Year 11 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 1

Maths



What are we studying? We will be focusing mainly on topics that students are still finding a bit tricky as identified from the mock papers. These topics will be different for every class - depending on their needs. Higher students will also learn about vectors and geometric proof, as well as transforming graphs. Foundation students will be revisiting topics that they haven't done in a while, and/ or exam style questions which involves solving/ interpreting in different contexts.

Assessment: No formal assessments this half term. Students will be doing exam practice in lessons every 2-3 weeks.

How can parents help? Students will have been given a PLC (Personalised Learning Checklist) which outlines all strengths and weaknesses for every individual student. Their class teacher will be setting home learning on Hegarty based on their weaknesses, therefore it will be very helpful if parents could encourage them to engage with all tasks set on Hegarty.

English



What are we doing this half term? Students will begin the Spring term by revising Macbeth and A Christmas Carol, as well as revisiting both Language 1 to prepare them for their mocks. Once mocks have finished, students will then move onto continue revising Macbeth. We will begin by refreshing our memories of the play and the novella by watching the production and being guided by a scene wall, which students will write key quotes onto. We will then go on to revising key soliloquys and extracts from the play, linking to theme and context and helping to secure our understanding of revision skills and key quotations.

Assessments: February mock examination.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes all of their home learning, which will be revision-based, and brings their copy of Macbeth and ACC 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 mock exams.
How can parents help? Ensure your child has correct equipment such as a pen, a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. 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.

PE -GCSE



What are we doing this half term? n the Spring term, students will revise both Paper 1 and Paper 2 content in preparation for the February mock examinations. After the mocks, they will complete coursework, then begin final preparations for the practical moderation, which takes place just after Easter.
Assessments after each theory topic will help track progress.

How can parents help? Parents are encouraged to actively assist with revision and continue supporting the use of past paper questions, GCSE Pod, The EverLearner, and Brainscape online resources.

French



What are we studying? We will finish the course with the world of work(jobs, work experience & future plans.) We will then briefly revisit all topic areas & do exam-style questions in all skills in preparation for the GCSE exam.
Assessment: Mock speaking exams at the start of January. Mock exams are in Reading/Listening/Writing in Feb.
How can parents help: Ensure your child knows the day and time of the Mock speaking. They should be regularly practising role plays/ photocards and general conversation questions. Revise vocab & phrases and regularly use the AQA revision workbook for sample material. They can also use Languagenut, BBC bitesize and Quizlet.

Spanish



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History



What will we be doing? Year 11 students will this term be finishing of their studies of Elizabeth. Looking at Mary Queen of Scots, the invasion of the Spanish Armada and the Puritan threat to Elizabeth. We will be working on course content as well as skills needed to evaluate sources and answer exam questions. This will bring us to the end of the GCSE course, after which we can focus on revision of previous units.
Assessment: End of unit Elizabeth exam style paper. The mock after half term will be on Nazi Germany.

What can parents do to help? Encourage wider reading and watching of History films and documentaries. Visit Hampton Court Palace to find out more about Elizabeth and the Tudors. Encourage use of the revision textbook and revision tasks.

Computer Science



This term is all about revision. Students will be re-visiting topics that were identified as a weakness from their recent mock exam. This includes the tricky topics of hardware, software, and, networks.
Assessments: Students will be given exam style questions each lesson to guide revision and help reflect on progress. They will also be doing a second mock exam and complete both exam papers under exam conditions. These exam questions will be used to check the students are revising correctly.
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. They also need to be using the revision guide and workbook that they have been given. They need to focus on practicing exam style questions.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 are working on their Text in Action assessment in anticipation for their assessment by a visiting examiner before the week before February half term (Component 2 Eduqas Exam Board). This performance is worth 20% of the GCSE. Students will perform two key extracts from their given text, or work as a designer with a group. Students will refine their performance or design skills, learn their lines fluently to complete their final assessed performance.

Assessments: Performance of their text to visiting examiner or presentation of their design skills in performance.

How can parents help? Please support your child to learn their lines for their performance exam and have a costume for their role for the dress rehearsal (last week in January).

Geography



What are we doing this half term? GCSE Geography students will be studying Natural Hazards.

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 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.

Art



What are we doing this half term? Our GCSE Art & Design students are starting their Externally Set Assignment which is worth 40% of their final GCSE grade. This project has been set by the exam board and will culminate in their 10 hour GCSE exam in April. 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? Students are expected to be spending 3 -4 hours a week working on this project at home outside our timetabled lessons. A space for students to work on their artwork during evenings and weekends is an excellent way to support their progression. Students purchased 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 work 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 support students in this final project of the GCSE course.

Food and Nutrition

The GCSE non-examination assessment Food Preparation Task (NEA 2) is completed term which consist of completing a written portfolio and preparing for the practical exam. Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a 3 dishes for the chosen task. This will provide students with an opportunity to showcase their creativity and culinary skills. They will apply their existing knowledge, skills and understanding of nutrition to produce a concise portfolio that, together with their NEA1, completed last term, will represent 50% of their final grade.

What parents can do to help: Experiment with dishes and food at home adapting and improving on recipes, practising their culinary skills for the three high skilled dishes, in preparation for the 3 hour practical exam. Encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their year 10 class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual details.

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.

PE (Core)

What are we doing this half term? Students continue to 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 day.

Music

What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Music students will continue to practice exam style questions based around the four areas of study. Students will also record their solo and ensemble performances for their GCSE coursework as well as submit their free and set brief compositions.

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 lots of music! Support learning musical vocabulary.

BTEC Sport

What are we doing this half term? This term, Year 11 will be focusing on Component 3: Applying the Principles of Personal Training.

Assessments: Students entered for the January series will be revising key content, practising exam-style questions, and completing timed papers to prepare for their final exam, which takes place in the first week back in January.

We will target areas such as fitness testing, training methods, FITT principles, SMARTER targets, and interpreting results to design programmes. Students on the summer series will begin learning Component 3 content from the foundations up, building knowledge steadily alongside structured practice. Please support revision at home and ensure students attend with the correct equipment and a positive mindset.

Business & Enterprise

What are we doing this half term? Students have completed their Component 2 assessment and will now re-take their Component 1 assessment to boost their overall grade. Once Component 1 is submitted, students would then prepare to sit their Component 3 Exam (Marketing and Finance), scheduled in May 2026.

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. Once completed, students would then start revision for their Component 3 exam.

How can parents help? Ensure that students complete all homework as it is crucial that students come to class prepared with the relevant research needed in order to work on their Component 1 moderated hours in class. Also, 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.