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 Autumn 2 term by revising both Language Paper 1 and An Inspector Calls to prepare them for their mocks. Once mocks have finished, students will then move onto revising Macbeth. We will begin by refreshing our memories of the play 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: one in-class MB response, and ongoing in-class feedback on responses.

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 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 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



Final year for GCSE PE - In Spring 1 students will continue developing their PEP coursework by starting/finishing their evaluation section. We will continue learning about sport psychology unit, before introducing the socio-cultural influences unit for Paper 2. They will continue to practice theory exam technique. They will also consolidate skills in isolation and game application for their practical moderation. We will be looking to complete moderations for Football/Netball/Badminton/Athletics.

How can parents help - Actively assist with their revision and continue to support their use of GCSE Pod.

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

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 on the 5th February (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. All students must email their last draft of their Component 1 Devising coursework in the first week back.

Help at home? 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 such as a pencil, ruler, glue, scissors and a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Students will be given a revision help sheet at the start of each new 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. 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.

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.

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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.

How can parents help? Students should be regularly re-hearsing answers. Revise vocab & phrases from the AQA vo-cab book & use the purple workbook.

Spanish



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.

How can parents help? Students should be regularly re-hearsing answers. Revise vocab & phrases from the AQA vocab book & use the purple workbook.

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 cho-sen 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, com-plated 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.

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 days.

Music



What are we doing this half term? Year 11 Music will start by looking at unfamiliar listening questions and exploring Music for Ensemble and Film Music.

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.

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.