YEAR 11 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

📖 ENGLISH

What are we doing this half term? Students will begin the Autumn 2 term by revising A Christmas Carol and Language Paper 1 Question 5. Students will revisit key characters, themes and quotations from the novella, exploring how Dickens presents his ideas and how these link to the social and historical context. Alongside this, students will develop their creative writing skills for Language Paper 1 Question 5, focusing on descriptive and narrative techniques, effective vocabulary choices and structural devices. Throughout the unit, students will practise exam-style questions and develop their ability to plan, structure and craft effective responses in preparation for their mocks.

Assessments: One in-class A Christmas Carol response, alongside ongoing in-class feedback on exam-style responses for both A Christmas Carol and Language Paper 1 Question 5.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes all home learning, which will be revision-based, and practises key quotations and themes from A Christmas Carol. Supporting your child in creating and following a revision timetable or revision clock for Year 11 would also be hugely beneficial in preparation for their mocks.

➗ MATHS

What are we doing this half term? We will continue with the GCSE syllabus. **(Higher)** Surds, algebraic fractions and solving quadratic equations. **(Foundation)** Finishing statistical graphs, then moving on to recapping factors and multiples, working with mixed numbers, and then simplifying and solving expressions, equations and simultaneous equations.
Assessments: Students will be completing 2 papers in the November mocks. Paper 1 - Non-calculator, Paper 2 - 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. They will also be given a breakdown of their results from their mocks showing topics that they need more work with. Students should spend some extra time working through questions like those to help to close these gaps. There is also drop-in sessions Monday, Thursday and Friday after school, to help give some guided revision.

🔬 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 - homeostasis and response, organic chemistry and forces and waves. Different groups are at different points. Homework will be set weekly on sparx completing revision of the paper 1 topics studied last year - that will be assessed in the first mock exams

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the 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.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🌍 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 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 Notebooks for human and physical geography, which include revision help sheets for each topic. Students should be encouraged to complete revision notes at the end of each week's lessons, so they are producing them in manageable detailed chunks. Students should use GCSE Pod and the Time for Geography video clips to consolidate knowledge.

🏰 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.

🎵 MUSIC

What are we doing this half term? Are learning new vocabulary based around the Musical Forms and Devices area of study for their listening and appraising component. They are also finalising their coursework compositions and ensuring they are ready to perform their GCSE performance pieces ready for after the Christmas break.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🎭 DRAMA

What are we doing this half term? Year 11 will complete the devising component this half term, by making final adjustments to their last draft of their Portfolio of Evidence coursework (20% of GCSE). This will complete the Devised Unit and 40% of the GCSE course. Year 11 will continue to prepare for their Written exam and will work on 'Noughts and Crosses' play text (adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz) 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 May. They will also begin their text in performance unit and will start building a performance from a script (given to them by their teacher and assessed by a visiting examiner in February). Students will develop a deep understanding of their role, block their performance and develop their acting skills using a range of rehearsal techniques.

How can parents help: Please help your child to ensure their Portfolio of Evidence deadlines are met, and that quality time is spent completing this essential coursework.

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE

What are we doing this half term? Students will complete Component 2 this half-term, focussing on Task 2a and Task 2b. Students would also be preparing for their mock exam in November which would be based off Component 3: Marketing and Finance.

Assessments: November Mock Exam on Component 3: Marketing and Finance.

How can parents help?

Parents can help by ensuring that their child completes all home learning, keeping up with their independent revision at home and ensuring that they are attending after school catch-up sessions where necessary.

🎨 ART & DESIGN

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 18th 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.

🏅 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

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.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🏅 BTEC SPORT

What are we doing this half term? Year 11 BTEC Sport students have been working hard on their Component 1 and Component 2 coursework, developing their understanding of participation in sport, sporting performance and the skills required to succeed across a range of sporting activities. After half term, students will continue completing their coursework while also taking part in further practical assessments, where their performances across a variety of sports will be filmed and assessed as part of Component 2. The main priority will be to ensure that all coursework and practical assessments are completed and submitted ahead of the December deadline. Once all coursework has been finalised, students will begin focusing on Component 3, which explores developing fitness to improve sporting performance. This will involve studying fitness testing, training methods, principles of training and how fitness programmes can be designed to meet individual sporting needs. Students will then begin preparing for their final external examination in May 2027 through revision activities, exam-style questions and practice assessments. This will be an important period as students work towards completing their coursework and preparing for the final stage of their BTEC Sport qualification.

🏅 GCSE PE

What are we doing this half term? In their final year of GCSE PE, students will spend the second half of the Autumn term revisiting and consolidating theoretical content from both Paper 1 and Paper 2 in preparation for their mock examinations and final GCSE assessments. Students who have selected rock climbing as their individual activity will have the opportunity to complete their practical assessment. The first practical mock moderation will also take place, allowing staff to assess and standardise students' performance, both in isolated skills and competitive situations. Students are also expected to complete their coursework before the Christmas break.

Assessments: Students will complete regular assessments following each theory topic to monitor progress, identify gaps in knowledge and inform future revision. Practical performances will also be assessed through the mock moderation process. How can parents help? Please encourage regular revision and support your child in making effective use of the recommended online resources: GCSEPod, The EverLearner, BBC Bitesize and Revision World (for Edexcel past papers and mark schemes). Regular revision and completion of coursework will be essential in preparing students for their final examinations.

💻 COMPUTER SCIENCE

What are we doing this half term? Students will be preparing for their mock exams and actioning the feedback from those. They will complete the networks and communication unit of work then start learning about cyber security, the ethical side of computer science and the laws involved. Students will also be revising topics and theory learnt throughout year 10.

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 upciming 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.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

FRENCH

What are we doing this half term? Students will explore the topics of celebrity culture, daily routines and technology. They will also practice exam-style questions to prepare for their mock exams.

Assessments: listening, reading and writing mock in November. Speaking mock in January.

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 them weekly.

SPANISH

What are we doing this half term? Students will explore the topics of celebrity culture, daily routines and technology. They will also practice exam-style questions to prepare for their mock exams.

Assessments: Reading, listening and writing mock in November. Speaking mock in January.

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? 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.

How can parents 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.

YEAR 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

🔧 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 Ides and Developing Design Ideas. Using Iteration to model possible solutions. **Half term 2 (Nov-Dec):** Students' will be completing their Mock exams and students' will be improving on their NEA's from personalised feedback and Unit 2: Smart Materials, Composite materials, Modern Materials, Mechanisms & Systems, Energy Systems and Generation, Unit 2 test **Half term 3 (Jan-Feb):** Start to Realise Design idea and analysing and evaluating, personalised improvement to NEA and Revision. **Half term 4 (Feb-Mar):** Completion of NEA and photos of final design idea and evaluation. Revision. **Half term 5 (Apr - May):** NEA Submission and Theory examination revision **Half term (Jun-Jul):** Theory examination revision.
Assessments: The NEA is assesed 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