Year 10 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

English



What are we doing this half term? Students will continue their journey studying Macbeth. They will finish reading the play and continue to build on the knowledge of plot, theme and character.

Assessments: Students will complete an exam style question on Macbeth.

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.

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.

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 of 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. Maths homework club runs every Monday in room 4C if students need help.

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. Make sure your child is completing their weekly Science Sparx homework. Students will need to purchase revision guides and workbooks to accompany them this term.

Art

What are we doing this half term? 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.

Assessments: 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.

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. Students have 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 revision folders organised and with
detailed notes and diagrams. Students should use GCSE Pod to consolidate knowledge.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

What are we doing this half term? Yr10 Students will sit their mock exam just after half term.
After consolidating what is learnt we will continue the autumn term going over the rest of Judaism Practices unit. In this unit, students explore key Jewish religious practices and their significance. They study worship in the synagogue, including the role of the Amidah prayer and Shabbat observance. Students learn about rites of passage such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah and dietary laws (kashrut). The unit highlights how Jewish beliefs are expressed through daily life and community traditions. Students compare Orthodox and Reform approaches to practice. This helps develop understanding of diversity within Judaism and respect for religious identity.

How can parents help? 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. You 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 is good.

French



What are we doing this half term? GCSE French begins the second half of the Autumn term with the topic of school and free time activities, expressing themselves with more advanced language and learning more about tenses and the culture of French speaking countries.

Assessments: There is a GCSE style speaking assessment at the end of term and a chance to show off their knowledge on the topics previously studied in the first half of the Autumn term as well as the new topics.

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 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.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Spanish begins the second half of the Autumn term with the topic of school and free time activities, expressing themselves with more advanced language and learning more about tenses and the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Assessments: There is a GCSE style speaking assessment at the end of term and a chance to show off their knowledge on the topics previously studied in the first half of the Autumn term as well as the new topics.

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 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



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.
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 assessed to develop students analytical skills in anticipation of their GCSE devising coursework later this year.

PE -GCSE



What are we doing this half term? In the second half of the Autumn term, pupils will cover the structure and functions of the Musculo-skeletal, cardio-vascular, and respiratory systems, alongside one practical sport. They will improve their understanding of this activity and gain an appreciation of the tactics and strategies that can be applied in game situations.

Assessments: 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 Ever-Learner, 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.

PE (Core)

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.

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!

BTEC Sport

What are we doing this half term? Year 10 BTEC Sport students will begin working on Component 1, Learning Outcome B, which focuses on understanding barriers to participation in sport, how these barriers can be overcome, and the different provisions available to support and encourage participation across all groups in society.

Students will start Task 1 of their coursework, where they will complete an essay based on an individual from a Pearson-provided case study. In this task, they will analyse the personal circumstances of the individual, identify the key barriers preventing their participation, and suggest a range of realistic strategies and solutions to help overcome these challenges. They will also explore the provisions, facilities, and opportunities available within sport and physical activity that promote inclusion, accessibility, and engagement for different social groups. This component helps students develop a deeper understanding of how sport can become more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

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.

Food and 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

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 an end of unit module test.

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 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).

Business & Enterprise

What are we doing this half term?

Students will start Unit 1 of their Business and Enterprise course. Learning Outcome 1 includes being an entrepreneur, aims and objectives, organisational structures and stakeholders. Learning Outcome 2 includes the marketing mix, mass and niche markets and product orientation.

Assessments: There will be mini assessments during learning outcome 1 and 2 to check understanding of key terms and key concepts.