Year 11 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 1

English

What are we doing this half term? An Inspector Calls revision, Language paper 2 revision: By now your children have covered all of the GCSE course content and year 11 is all about revision, interleaving, and practise questions. In the first half term we will carry out a 'cold read' of An Inspector Calls (reading it over three lessons back-to-back) to refresh students' memories. We will then be learning quotations, key methods used by the playwright, study the structure of the play and wider ideas around it, and of course have a go at a number of practise questions. After that we will walk students through Language Paper 2, remind students of the demands of each question, provide them with 'how to respond' resources for revision, and do a 'walking talking mock', where we take them through a full paper in preparation for their mocks.

Assessments: one in-class AIC response, ongoing feedback on Language responses, followed by the November mocks.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes all of their home learning, which will be revision-based, and brings their copy of An Inspector Calls to school with them. Helping your children create a revision timetable or clock for Y11 would also be hugely beneficial.

Science

What are we doing this half term? You will be continuing your studies of Biology, Chemistry and Physics this term. Lessons will focus on new learning of the paper 2 topics for each science discipline. Homework will be revision of paper 1 topics studied last year - that will be assessed in your first mock exams.

How can parents help? Ensure your child completes their Sparx homework each week. It is set on Thursday and due in the following Thursday. Sparx should take 1 hour - so students will be set extra homework at certain times during the year. Students need to start bringing their revision guides to lessons towards the end of this term. These books are an invaluable resource for your child's revision. Students should also bring a scientific calculator to science lessons.

PE (Core)

What are we doing this half term? Students will receive a balance of activities with the goal of further developing their love for physical activity and their ability to perform with confidence

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.

Maths

What are we doing this half term? We will continue with the GCSE syllabus. **(Higher)** Graphs and inequalities, iterations, circle theorems. **(Foundation)** Fractions, indices & standard form followed by similarity & congruence and vectors.

Assessments: Students will complete a non-calculator paper towards the end of September.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment for every lesson such as a pencil, ruler, compass, protractor and most important - their own scientific calculator. Students are mostly set weekly individualised tasks based on needs - please encourage your child to complete them on Hegartymaths.

History

What are we doing this half term? Welcome to your final year at Thamesmead! Not long to go until the exams so organise your revision timetable and go over the topics we have done over the past year. We will continue and complete our study into depth study into Germany in Transition (1919-1939) by investigating Nazi policy and its effect on the German people. We will then move onto the final topic area - Elizabethan England (1558-1603).

Assessment - 3x Germany Assessments (dependent on where you got up to last year) and 2x Elizabeth tests.

How can parents help? - Organised, dedicated and sustained revision time using class notes, revision notes and GCSE Pod.

Computer Science

What are we doing this half term? Students will be learning all about cyber security, the ethical side of computer science and the laws involving computer science. Student will also be starting a guided programming project. This will enable students to practice their computational thinking skills and all of the programming techniques required to complete the paper 2 exam. Students will also be revising topics and theory learnt in year 10 in preparation for the first mock exam.

Assessments: Students will be given exam style questions each lesson to guide revision and help reflect on progress. These exam questions will be used to check the students are revising for the upcoming mock exams.

How can parents help? Students need to spend 40 minutes a week practising their programming skills. Students also need to spend time re-visiting the topics that were learnt about in year 10 and completing the home learning revision tasks that are set.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? At the start of Y11 GCSE Geography students will look at different ways of classifying parts of the world according to their level of economic development and quality of life, such as, gross national income (GNI) per head, birth and death rates, infant mortality, life expectancy etc. They will study the link the Demographic Transition Model. The causes and consequences of uneven development and strategies used to reduce the development gap. Students will study Nigeria and look at the changing industrial structure, including the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) Including type of international aid and the effects on quality of life for the population.

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 including, glue, scissors and a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Students have a revision help sheet for each new 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 human and physical revision books organised and with detailed notes and diagrams. Use GCSE Pod and Time for Geography to consolidate knowledge. Students should be revising work from Y10 and Y11 a minimum of once a week.

BTEC SPORT

What are we doing this half term Final year for Btec Sport -This autumn term, Year 11 students on the BTEC Tech Award in Sport (Level 1 & 2) will begin Component 3, following the completion of Components 1 and 2 coursework. Component 3 focuses on developing fitness to improve sport performance, covering training methods, fitness testing, and programme design. Through practical and theoretical lessons, students will build skills to prepare for their final exam in January. We aim to support their progress and ensure they are ready for this key stage of the course.

French



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 French begins with the topic of community, social issues and environment. We build on our knowledge of past, present and future tenses. **Assessments:** There is a 150 word writing assessment on the topic of environment at the end of the half term to give students the chance to show off their newly acquired knowledge on higher level topics, as well as a listening, reading and translation paper.

