Year 10 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 1

Maths

What are we doing this half term?: (Higher) We'll start the half term with growth and decay and then follow on with compound measures (Foundation) This half term will be covering ratio and proportion.

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.

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. 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 studying? Students will begin the New Year delivering their spoken language presentations for their GCSE. They will then move on to study A Christmas Carol, revisiting this text which we read in year 9. To ensure that all students are confident with the novella we will be revising context, re-reading the text, examining themes, doing plenty of extract analysis, exam technique.

Assessment: GCSE exam question.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has a copy of the text and double check that home learning is completed.

Science

What are we doing this half term?: Trilogy combined students will be studying are: Biology - Infection and Response, Chemistry Chemical Changes. Physics - Electricity. The topic areas for students Triple science are similar - infection and response moving on to Bioenergetics, Chemical changes moving on to Quantative Chemistry and Electricity. Triple Scientists you will go into more depth in their 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 for all lessons. Monitor the completion of home learning. You need to purchase the CGP Science revision guides (available from school, payment via scopay) if you have not already done so, these books are an invaluable resource for your child's revision.

PE -GCSE

Welcome to GCSE PE - In Spring 1 students will study the structure and functions of the cardiovascular system and will continue looking at the principles of training and their application to personal exercise programmes. They will also participate in in trampolining for their practical lessons this half term.

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 the EverLearner online resource together with Seneca. Ensure students complete home learning tasks on time (these will be weekly on TheEverLearner) and that they are organised with their full kit on practical PE days. A ringbinder, dividers, plastic wallets and highlighters are essential items for theory.

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.

Assessments: The term will begin with Buddhist Practices module on Paper 1 and then move on to Crime and Punishment on Paper 2. We will be covering some challenging and controversial topics this term. 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 Buddhism book is very good. Please also encourage your son/daughter to their best on their Mock Paper.

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' (our set text) on the Eduqas GCSE Website in anticipation for year 11.

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 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 glue, scissors and a green pen for self -assessment. Students have a revision help sheet for each topic, and should be encouraged to complete 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.

Spanish

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

Assessment: Writing 150 words

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.

French

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

Assessment: Writing 150 words

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. An introduction to GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition key concepts. Students will continue 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.

Assessment: End of topic assessment Practical lessons will include Shortcrust Pastry, Chocolate Orange cupcake, Tomato reduction sauce, Mayonnaise, Quiche, Meringue, Lemon Flan, Homemade pasta.

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?: Students will continue with topic 2 data. They will be learning how a computer understands data. They will be learning how to multiply and divide positive and negative binary numbers. They will also learn how text, pictures and sound are processed and understood by computer systems.

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).

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? 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.