Year 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 1

English

What are we doing this half term? An Inspector Calls - the first formal study of one of our GCSE English Literature set texts. Students will learn about the skills they will be tested on and these will be explicitly taught throughout this unit. The unit begins with learning about contextual knowledge: what life was like in Edwardian Britain, the suffragette movement, capitalism and socialism, left- and right-leaning politics, Edwardian philanthropy, life for the poor and so on. We will then get stuck into the play, reading it as a class, pausing to study key scenes in detail.

Assessments: ongoing feedback provided, a 'mini mock' in class where students plan and write a GCSE Literature response (with some support since it's their first attempt), followed by a mock exam at the end of the unit.

How can parents help? We ask that parents purchase a copy of the text for their children; if you are going to struggle with the cost, please get in touch via your child's English teacher. You could also ask your child about the play, what happens, who the characters are and of course - who do they think is responsible for the death of Eva Smith.

Geography

What are we doing this half term? At the start of Y10 GCSE Geography students will investigate the global pattern of urban change. We will focus on Lagos in Nigeria. Students will look at factors affecting the rate of urbanisation – migration (push–pull theory), natural increase, and the emergence of megacities. Students will look at how urban growth has created opportunities and challenges through social, economic and environmental issues. **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 a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Make sure they have two A4 ring binders; one for class notes and another for revision notes. The revision folder will need at least 12 dividers for the topics to be studied over the next two years. Students will be given a revision help sheet for each topic, and should be encouraged to complete Cornell revision notes at the end of each week's lessons, so they are producing them in manageable detailed chunks. Please assist students in keeping their physcial and human revision folders organised and with detailed notes and diagrams. Use GCSE Pod to consolidate knowledge. Students will also need to purchase a practice exam book and revision guide, this will be done through the class teacher.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? (Higher) We'll start the term with solving quadratics and simultaneous equations and then move onto the probability topic.
(Foundation) We'll start the term with straight line graphs & real life graphs and then move on to Transformations.
Assessments: Students will complete a unit assessment after each topic.

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

Science

The topics you will be studying are:

Biology - organisation, **Chemistry** - Bonding, structures and Properties of matter. **Physics** - electricity.

The topic aresa are the same for students doing Triple and trilogy science. Triple Scientists you will go into more depth in your studies. Assessment will be end of topic class tests.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has correct equipment such as a pen, a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. Students will need to purchase revision guides and work books to accompany them this term. Information on how and when to get the books will be sent out via schoolcomms. These books are an invaluable resource for your child's revision.

Music

What are we doing this half term? GCSE Music starts with an overview of the Eduqas course and by looking at each of the elements of music. Students will begin a composition task using either Garageband or Logic software on the Macs, developing their ICT and composing skills.

Assessments: Formative teacher feedback of compositions, listening tasks in lessons, and an informal solo performance to the rest of the class.

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

History

Welcome to GCSE History. The excellent history teachers of Thamesmead are happy to welcome you to their classes. Autumn term is dedicated to the breadth of study of the Development of the USA 1929-2000 including topics such as the Great Depression, Civil Rights, the emergence of the teenager and the Cold War. lass notes and how to answer guidance will be supplied to you so make sure you keep them safe.

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 notes regularly to ensure organisation and that home learning is being done to a high standard.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

Year 10 students will be sitting their GCSE in Religious Studies at the end of this academic year, meaning they have 1 GCSE examination out of the way and in the bag before they start Year 11.
The year will begin with the 'Christian Practices' module on Paper 1 before completing the 'Religion and Life' module on Paper 2. We will be covering some challenging and controversial topics this term including abortion and euthanasia. Students will be required to discuss religious attitudes towards these topics as well as fully justify their own personal opinions.
Please talk about these topics at home and encourage healthy discussion. Students would do well to watch the news and research case studies from the UK and abroad. do not need to purchase a revision guide for your son/daughter but if you wanted to supplement what we are covering in the classroom the AQA Spec A Christianity and Buddhism book is very good.

You do not need to purchase a revision guide for your son/

Art

Our GCSE Art & Design students begin their coursework with a project based on 'Organic Structures'. 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.

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-cap on 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 asessment 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).

