Year 10 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 1

Maths

What are we doing this half term?: Rearranging formula will start the spring term, followed by trigonometry.

Assessments: Students will complete a unit assessment after each topic and a bigger assessment at the end of the half 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.

Art

What are we doing this half term? Our GCSE Art & Design students begin their coursework with a project based on 'Organic Structures'.

Assessments: 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.

English

What are we doing this half term? We begin this half term with an introduction to Language Paper 1. Students will engage with the paper question by question and understand what the exam board requirements are for each question and how they should approach and respond to it.

Assessments: Students will complete a full language paper at the end of the module.
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.

Science

What are we doing this half term? The topics you will be studying are: Biology - finishing organisation then Bioenergetics Chemistry - Quantitative chemistry or Chemical changes Physics - particle model of matter then atomic structure. 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 a summative class test using GCSE style questions

How can parents help? Ensure your child completes their weekly sparx homework and brings in a scientific calculator for the maths components this half term (this is always needed for Physics). Students will need to purchase revision guides this term.

PE -GCSE

Welcome to GCSE PE - What are we doing this half term? In the Spring term, students will cover Paper 1 exercise physiology (body systems) and training content, and one 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. Pupils will continue to work on their Personal Exercise Plan coursework.

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 actively revise (producing flashcards, mind-maps, and practising past paper questions). Use GCSE Pod, The EverLearner, and Brainscape online resources. Ensure students complete home learning tasks on time and ensure that they are organised with their full kit on practical PE days.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

What are we doing this half term? 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. Students will be required to discuss religious attitudes towards these topics as well as fully justify their own personal opinions.

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 Christianity and Judaism book is very good. Please also encourage your son/daughter to their best.

History

What will we be doing? Year 10 students will be continuing their studies of the USA, looking at the end of the Cold War and explaining why this came about. We will then be moving on to our next unit which is a thematic study of changes in Crime and Punishment through time. This unit looks at issues such as causes and response to crime and different ways in which crime and punishment have been dealt with from the Middle Ages through to the modern day.

Assessment: End of unit assessment on USA – units 6 and 7 – exam style questions.
What can parents do to help? Encourage wider reading and watching of History films and documentaries. A fun trip could be to the Tower of London.

Drama

What are we doing this half term?: This half term students will continue their learning about devising theatre and will focus on their use of Frantic Assembly's physical theatre techniques. Students will learn key 'building blocks of theatre' in the style used by this company and will create their own short performances in groups.

Assessments: Mini mock devised piece and portfolio.

Help at home: See as much theatre as possible. Information about a theatre trip opportunity with school will be shared this half term. Students can research into 'Noughts and Crosses' adapted for theatre by Sabrina Mahfouz (our set text) on Eduqas GCSE website.

Geography

What are we doing this half term? GCSE Geography students will investigate river environments.

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 continually 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 pens for peer and self-assessment. Make sure they keep up-to-date with their human and physical Cornell Notes revision books, so they are producing them in manageable detailed chunks. 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.

Spanish

What are we studying? Staying healthy including exercise, healthy eating and bad habits such as smoking, alcohol and drugs

Assessment: Writing 150 words / RLT Paper

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise key vocabulary & phrases on current and prior topic- related learning using their AQA Spanish and French workbooks for 2026 onwards. Exam style practice questions in all skills as well as grammar exercises are available in these workbooks. Students should also regularly revisit vocabulary learnt in class.

French

What are we studying? Staying healthy including exercise, healthy eating and bad habits such as smoking, alcohol and drugs

Assessment: Writing 150 words / RLT Paper

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise key vocabulary & phrases on current and prior topical learning using their AQA Spanish and French vocabulary booklets. Exam style question practice questions in all skills as well as grammar exercises are available in the purple revision & work books.

Food and Nutrition

What are we studying? Food Science and Cooking Methods as well as Food Choice and culinary tradition. Students will continue to develop an array of culinary techniques, as well as a robust knowledge of food science, including kitchen safety, gaining the confidence to cook with a range of ingredients and a focus on developing high level practical cookery skills. Food Science investigations will develop their skills to undertake the NEA 1 in year 11.

Assessment: End of topic assessment. Practical lessons will include developing skills in Pastry and Pasta making: Flaky Pastry, Danish Pastry, Pasties, Profiteroles, Choux Pastry, Pork Pie, ravioli and lasagne.

How can parents help? Ensure student are prepared for practical lessons and check home learning tasks are completed. 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 practice 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.

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!

Computer Science

What are we doing this half term? The students are going to be carrying on with topic 2 data. They will be understanding how computers understand data, how the CPU process data, and, learning about binary.

Assessments: students will be doing an assessment to see what progress they have made with their programming skills. They will also be doing an end of topic 2 assessment.

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).

PE (Core)

What are we doing this half term?: All students will continue to 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 are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Music

What are we doing this half term? Year 10 will continue to work on ensuring their performances are fluent and accurate. They will build on their composition practice so far by launching their free composition coursework and implementing devices we have studied in the first term. Students will also Begin their listening and appraising module by looking at Pop Music and how the elements of music link to specific styles within Area of Study 4.

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.

Business & Enterprise



What are we doing this half term? Students have completed the course material for Component 1 (Business Research and Analysis) of the BTEC Enterprise course and after completing the Non-Exam Assessment (accounts for 30% of the overall grade) they will start on Component 2 content.

Assessments: Students will complete the Component 1 Assessment during the early part of this term - this will involve research into an existing small business and analysing the business PEST and SWOT implications.

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 app 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.

BTEC Sport

What are we doing this half term? This half term we begin our practical leadership unit, focusing on how to plan and deliver a safe, effective warm up. Students will learn how to structure a full sequence including a pulse raiser, mobility activities, and preparation stretches linked to the session aims and the sport/activity. We will practise clear communication, demonstrations, group control, and adapting exercises for different abilities.

Assessments: Over the coming lessons, students will begin delivering their own warm ups in small groups, and we will start recording these deliveries as evidence for their coursework assessment.

How can parents help? Please ensure students bring suitable PE kit and trainers each lesson.