Year 10 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2

English



What are we studying? Shakespeare study: Macbeth. This text is tested at the end of Year 11 in GCSE English Literature 2. We will examine context, read the play, analyse key scenes, and study thematic ideas.

Assessment: One 'mini mock' in class with some assistance in planning, and one independent response at the end of the unit.

How can parents help? If you are able to watch a version of the play, whether a film or at the theatre, that would be brilliant. You can also ask your child about the plot, characters, context - James I, belief in witchcraft and so on.

Science



What are we doing this half term?: The topics you will be studying are: Biology - infection and response moving on to bioenergetics. Chemistry - Quantitative chemistry and energy change in reactions. Physics - particle model and 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 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. Make sure students use their revision guides to support their revision for spring assessments.

Drama



What are we doing this half term?: GCSE Drama students are continuing their work on devised theatre this half term. They will complete their mock assessment of their devised performance in the style of Frantic Assembly, and will begin their actual assessment for their GCSE course on devised theatre.

Assessments: mini mock devised piece and portfolio practice.

Help at home?: Encourage your child to complete home learning on time and purchase the set text - Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman, adapted for stage by Sabrina Mahfouz.

Maths



What are we studying? Year 10 Higher students are moving on to 'Compound Measures', 'Ratio and Proportion' and 'Similarity and Congruence' this half term, whilst Foundation students move onto 'Trigonometry', 'Probability' and 'Tree Diagrams'.

Assessment: Students will continue to complete unit assessments for each topic, and will also complete a spring assessment towards the end of the half term which will cover a mixture of topics they have covered so far this year. Students will receive a topic list for this.

How can parents help? Please help students to check they have the correct Maths equipment, especially scientific calculators, and that homework is being completed.

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.

Assessment: End of topic assessment Practical lessons will include: Mayonnaise, Quiche, Meringue, Lemon Flan, Homemade pasta, Bread rolls and soup, Swiss Roll, Cheese Twists and Choux Pastry.

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.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we studying? Buddhist Practices

Assessment: All assessments are out of 24 marks and require the following key skills:
a) Key words defined
b) Two statements of belief
c) Explanation
d) The use of scripture as supporting evidence
e) Evaluation

How can parents help? Discuss RPE lessons with your son/daughter. Play devils advocate and encourage healthy debate about important topics.

History



What are we studying? For the second half of the Spring Term we will be continuing our studies of Crime and Punishment C500 to the modern day. We will continue looking at how and why the causes and nature of crime has changed over time and then moving on to looking law enforcement and how this has changed over time; for example the shift from community based local justice to the formation of the modern police force.

Assessment: Law Enforcement Practice GCSE Exam

How can parents help? Read: Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

Watch: The Strange Case of the Law – available on BBC iPlayer

Visit: The Clink Museum, London, the London Dungeon, the Tower of London.

Spanish



What are we studying? Holidays in the past, present and future tenses, including accommodation, travel, places and weather.

Assessment: Reading, Listening & Translation, Writing

How can parents help? Encourage your child to make a bank of flashcards to revise words and phrases. Encourage your child to learn these words and phrases by testing themselves or by testing them. Encourage your child to share what they have learnt in class.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Geography students will investigate river and coastal 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 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 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 human and physical revision book organised and with detailed notes and diagrams, following the Cornell notes system. Students should use GCSE Pod to consolidate knowledge.

French



What are we studying? Holidays in the past, present and future tenses, including accommodation, travel, places and weather.

Assessment: Reading, Listening & Translation, Writing

How can parents help? Encourage your child to make a bank of flashcards to revise words and phrases. Encourage your child to learn these words and phrases by testing themselves or by testing them. Encourage your child to share what they have learnt in class.

Computer Science



What are we studying? Unit 3 Computers

Assessment: Topic test on hardware components, system architecture, the CPU, Software, OS and program translation.

How can parents help? Direct and encourage revision on Unit 3 Computers https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zdqy7nb

Art

What are we doing this half term?: Our GCSE Art & Design students continue their 'Organic Structures' coursework project with a focus on exploring 3D artists and designers to create their own sculpture.

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.

PE (Core)

What are we studying? 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.

PE -GCSE

Welcome to GCSE PE - In Spring 2 students will study the structure and functions of the cardiovascular system and will begin to look at the principles of training and their application to personal exercise programmes in preparation to start writing their coursework.

Assessment: Multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions in a written paper covering aspects from the start of the course.

How can parents help - encourage regular use of the EverLearner online resource by completing the checkpoints.

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!

Music

What are we studying? Year 10 students will continue to study the first set work, 'Africa' by Toto. They will also be revisiting and consolidating the elements of music and completing composition tasks.

Assessment: Listening tasks in lessons.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete regular instrumental or singing practice, fill in their practice diary, and arrive at each lesson with a pen, pencil, and their Music book. Testing your child on key musical vocabulary and the elements of music will help them to memorise and use this language confidently. Remind your child to listen to lots of music and analyse what is happening within the piece, always thinking about the elements of music.