French



What are we doing this half term? GCSE French begins with some bridging the gap activities to reawaken the French learned in KS3 and build confidence. Students then focus on family relationships and the advantage and disadvantages of their town, expressing themselves with more advanced language and learning more about the culture of French speaking countries.

Assessments: There is a reading and listening GCSE style assessment at half term and a chance to show off their more advanced language in a 90 word written essay also.

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 and also a 'thisislanguage' account 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 in Year 10.

Drama



To introduce the Drama GCSE we will start by getting to know our new working groups and building trust and confidence. Students will learn about the key elements of devising theatre and will revisit Stanislavski's System of Acting.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on their performance of a scene using Stanislavski's System and the GCSE assessment criteria for performance from a text. They will also produce a written evaluation of their performance practising written skills required for a key piece of coursework at GCSE.

How can parents help? If it is possible, see live or digital theatre. Please support your child learning their lines and reading their set play text, Malorie Blackman's 'Noughts and Crosses' adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz.

PE (Core)



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 physical activity. 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?: Support and promote the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices. Please ensure students are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Spanish begins with some bridging the gap activities to reawaken the Spanish learned in KS3 and build confidence. Students then focus on family relationships and the advantage and disadvantages of their town, expressing themselves with more advanced language and learning more about the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Assessments: There is a reading and listening GCSE style assessment at half term and a chance to show off their more advanced language in a 90 word written essay also.

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 and also a 'thisislanguage' account 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 in Year 10.

PE -GCSE



Welcome to GCSE PE - In the Autumn term students will cover the structure and functions of the musculo-skeletal system and one sport. They will improve their understanding of this activity and gain appreciation of the tactics and strategies that can be applied in game situations.

Assessment : Students will complete a unit assessment after each theory topic.

How can parents help - encourage and schedule time for your child to read over class notes and review their class folder regularly to ensure organisation. Use GCSE Pod and The Ever-Learner online resource. Ensure students complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on practical PE days. A ring binder, dividers, plastic wallets and highlighters are essential items for theory.

DT GCSE

What are we doing this half term? We will cover design communication, sketching, modelling and complete a seating design challenge. We will also look into the associated theory relating to the main material knowledge of woods, polymers, metals, paper and boards as well as textiles and electronics. We will also discover design strategies including research skills, creativity strategies and the work of existing designers and companies.

Assessments: There will be two theory unit assessments which will run in exam conditions to practice exam style questions. The seating design challenge will also be assessed. How can parents help? 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!

Food and Nutrition

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 hygiene and safety, gaining the confidence to cook with a range of ingredients and a focus on developing high level practical cookery skills. They will expand their knowledge of nutrition and will plan and produce their own nutritious meals. Students will gain a good understanding of Food Spoilage and Contamination, Micro-organisms and Enzymes involved in Food production.

Practical lessons will include a range of skilled dishes

What parents can do to 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.

Assessment will include a Time plan and making of their own meal as well as end of unit module test.

Business & Enterprise

What are we doing this half term?

Students will start Component 1 of their BTEC Business and Enterprise course. Learning Outcome 1 includes being an entrepreneur, aims and objectives, markets and sectors they operate in and the organisational structures, features and stakeholders of the Enterprise.Students on the BTEC Business and Enterprise Course should identify and investigate a small (micro <10 people) Business Enterprise they wish to study during this course. Component 1 Non-Exam Assessment specifies : Choose and carry out research on one for-profit
enterprise. The selected enterprise must be a micro
enterprise and must come from one of the following business sectors:

- fitness
- beauty
- entertainment
- construction.

This Component Non-Exam Assessments at the end of learning Component 1 (Spring 2025) will account for 30% of the students final grade.

How can parents help? Watch Dragon's Den with your child to get them familiar with an entrepreneurial way of thinking, look at the business news stories on the BBC once a week to get a better understanding of what is going on in the world of business. Go to BBC bitesize KS4 business pages to help with understanding key terms and key concepts. Help them to locate a small business that they could investigate (family, friends...) if possible for the Component 1 NEA.

Btech Sport

Welcome to Btec Sport - In the Autumn term students start by learning the components of fitness and the principle of training. Assessment: students will start their Unit 1 Aim A assignment on Fitness for Sport and Exercise. How can parents help? monitor progress of coursework towards the assignment brief. Please ensure students meet all deadlines