YEAR 9 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

📖 ENGLISH

What are we doing this half term? Descriptive and Narrative writing. In this creative writing unit students will use a range of extracts and images to inspire them and to build their creative writing skills. They will learn about the use of language devices and structure to craft a piece of creative writing, as well as the accurate use of sentences for effect.
Assessments: There will be a creative writing assessment which tests writing skills.
How can parents help? Please encourage your children to read (we always ask this, it really does develop their literacy skills) and complete their home learning and Lexia.

➗ MATHS

What are we doing this half term? This half term we will be covering Inequalities, Solving Quadratic Equations and Rearranging Formulae.
Assessments: Students will complete an open book Checkpoint Assessment after each topic and will also complete a large assessment at the end of the half term which covers all that they have learnt so far.
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 home learning platform) spending at least 50 minutes per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week. Maths homework club runs at lunch every Monday, Thursday and Friday in room 5A if students need help.

🏰 HISTORY

What are we learning this half term? We finish of our study of the Industrial Revolution by looking at a case study of one of the most notorious Victorian Britain events of all time - the Jack the Ripper murders. We then dive into the trenches and battlefields of World War One. Looking at why an assassination in Sarajevo sparked the war and what the fighting conditions were like for those involved.
How can parents help? Books, films, documentaries. A visit to the Imperial War Museum in London would be fantastic to see their World War One exhibition.

🔬 SCIENCE

What are we doing this half term? Cell Biology and Atomic structure and the Periodic Table topics are completed.
Assessments: 2 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 GCSE bitesize is a useful resource for homework tasks and revision
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv.

Students to complete weekly Sparx science tasks.

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🏅 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

What are we learning this half term? Building on skills, techniques and strategies learnt in year 8, students will rotate through the curriculum on a half term cycle, experiencing a variety of sports and activities from invasion games, net games, striking and fielding games, aesthetic activities and Athletics.

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.

🎵 MUSIC

What are we learning this half term? Students are creating their own arrangement of their Jazz pieces by ordering chords, melody and improvisation in their own way.

Assessments: They are assessed on the quality of their arrangement.

🌍 GEOGRAPHY

What are we doing this half term? Y9 students will study natural hazards across the globe. They will explore a range of hazards included earthquakes and volcanoes, the impact on people and the environment. Throughout this topic students will develop their decision making and critical thinking skills.
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.

🎨 ART & DESIGN

What are we learning this half term? Students research the Mexican culture and the Day of the Dead festivals as a starting point for their first project in Year 9. Students are inspired by a variety of traditional and current popular culture references alongside artists such as Frida Kahlo, Alfonso Castillo Orta and Jose Posada. Students refine their skills using a variety of painting and drawing techniques and processes to create their own Calavera celebrating the life of a loved one or someone they admire**.**
How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completed all their Art & Design home learning. Drawing equipment and good quality colouring pencils will support students in completing their work in lessons and at home. Discussing popular culture and examples of Art & Design in our everyday lives encourages students to make connections and develops visual literacy to support creative thinking.

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RPE

What are we learning this half term? In this unit, Year 9 students will explore important questions about **crime, justice and punishment**. They will investigate why people commit crimes, the aims of punishment, and how religious beliefs influence attitudes towards issues such as forgiveness, prison, corporal punishment and the death penalty. Students will examine both Christian and Jewish perspectives, alongside contemporary examples from society, helping them to understand how beliefs can shape responses to some of the most challenging ethical issues facing the modern world

Through discussion, debate and the analysis of religious teachings, students will develop their ability to explain different viewpoints, construct well-reasoned arguments and evaluate ethical issues from a range of perspectives. They will be encouraged to think critically about questions of right and wrong while considering how justice can be balanced with compassion and forgiveness.

This unit reflects Thamesmead School's commitment to excellence, nurturing individuals, respecting our community and fulfilling potential. Students will explore themes of responsibility, fairness, respect and community, developing the confidence to express their views thoughtfully while listening respectfully to others. These skills not only support success in RPE but also help students become informed, reflective and responsible members of society. [thamesmead...rey.sch.uk], [teachback.co.uk]

How can parents help? Parents and carers can support learning at home by discussing current events involving crime and justice, encouraging students to consider different viewpoints and justify their opinions. These conversations help develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the moral issues that shape our communities.

HISTORY

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How can parents help? Books, films, documentaries. A visit to the Imperial War Museum in London would be fantastic to see their World War One exhibition.

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🎭 DRAMA

What are we learning this half term? Year 9 will explore the text 'Woman in Black' this half term and will develop their understanding of how this play was created successfully to build a Ghost story on stage. Students will learn about the plot and key characters in the text. They will experiment with multi rolling and the importance of accent to convey a range of roles. Students will experiment with building atmosphere and tension to create jump scares, whilst building the audience's imagination through successful delivery of text. Their work will culminate in an assessed piece of theatre which the students will write and inspired by their learning on 'The Woman In Black' Ghost story. They will also have their checkpoint assessment to test their learning this half term.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their revision for the test, and it is always valuable to see live theatre when possible.

