Year 11 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2

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.

History



What will we be doing? We are now on to revision! This will focus on Germany up to your mock exam. We will also use time after the mock exam to review areas where there were gaps in knowledge. We will then move on to revising the USA. With thorough revision both inside the classroom with your teachers, and by you at home, you should be well prepared for the summer exams; much of this will come down to individual work at home, focusing on the gaps in your own knowledge; everyone will have different strengths and gaps.

Assessment: In Class exam practice.

What can parents do to help? Read: your revision textbook and the revision materials on the year 11 Revision – History – Teams page

Watch: Rise of the Nazis – available on BBC iPlayer

Visit: the Imperial War Museum (Nazi Germany and WW2 exhibition)

English



What are we doing this half term? Students will begin the Spring 2 term by revising Power and Conflict and Unseen poetry. We will begin by refreshing our memories of the poems and annotating any outstanding from Year 10 which have not been completed. We will then go on to making comparisons of the poems and writing comparative essays. Following this, we will study unseen poetry and refresh our knowledge of the steps that we undertake to analyse.

Assessments: There are no assessments this half term due to mocks.

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 finishing all new learning of the final paper 2 topics for each science discipline. We will then be reviewing key topics and revising paper 1 topics. Homework after the mock exams will be revision of paper 1 topics on Sparx science.

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. These books are an invaluable resource for your child's revision.

PE -GCSE



Final year for GCSE PE - In Spring 2 students will continue to revisit topics from across paper 1 and 2 by looking at theory exam technique. They will also consolidate skills in isolation and game application for practical, and will be assessed (recorded) in their final practical sports for their GCSE Assessment.

Assessment: Mock Paper 2
How can parents help - Actively assist with their revision and continue to support their use of The EverLeaner online resources together with Seneca.

Art

What are we doing this half term?: Our Y11 GCSE Art & Design students are now working on their ESA project (externally set assignment) with the theme of 'Gathering' This has been set by our exam board and students are taking the project in their own chosen direction.

Assessments: The ESA project is worth 40% 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 meets our weekly deadlines so they are prepared for their final GCSE exam on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 28th April 2025. Leading up to this 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.

Geography

What are we doing this half term? GCSE Geography students will complete 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 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.

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.

Food and Nutrition

The GCSE non-examination assessment (NEA 2) this term and will 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 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. Encourage and schedule time for your child to read over their year 10 class notes regularly and memorise the key points and factual details.

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 rehearsing answers. Revise vocab & phrases from the AQA vocab book & use the purple workbook.

Spanish



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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.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? What are we doing this half term?: Year 11 have completed their Component 2 Performance from a text (20% of the course). The focus of the next half term is their written exam in May. Students will develop their knowledge of 'Noughts and Crosses' (set text), and Live theatre analysis . They will also be taught exam technique, to build their confidence in answering questions and develop their knowledge of the requirements of the exam .

Assessments: Component 3 Exam questions.

Help at home? Please ensure students meet all deadlines for the completion of their home learning. Students should re-read the set text, and develop their own ideas as designer, director and actor for the set text.

Computer Science



What are we studying? Students will be learning how to complete more complex programming challenges, involving manipulating data using files, 2d lists and string formatting.

Assessment: During the February mock exams, students will complete a full paper 1 and paper 2 examination.

How can parents help? Support students with revision using their books. Make sure all home learning tasks are completed. If students want to build their coding confidence they could practice here: https://www.w3schools.com/python/

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.