Year 10 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2

English

What are we doing this half term? In this unit students are studying their final GCSE text, Macbeth. Students will learn the context behind the Shakespearean tragedy, how to decipher the traditional language used, key themes explored and how they link to characters and annotate key scenes from the play.

Assessments: Students will answer a formative and summative assessment and will be given a final grade for the unit at the end of term.

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 - Infection and response, Chemistry - 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 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.

Drama

What are we doing this half term? Year 10 students will start their real GCSE Component 1 assessment this half term. Students will explore stimuli provided by the Eduqas exam board, and will begin to build their own piece of devised theatre in a small group, using the techniques of a chosen practitioner. Students will complete class and home learning tasks on their written coursework the Portfolio of Evidence. This Component is worth 40% of the actual GCSE.

Assessments: Students work will be assessed in line with the GCSE assessment criteria.

Help at home? See as much theatre as possible, encourage child to read around the subject. Read the set text 'Noughts and Crosses' Adapted by Sabrina Mafouz (Eduqas Exam board).

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.

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.

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.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

This term we are studying Judaism beliefs from the AQA spec A course.

How can parents help? Students need to attend lessons with the correct equipment, an open mind and a GCSE attitude. Every lesson from day 1 counts towards that final grade. You can support your son/daughter by encouraging them to use their school subscription to GCSE Pod. Every lesson is consolidated into a short 4-5 minute video which helps students break the course up into managable bite size chunks.

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.

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French

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Assessment: Reading, Listening & Translation, Writing

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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.

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!

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.

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.

Music

What are we doing this half term? Students will continue to develop their musical vocabulary in the context of the Musical for Ensemble area of study for Eduqas. They will also continue developing their solo and performance skills as well as start to formulate ideas for their first piece of GCSE composition coursework.

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 studying? Food Science and Food choice is the focus this term. 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 assessments as well as continuous practical skills assessment in all lessons.

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.

Business & Enterprise

What are we doing this half term? Students will start Component 2 module covering planning a micro-enterprise. This will cover modules on Business Aim, Planning, Marketing , Innovation, the 4P's Product, Price, Promotion and Place along with other topics in preparation for producing and delivering a Business Plan and Presentation on their micro business idea.
Students will also look into Risk management and Financial Planning towards the end of this component.

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.