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. They should also complete exercises from the AQA revision guide which was purchased in year 10. They could create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and review these weekly. 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? Year 11 Spanish begins with the topic of community, social issues and environment. We build on our knowledge of past, present and future tenses. **Assessments:** There is a 150 word writing assessment on the topic of environment at the end of the half term to give students the chance to show off their newly acquired knowledge on higher level topics, as well as a listening, reading and translation paper.

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. They should also complete exercises from the AQA revision guide which was purchased in year 10. They could create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and review these weekly. rly. Encourage them to create revision posters/flashcards on each topic and to review these weekly in Year 10.

Music



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Music will start by looking at unfamiliar listening questions and revisiting Musical Forms and Devices, and Musical For Ensemble.

Assessments: Formative teacher feedback of compositions and listening tasks in lessons.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete regular instrumental/singing practise and to listen to a variety of music! Support learning musical vocabulary.

PE -GCSE

What are we doing this half term Final year for GCSE PE - In the Autumn term students will cover sports psychology, physical, emotional and social health fitness together with the consequences of a sedentary lifestyle. Revise and consolidate skills in isolation and game application for practical.
Assessment: Students will complete a unit assessment after each theory topic.
How can parents help - Actively assist with their revision and continue to support their use of GCSE Pod and The EverLeaner online resources. Students will be continuing to work on their GCSE PE PEP (Coursework), so your support-ive is massively appreciated.

Drama

What are we doing this half term? Year 11 will start the year completing the devising process which they worked hard on in year 10. Students will complete and make improvements to their Portfolio of Evidence (coursework) and will complete their Evaluation exam, (evaluating the success of their devised piece performed in year 10). The class will read and explore their set text 'Noughts and Crosses', and will develop their thinking as an actor, director and designer in relation to their set text. They will also watch a digital production from The National Theatre and prepare their evaluation response to it for their written exam. **Assessments:** Portfolio of Evidence coursework and Evaluation exam worth 30% of the GCSE.
How can parents help? Please ensure students meet all deadlines for portfolio hand-ins and encourage them to improve their notes for the evaluation exam this half term. .Help at home? Please ensure students meet all deadlines for portfolio hand-ins and encourage them to improve their notes for the evaluation exam in early October.

Food and Nutrition

What are we doing this half term? The GCSE non-examination assessment (NEA 1) will begin this term and will consist of Food Investigation task, involving practical work and a written portfolio. The topic will be advised by the Exam board. They will apply their existing knowledge, skills and understanding of Food Science to produce a concise investigation. This together with the NEA2 will contribute to their final GSCE grade

What parents can to help? Experiment with dishes and food at home adapting and improving on recipes, practising their culinary skills. Encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their year 10 class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual details. Set up a revision timetable

DT GCSE

What are we doing this half term? We will be looking at the Non Exam Assessment and continuing onto the initial design ideas and getting them to a high standard. We will also continue onto developing, modelling and assessing construction techniques for the final prototype. In theory sessions, the students will revisit the theory content that has the highest difficulty, in order to aid the recall in the exam. They will also practice a range of exam style questions.
Assessments: The NEA is assessed throughout and the final outcome will form part of the final grade. We will also be using past papers to help assess student knowledge.
How can parents help? Continue to be a good vocal client, checking in on their design work and giving constructive feedback. Take them to shops that sell similar products to their chosen design work and let them look at them to get an idea of how they are constructed.

Art

What are we doing this half term? Our GCSE Art & Design students begin Year 11 by developing their 'Identity' project into an 'Altered Portrait' project and exploring this concept in their own chosen direction. 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.

Business & Enterprise

What are we doing this half term? Students will sit their Unit 1 exam in November - this is their actual exam and accounts for 40% of their final grade. In September and October students will be revising the Uni1 content.

Assessments: Unit 1 exam in November. This will be a mixture of multiple choice, 2 mark and 4 mark questions and 6 mark and 9 mark extended response questions. For the extended response questions your child needs to be able to 1) recall the subject specific terminology 2) explain what this means / what the advantages and disadvantages are 3) link back to the context of the question/ explain what the impact would be. How can parents help? Ensure your child is revising for at least 20 mins a day. They will be assessed on all 5 learning outcomes in Unit 1. There is a revision guide available: https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Technical-Enterprise/dp/1510474307 . Please engage in your child's revision and ask them to explain key terms/ concepts/ advantages and disadvantages to you. If they can explain it, it means they understand it. The BBC bitesize KS4 business pages are helpful with understanding key terms and key concepts. There are also two great youtube channels that will help with explanations and how to answer extended response questions: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE9uWsZ2C3NYzzKRIo_mntw and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd4lON3OznEHVSdhfe4eu4w se questions: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE9uWsZ2C3NYzzKRIo_mntw and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd4lON3OznEHVSdhfe4eu4w