to assess progress so far.

How can parents help? We ask parents to purchase a copy of the Pearson Edexcel GCSE Computer Science (2020) text book (ISBN 10 no: 1292359994). This can be purchased on Amazon. We also ask students to practice the Python programming techniques that they have learnt since year 8. Students can use the CS Newbs website to practice the Python programming language (https://www.csnewbs.com/python).

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

FRENCH

What are we doing this half term? Students will continue exploring the topic of "my town" before moving on to the topic of school. They will also revise vocabulary related to free-time activities, develop their abilities to express themselves using more advanced grammatical structures and deepen their knowledge of French tenses.
Assessments: vocabulary and tenses are regularly assessed in lessons. There is a GCSE style speaking assessments at the end of term.
How can parents help? Ensure your child does not use online translators and instead uses class notes as reference. They have a Pearson Activelearn account and a revision workbook which they should use to practise listening and reading regularly. Encourage them to create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and to review these weekly.

SPANISH

What are we doing this half term? Students will continue exploring the topic of "my town" before moving on to the topic of school. They will also revise vocabulary related to free-time activities, developing their abilities to express themselves using more advanced grammatical structures and deepen their knowledge of Spanish tenses.
Assessments: vocabulary and tenses are regularly assessed in lessons. There is a reading and listening GCSE style assessment at half term.
How can parents help? Ensure your child does not use online translators and instead uses class notes as reference. They have a Pearson Activelearn account and a revision workbook which they should use to practise listening and reading regularly. Encourage them to create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and to review these weekly.

FOOD & NUTRITION

What are we doing this half term? An introduction to GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition and the key concepts and content of the course. Students will begin to develop an array of culinary techniques, as well as a robust knowledge of nutrition, including kitchen safety, gaining the confidence to cook with a range of ingredients and a focus on developing high level practical cookery skills. Students will gain a good understanding of Nutrition and meal planning. Practical lessons will include a range of skilled dishes

Assessments: Assessment will include an end of unit module test.

How can parents help? Experiment with dishes and food at home adapting and improving on recipes. Promote healthy food choices. Instil a love of food and nutrition by involving your child in the preparation of family meals perhaps insisting they prepare a meal once a week to practise their culinary skills. Encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual details.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🔧 DT GCSE

What are we doing this half term? AQA Examining Board: Half term1 (Sept-Oct) Introduction to the course, Drawing skills: Oblique, Isometric and1 & 2-point perspective, Orthographic projection. Unit 6.1: Investigation, Primary and Secondary research, The work of Other Designers/Companies, Unit test 6. Project based on Inclusion design structured as a mini-NEA. Half term 2 (Nov-Dec): Unit 3.1: Materials, Paper & Board, Wood and Timber, Metals and Alloys, Polymers and Textiles, Unit test 3, Project based on designing a Chair structured as a mini-NEA. Half term 3 (Jan-Feb) Unit 1.1: Industry & Enterprise, Sustainability & Environment, People, Culture & Society, Production techniques and Informing Design, Unit test 1 Continuation of Chair project using Sketching skills. Half term 4 (Feb-Mar): Chair project: Thumbnail sketches, 2D Design, Workshop Modelling and Orthographic drawings skills and presentation to the class. Half term 5 (Apr - May): Unit 7.1: Selection of Materials and Components, Tolerances, Material Management, Tools, Equipment, Techniques and Finishes, Unit test 7. Revision of previous units and NEA preparation. Half term (Jun-Jul): NEA planning (Section A -Investigating Design Possibilities completed) Assessments: End of unit tests, Practice exam papers and Revision sessions. End of Year Exam.

How can parents help? Take your child to the Design Museum and to the Victoria & Albert Museum. Discuss the objects in your home. Design is all around us!

Take an interest in the theory work they are doing, as well as getting them to show you their sketching work. Practice makes perfect, so encourage doodling! https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm