Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 1

English

What are we doing this half term? Students will begin their English journey with some 'getting-to-know you' activities and baseline testing, before moving on to their first, very exciting unit of study: The Graveyard Book. Students will be immersed in the world of Gothic Fiction through the characters of Bod and The Man Jack. They will be introduced to and develop comprehension skills, analysis and begin to hone their analytical writing skills.
Assessments: Baseline tests on spelling, comprehension and writing; and three checkpoint assessments across the first term including a skills check, a guided formative assessment with detailed feedback and a summative assessment.
How can parents help? Please ensure your child's spellings homework and reading log are completed, that they complete their Lexia, and always bring a reading book to school. If you can listen to your children read too, that is even better!

Maths

What are we doing this half term? (1) Number skills such as factors, multiples and primes; using negative numbers; multiplying/dividing; powers and roots. (2) data handling with tables and charts; using averages and range.
Assessments: Year 7's will do a baseline assessment within the first week of term. The will also be a unit assessment after topic 1 and 2, as described above. **How can parents help**? Ensure your child has the correct equipment for every lesson such as a pencil, ruler, protractor, compass and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX (the maths homework platform) spending at least 40 minutes per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week

Science

What are we doing this half term? (1) Cells in Biology lessons, (2) Particle model in Chemistry lessons (3) Sound in Physics lessons.
Assessments: 3 (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) assessments carried out in class over the half term.
How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. The BBC KS3 bitesize is a useful resource - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p. It would be useful to have a KS3 Science revision guide for revision purposes. - https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-SCIENCE-REVISION-LEVELS-GUIDES/dp/B008MWXGFO

History

What are we doing this half term? Students will begin their journey through history by first establishing, understanding and being able to explain key historical skills, these being the foundations of history throughout their time in school. We then jump into the time machine and begin our study into medieval Britain and the major changes that took place in the 11th Century. Avoiding battle axes, flaming arrows and cavalry charges, we look at the events and results of the Battle of Hastings before building a castle and planning how to attack our enemies using trebuchets, siege towers or just sit and wait for them to run low on supplies.
Assessment - checkpoint knowledge and skills.
How can parents help? Historical books, documentaries (including Horrible Histories!) and weekend trips (while the weather is nice!) to history in real life Battle Abbey in Sussex usually does a Battle of Hastings re-enactment in October half term. Windsor Castle or the Tower of London.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

Welcome to RPE at Thamesmead School. Year 7 will begin with a unit exploring the **World Religions**. We will investigate how people of faith in the Christian Hindu. Sikh, Islamic, Buddhist and Jewish traditions worship, pray, read scripture and live their daily lives. Students will need to learn key vocabulary carefully and spend time practicing their skills in explaining and evaluating. You can encourage your son/daughter at home by discussing the difference a faith perspective can make on everyday decisions and wider decisions about lifestyle and morals.

on their revision pages helps build their confidence. Make sure the literacy sheet is fully completed and test students to confirm that they know the keywords and definitions. Make sure the revision notes for the assessment follow the guidance on the revision help sheet.

PE



What are we doing this half term? PE lessons at Thamesmead are based on key areas Resilience, Enjoyment, Solidarity, Positivity, Empathy, Collaboration and Tolerance. Students will take part in a range of activities on a half term rotation. During each activity block the students are taught skills, tactics and strategies to develop their knowledge and understanding of the activity area. Students will engage in a wide range of sports and movement-based activities from conventional sports such as Netball, Football, and Rugby to the non-conventional such as Circuit training and Handball.
Assessments: Students will be assessed throughout the practical blocks of work.
How can parents help? Please ensure students are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? This is an exciting time for our year 7 students who may be starting Spanish for the very first time! We begin our journey to Spain with classroom vocabulary and personal information. The emphasis is on independence, using the target language with confidence in the classroom! **Assessments:** Students will be doing a vocabulary test every two weeks. The end of module test will be Mid-October.
How can parents help? Try to learn some Spanish along with your child and help them realise the importance of learning another language for our multicultural world. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary such as www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary.

French



What are we doing this half term? This half term, students will d The emphasis is on independence, using the target language with confidence in the classroom! **Assessments:** Students will be doing a vocabulary test every two weeks. The end of module assessment will be Mid-october.
How can parents help? Try to learn some French along with your child and help them realise the importance of learning another language for our multicultural world. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary such as www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y7 students will begin their geographical adventure with the Weather and Climate topic. We will cover climatic zones, microclimates and tropical storms (hurricanes). Throughout this topic students will develop their skills in data collection, analysis and drawing conclusions.
Assessments: Check point assessments and an end of topic written assessment, short and long answer questions.
How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment including glue, scissors and pens for annotating answers. Testing students on the information on their revision pages helps build their confidence. Make sure the literacy sheet is fully completed and test students to confirm that they know the keywords and definitions. Make sure the revision notes for the assessment follow the guidance on the revision help sheet.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? As students get older they will be going online more often. In computer science students will be learning about the dangers of being online and what they can do to protect themselves. They will learn all aspects of online safety. Topics they will learn about include: online grooming, cyberbullying, radicalisation, digital footprints and online wellbeing. The students will be looking at different scenarios and completing written work based on those scenarios.

Assessments: Students will be doing an assessment every three weeks as a check for understanding and mastery.

How can parents help? Parents can start researching and talking to their child about the dangers online. Parents can help by making sure that the students complete the home learning tasks that help them prepare for the assessments.

DT Textiles –(Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? Students will be using recycled fabrics or items of old clothing to design and produce a bookmark. The project aims to introduce and develop an understanding of basic Textiles, and to ensure the creative process of the design and make project is acknowledged. Students will also develop an appreciation and awareness of different stitching techniques, and learn how they can reflect on the relevant research through the medium of colour and fabric.

Assessments: The research work that is completed will be assessed for accuracy and how well inspiration has been drawn from it. The final constructed product will also be assessed using quality and complexity as the benchmarks.

How can parents help? Discuss the project, look at existing textile products, turn them inside out and understand how they were constructed. Help them to experiment or practice sewing skills at home.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Students will start their drama voyage by exploring and developing their interactive and team skills, through a range of introductory and physical based exercises. They will cover the core elements of performance skills, including freeze frame and spoken thought. Pupils will develop and refine their imaginative responses and grow their confidence to express themselves in a variety of ways effectively and appropriately.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to talk about their drama lessons and their involvement. Taking them to see live drama productions wherever possible. Encourage pupils to involve themselves in drama outside of lesson time: they can attend Drama club on a Friday after school or local Drama groups.

DT Graphics (rotation)

What are we doing this half term? Students will be given a design context which they will use to design and manufacture a tea light holder that has a pattern inspired by a historical design movement. The project aims to develop students' awareness of design movements whilst encouraging them to reflect upon the needs of different clients. The students will also be given the opportunity to experiment with CAD in order to produce innovative designs. For Graphics, students' will be researching and designing a chocolate/sweet wrapper with a certain target market in mind.

Assessments: Students will be assessed in the areas of Investigation (analysing patterns and their appropriateness for a tea light holder), Designing (designing patterns that would be appropriate for the tea light holder) and Evaluating (evaluating the final product).

How can parents help? Students will be designing a product for a real world situation, so discussing what customers might want from the products they buy would be useful. It would also be helpful to talk through what design movements are to help support with students' understanding.

Design Technology (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term? We will be looking into the key terms that we use to describe material properties and wood based materials. We will start practicing cutting wood joints to build confidence and resilience then move onto creating a phone stand made from bent plywood. We will be trained on the sanding machine and understand general health and safety and how to perform a risk assessment.

Assessments: Students will be assessed on the finger joint practical work which they have the opportunity to repeat and improve. They will also create a phone stand out of a laminated plywood curve. Practicals will be marked on accuracy and quality of finish.

How can parents help? Take an interest in the project work and skills they are learning and discuss them. Help them look at products made from wood materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed. Make some IKEA furniture!

Art

What are we doing this half term? Our Year 7 Art & Design students first project is exploring 'The Formal Elements of Art'. Over the course of each lesson students will examine each formal element, looking at how artists such as Michael Craig Martin and Yayoi Kusama use it in their artwork. Students will create a booklet that documents their exploration over the first half term. This project also includes learning about colour theory, colour mixing and painting techniques.

How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. Drawing equipment and good quality colouring pencils will support students in completing their work in lesson and at home.

Music

What are we doing this half term? Students will begin Year 7 Music with rhythm games and singing, developing skills such as confidence, co-ordination and teamwork. The first project is called 'Feel the Rhythm' where students will learn to read and write rhythm notation and use the African drums to perform different rhythms as a class and compose a rhythmic composition in groups.
Assessments: Baseline assessment at the beginning of the half term and a performance of their group's composition at the end of the project.
How can parents help? Please ensure your child has a pen, a pencil and their Music book each lesson and provide help with learning the key musical words.

Food and Nutrition

Year 7 students arrive with limited skills and knowledge as many primary schools lack the facilities or expertise to teach Food at KS2, therefore much of what they know is taught at home, usually cakes. Year 7 focuses on laying the foundation of basic practical skills and Healthy Eating knowledge to allow students to build upon this in later years. Learning how to use equipment safely is a key focus of this year, with fruits and vegetables being the focused commodity.
Practical lessons include: Eat the Rainbow Wrap, Boiled egg and soldiers, Quesadilla, One-cup pancakes, Flatbread and Green Pea dip, Cheese and Spinach Muffins, Chickpea curry and rice and Sausage Koftas.
How will they be assessed?
Students will be given regular verbal feedback within their practical lessons 'in the moment'. This allows students to act upon this feedback immediately for the maximum impact on progress.
Students will be assessed via written and practical assessments.

Home Learning
Students are set practical evaluations to reflect upon their practical outcome and own personal performance in practicals. In addition, where students provide ingredients for practicals they will continue to develop their weighing and measuring skills at home when preparing their ingredients for lessons.
Students are encouraged to practice their practical skills out of lessons by helping to prepare and cook meals at home.

To be successful in this subject, students will need to be good at and enjoy:
Learning how to cook independently