🚦 FRENCH

What are we doing this half term? This term, Year 9 French students will expand their vocabulary through the theme of Holidays. They will have the opportunity to use three tenses, past, present and future and continue to develop their opinions.

Assessments: Vocabulary tests throughout the half-term and a speaking task for the end of module assessment.

How can parents help? Highlight the importance of language learning in our global world for encouraging tolerance of other cultures as well as giving them the edge in business. 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 - www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence.

💃 SPANISH

What are we doing this half term? This term, Year 9 Spanish students will expand their vocabulary through the theme of Holidays. They will have the opportunity to use three tenses, past, present and future and continue to develop their opinions.

Assessments: Vocabulary tests throughout the half-term and a speaking task for the end of module assessment.

How can parents help? Highlight the importance of language learning in our global world for encouraging tolerance of other cultures as well as giving them the edge in business. 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 - www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence.

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DT – GRAPHICS ROTATION

What are we doing this half term? Graphic Products: Branding, Visual Communication and Packaging Design. Includes: Film Poster (Design Challenge 1), DVD Packaging (Design Challenge 2) & Food Packaging (Design Challenge 3) Evaluation Assessment

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

How can parents help? Discuss the project, look at existing branding and why colours and themes are selected. Refer to film a poster and look at different food packaging which have different target markets. Take your child to the Design Museum or The Victoria & Albert Museum.

DT- WORKSHOP ROTATION

What are we doing this half term? Designing, Manufacturing and Evaluating a Desk Lamp (Wood, Polymers & Electronics). Students design, model, and manufacture a functional desk lamp, applying technical drawing, electronics, materials, and processes, and evaluate against a real-world brief.

Assessments: Checkpoint assessment: out of 10, Skills test – Technical Orthographic Drawing: out of 15, Checkpoint assessment: out of 10

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 metal materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed. Parents could also discuss their Design taste in Interior design and focussing on Desk Lamps in particular. Complete home learning fromwww.stem.org Watch programs such as - How it's made and follow our stem learning program for challenges to complete at home.

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DT – PRODUCT DESIGN

What are we doing this half term? Students will be learning about how a GCSE project will be to study and this project is based on Inclusive Design focussing on both Physical and Mental disability. The project will cover the following areas: Inclusive Product Design: Designing, Developing, Prototyping and Evaluating Products for Users with Specific Needs.

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

How can parents help? Offering students feedback about the work that they are doing is always helpful as it enables students to reflect upon the effectiveness of their work. Discuss how inclusive design can be evident in the real-world e.g. pedestrian crossings public transport and public spaces such as libraries, hospitals etc. Enter design ventura, design competition. https://ventura.designmuseum.org/

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🍎 FOOD & NUTRITION

What are we doing this half term? This year more complex practical skills are introduced in preparation for KS4 study. This ensures that students who opt for the subject at KS4 are well prepared but also those that do not continue with the subject still learn complex skills that they can use at home. A key focus is different pastry skills and considering the different nutritional profiles of different types of pastry. These intermediate skills build on the foundations of the basic skills learned in year 7 and 8. Our students come from a variety of different cultures so a focus in year 9 is International and British cuisines. This topic is sequenced in the final year of KS3 as it pulls through knowledge from the previous years and also from other subjects such as RE, Science, Geography and Maths.
How will they be assessed?
Students will be given regular verbal feedback within their practical lessons 'in the moment'. This allows students to act upon this feedback immediately for the maximum impact on progress.
Students will be assessed via written and practical assessments.

Home Learning
Students are set practical evaluations to reflect upon their practical outcome and own personal performance in practicals. In addition, where students provide ingredients for practicals they will continue to develop their weighing and measuring skills at home when preparing their ingredients for lessons.
Students are encouraged to practice their practical skills out of lessons by helping to prepare and cook meals at home.

To be successful in this subject, students will need to be good at and enjoy:
Learning how to cook independently
Developing organisational and time management skills
Developing problem solving skills and the ability to overcome challenges
Teamwork when carrying out practical investigations
Learning through practical activities

💻 COMPUTER SCIENCE

What are we doing this half term? Students will be building on the Python programming techniques that they have learn 't about in year 8. They will continue to use their computational thinking skills to write, test, debug and run small programs. The students will be learning more advanced programming techniques such as functions and lists in Python.
Assessments: Students will be regularly quizzed on the programming techniques that they have learnt. The students will also have an end of unit assessment on the advanced programming techniques that they have learnt about.
How can parents help? We ask parents to get their child to practice the programming techniques they have already learnt about. Students can use the CS Newbs website (https://www.csnewbs.com/python) to practice programming techniques.